

PAYSON CITY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND WORK SESSION
Payson City Center, 439 W Utah Avenue, Payson UT 84651
Wednesday, July 19, 2023

CONDUCTING Bob Provstgaard, Mayor Pro Tem

ELECTED OFFICIALS Kirk Beecher, Brett Christensen, Linda Carter, Taresa Hiatt, Bob Provstgaard

EXCUSED: William R. Wright

STAFF PRESENT David Tuckett, City Manager
 Cathy Jensen, Finance Director
 Kim E. Holindrake, City Recorder
 Jason Sant, City Attorney
 Brad Bishop, Police Chief
 Robert Mills, Development Services Director
 Travis Jockumsen, Public Works Director/City Engineer
 Scott Spencer, Fire Chief
 Jill Spencer, City Planner
 Janeen Dean, Community Events Coordinator
 Karl Teemant, Community Services Director
 Kent Fowden, Streets, Landfill, Storm Drain Superintendent

OTHERS Coleman Cunningham, Tyler Moore – Payson/Santaquin Chamber of Commerce, Doug Welton, Bill Elrick

MOTION: Councilmember Beecher – To appoint Bob Provstgaard as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion seconded by Councilmember Christensen. Those voting yes: Kirk Beecher, Linda Carter, Brett Christensen, Taresa Hiatt, Bob Provstgaard. The motion carried.

Bob Provstgaard, Mayor Pro Tem, called this meeting of the City Council of Payson City, Utah, to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was properly noticed.

A. PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer offered by Linda Carter.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Coleman Cunningham.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the July 5, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
2. Resolution – Appointment of board members to the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) Board

MOTION: Councilmember Beecher – To approve the consent agenda as outlined. Motion seconded by Councilmember Carter. A roll call vote was taken as follows and the motion carried.

Yes - Kirk Beecher
Yes - Linda Carter
Yes - Brett Christensen
Yes - Taresa Hiatt
Yes - Bob Provstgaard

MOTION: Councilmember Beecher – To suspend the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilmember Christensen. Those voting yes: Kirk Beecher, Linda Carter, Brett Christensen, Taresa Hiatt, Bob Provstgaard. The motion carried.

C. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Presentation of new police officer and oath of office

Chief Bishop introduced Officer Ryan Cunningham who came from Strawberry Water Users Association and Officer John David Tarone who came from Utah Highway Patrol.

Judge Jewell administered the oath of office to Officer Cunningham and Officer Tarone.

2. Payson/Santaquin Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Report

Tyler Moore presented the Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Report. The Breakfast Club meetings have been great and help businesses take the next step in their business. The Hometown Market in Santaquin allows businesses without a physical location to show off their business. The Young Entrepreneurs Night was held a couple weeks ago and allowed these youth to show off their businesses. The Chamber is working on a new project. On average about 80% of businesses with the Chamber are home based with no physical presence in terms of marketing. This project is a website that builds a profile for every member of the Chamber. Each business page will be directed over to that business's website. For some businesses, this is their only presence. Most of these pages will go live on Friday, July 21. A business has the ability to change their page, or the chamber can do it for them upon request. Upcoming events include the Breakfast Club every second Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. with the location changing each time. Meet and Eat is held every fourth Tuesday at noon to learn about other businesses in the Chamber and network with other businesses.

3. Public Forum

No public comments.

4. Staff and Council Reports (6:15 p.m.)

Staff Reports

POLICE – Chief Brad Bishop thanked the public for supporting the Crimes are for the Birds event last week. He also thanked Lowes for donating the bird houses and the Payson officers who donated their time. The event had the most attendance than ever before; it was a fun event.

RECREATION – Karl Teemant reported the Recreation Department hired a new part-time secretary. In the past couple weeks, the Girls Recreation Utah State Fox Tournament was held with 7th through

9th grades from throughout the state. The Summer Windup Accelerated Tournament was held last week as well as the Boys State Mustang group. The Pool has been very busy. The last session of swim lessons begin next week. Youth Tackle Football begins next week.

ADMINISTRATION – Dave Tuckett stated the original Dowdle puzzle painting is displayed in the Council Chambers. He talked with Eric Dowdle this week, and they are really happy how the puzzle turned out. Other cities around the Nation that are looking at these puzzles are told you can do one like these or do one like Payson. They really enjoyed doing the Payson painting and rollout event. The Salmon Supper is coming up and invited the council to help serve.

COMMUNITY EVENTS – Janeen Dean thanked Brett Christensen for helping with the float at the July 4 parade. He thanked Bill Elrick and the Scottish Festival Committee for the Scottish Festival, which was a huge success. The Western Heritage Festival is July 29 from 6 to 9 p.m. in Memorial Park. A lot of great artists are coming who have all been to Nashville and are all from Utah County. Rodney Atkins will be performing this year for Golden Onion Days.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE – Chief Spencer stated calls have been busy with both medical and fire. One call last Sunday caused a significant fire in Pine Forest, which was about a quarter acre. Many people like to hike, bike, and camp in Pine Forest. Crews got there quickly and got it contained. He is working with the Forest Service to possibly restrict fires in Pine Forest and an access road like there was a few years ago. The Department is working on fireworks this weekend with staff patrolling along with the Police Department. It's a challenge to keep track of the illegal fireworks. He thanked Brett Christensen for helping with a fire call at Barnett Elementary.

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL – Doug Welton stated the Scottish Festival was a great success, and it was great to see the council walking the parade. This was the first year with the city combined. There were a tremendous number of athletic records broken for the state and nationally. There was a record number of soloists for bag pipes. Bands played and competed from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Vendors were very happy. It was good to see Payson law enforcement there, which was appreciated. Dogs in the park are always an issue. It was advertised heavily and consistently that dogs were not allowed in the park. We'll need to train our Scottish people because they love their dogs. He thanked the Parks Department and Janeen Dean for their help. It was nice to use the elementary school, which was great for ceremonies and bands.

Bill Elrick thanked the Council. It's a great partnership, and this year proved it. There were some issues such as providing space for the bands to turn into the field and marking off parking for the bands. He thanked the Parks Department, who did a fantastic job. He thanked Dave Tucket and his team; and most of all, Mayor Bill Wright as Chieftain. This was his first year. It was great to see him in his kilt with his cowboy hat and boots. A vendor called the Silver Connection commented, *it was the best festival he ever attended. It was a premium festival with regards to all those he attends.* He thanked Payson and the surrounding communities for their support. Friday night was like a normal Saturday and Saturday was off the charts. We handled it, and it was done well. He was also very happy to see the Payson police officers. There were less dogs than in the past; the Parks Department posted "No Dogs" signs at every entrance. It's difficult to prevent. Everyone says it's a service dog. Next year will be the 40th year.

Jason Sant stated two questions can be asked to dog owners, i.e., what is the service and what is the service the dog provides. It's a problem all across the country. Emotional support and comfort dogs are not allowed, just service dogs.

Councilmember Christensen noted some states are requiring proper identification that has to be presented.

Council Reports

Councilmember Christensen appreciated Tyler Moore talking about the Santaquin Hometown Market, which he attends. The entertainment was fun. He suggested bringing in some entertainment to Payson because Library Square is off the beaten path. He received a suggestion for electric car chargers on Main Street because people seek out places where they can linger for 45 minutes. This could bring people downtown. He questioned rerouting the parade route. The City needs to ensure the ditches are cleared for the rainstorms, and there is staff available for people to call.

Dave Tuckett noted the Main Street design includes some charger stations, and the conduit will be installed. The parade route will be rerouted next year.

Councilmember Carter reported the Scottish Festival Committee did great. There were so many people at the Festival. She introduced herself to people, and many people traveled from outside Utah County.

Councilmember Provstgaard stated the vacant property on Main Street where the old church building stood is an eyesore. The owner needs to be contacted and told it needs to be done before Labor Day or the City will do it and send a bill. The trees are overgrown and the view to the street blocked.

Scott Spencer noted the owner lives in Nevada or California, and letters have been sent.

(Linda Carter excused)

D. WORK SESSION (Development Services Conference Room)

1. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget (6:40 p.m.)

Cathy Jensen reviewed the certified tax rate (CTR) and the official notice that will be published. The average home value from Utah County is \$415,000 which equates to an increase of \$10.04 per year. If the proposed budget is approved, it would increase revenue by 3.80%. Payson City's portion of a Payson resident is 12%. Historically, the CTR was in a steep decline until the City began holding the tax rate steady.

Discussion:

Residents should be shown what the CTR could be. The City keeps kicking the can down the road with enterprise and other funds, so the City goes without certain services. Five entities/districts are looking at raising water rates according to Fox News. The Taxpayer's Association reported 43 entities/cities are raising property taxes from 30% to 90%. Payson is one of those and only 3%. Holding the CTR the same helps the City overtime in paying for some of the general fund items. The Water Department was paying for the Forebay bond, but it now comes from the general fund. Keeping the CTR the same is better than a large increase at one time.

Discussion:

The sewer plant upgrade is at about \$72 million. The resolution set it at \$70 million, but the City is receiving grant funds. The City will bond for a total of \$70 million.

Changes since the tentative budget was adopted will be emailed to the City Council for review.

Councilmember Provstgaard stated the City has kicked the can down the road for a number of things, particularly a fire station. He understands it's baby steps, but the City hasn't made an incremental step toward a fire station or fire station/city office, which are essential services and needs. The staff that's here that keep the City going on a day-to-day basis eventually need a place to come to work to be proud of that has air conditioning and what's needed to do their job. The elected officials need to bite the bullet and do it for the betterment of the citizenry. His goal in elected office was to get the essential services building underway before he left office. Unfortunately, the pandemic cost millions and millions of dollars in labor, supply issues, etc.

Dave Tucket clarified the plans are in this budget for the design of a fire station.

Councilmember Christensen noted the sewer plant is a good argument because the City kicked the can for six years and the cost went from \$20 million to \$72 million.

Discussion:

A new administrative building, which is the essential center of Payson and center core. Staff could be moved to Wilson Elementary while the current building is torn down and rebuilt. A new building could also be built on the grassy area. The recent survey of the residents showed a city center last on the list. The community would need to be convinced to support a general obligation bond or the building would need to be funded differently. Other essential services could be tied to the building such as the library and police. A package becomes more palatable to the citizenry.

Further Discussion:

The City is conservative in terms of revenues and expenses. At the end of Fiscal Year 2023, the City revenues were higher than projected and expenses were lower so hardly any fund balance was used, which helps grow the fund balance. The current budget has about \$9 million among all the general funds with \$3.3 million proposed to be spent. The City needs to do a project that boosts the morale of the citizens such as a splash pad or dog park. Employees need a raise; they are the front line.

2. Payson City Fee Schedule regarding landfill fees (7:00 p.m.)

Councilmember Christensen stated he spearheaded this discussion. He gets a lot of push back from people, and he's not siding with the citizenry on the landfill. The landfill staff is doing a great job. The landfill is clean, the new scales are coming in, and the new road is being installed. He feels the Payson businesses aren't treated any differently to any other businesses. Payson businesses pay taxes, city bills, and fees; and there isn't any real benefit to them. The City doesn't need to raise the Payson business rate but may need to raise the other rates.

Councilmember Provstgaard stated he has a different take on it. The landfill is sacred in the sense there isn't more land available. He is sensitive to this because he was with Kent Fowden when the City continued the dream of making the landfill open to the citizens. To take a pickup load to the landfill and pay \$3 is unheard of. Businesses are treated fairly enough and balanced with all the other refuse

facilities. The City is trying to balance the budget, and understands they are Payson businesses. He is more in favor of keeping the Payson business rate the same and raising the other rates. Santaquin threatened to jump ship and wanted Payson to lower the rates, and Payson said no. The landfill is special, and the City needs to protect it. He takes construction waste to the landfill every week and passes the cost on to his customer. He doesn't see any other city having any advantage over our citizen-owned businesses and dump fees. He is in favor of raising the fee on other entities.

Kent Fowden stated the landfill has about 102 years left. In 1992 when subtitle B promulgation came about, the City had the option of closing the landfill. The City stood fast, spent millions, and chose to stay in the landfill business. The landfill pulls garbage from all over Utah County, which pays for the equipment and maintenance. It's not a small-town dump anymore. It's one of the best operated landfills in the state.

Dave Tuckett compared the Payson rates with South Utah Valley Solid Waste District (SUVSWD). It's up to the Council. The City could have a higher commercial rate for Non-Residential.

Category	Payson	Non-Resident	SUVSWD	Non-District
Resident Municipal Waste	\$3.00	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
Commercial Load Per Ton	\$43.00	\$43.00	\$38.00	\$49.00
Vehicles with Business Logo			\$38.00	\$49.00
Residential Green Waste	Free	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$16.00

Discussion:

Councilmember Christensen would like to make the Payson commercial rates the same as SUVSWD, but it would take Payson down \$5 per ton.

Councilmember Provstgaard totally disagrees with matching the SUVSWD commercial rates.

Councilmember Beecher suggested matching only the non-resident with the Non-District.

Kent Fowden clarified this would cause Republic Services and Country Garbage to pay a higher rate, which would hurt Payson businesses. If the rate is too high, people will take garbage to the woods.

Councilmember Christensen stated these discussions can sway you. He's okay with the rates.

Councilmember Beecher noted his wife took a fully loaded pickup truck to the dump in Oregon at a cost of \$200.

Councilmember Provstgaard noted if it's not broken don't fix it. Kent Fowden has been fair with residents who have issues such as a fire or need to tear down a home.

Dave Tuckett stated Kent has to follow the ordinance, which allows a range in one of the categories. He and Kent discuss and make the decision. The Beautification Committee is trying to look at areas where there could be a cleanup and use dumpsters, which would then be taken to the landfill for free. Staff will give it a try.

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilmember Beecher – To adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilmember Hiatt. Those voting yes: Kirk Beecher, Linda Carter, Brett Christensen, Taresa Hiatt, Bob Provstgaard. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

/s/ Kim E. Holindrake
Kim E. Holindrake, City Recorder