

Minutes of the
BOUNTIFUL CITY COUNCIL
May 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Present:	Mayor	Randy Lewis
	Councilmembers	Millie S. Bahr, Kate Bradshaw, Kendalyn Harris, Richard Higginson, Chris R. Simonsen
	City Manager	Gary Hill
	Asst. City Manager	Galen Rasmussen
	City Engineer	Lloyd Cheney
	Planning Director	Francisco Astorga
	City Attorney	Clinton Drake
	Parks Director	Brock Hill
	Finance Director	Tyson Beck
	Streets Director	Charles Benson
	South Davis Metro Fire Chief	Dane Stone
	Recording Secretary	Maranda Hilton

Official notice of the City Council Meeting was given by posting an Agenda at City Hall and on the Bountiful City Website and the Utah Public Notice Website and by providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis County Journal and Standard Examiner.

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

CITY BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX REVIEW – MR. GALEN RASMUSSEN AND MR. TYSON BECK

Mr. Galen Rasmussen presented first, explaining that at the direction of the Council, they evaluate property tax trends each year and make recommendations to the Council as they deem it necessary. He explained that property tax revenue is used to fund all of the general governmental services of the City and discussed how inflation diminishes the purchasing power of the City’s property tax revenue. He presented the three underlying principles used to determine if a general property tax increase is needed. First, they hope to provide protection against loss of future purchasing power; second, they hope to capture additional revenues as a hedge against lean budget years; and third, they hope to maintain the pay-as-you-go standard instead of incurring debt. He showed a list of scenarios in which an increase in property tax might want to be considered and discussed how Bountiful is currently experiencing many of these, including increasing service levels. He talked about the addition of new parks and property, the addition of the public art program, the farmers market and the trail development projects. All these things, as well as the addition of three more employees, will increase operating and maintenance costs for the City.

Mr. Rasmussen showed a graph of all the 2020 property tax rates in Davis County and discussed how Bountiful has the lowest rate of all the cities.

1 Mr. Tyson Beck reiterated that anytime the operating costs of the City are increased through
2 increased service levels, increased staffing or through adding capital projects that must then be
3 maintained, a tax increase needs to be evaluated to help fund those things. He showed how the City
4 has lost over \$885,000 in buying power since the year 2000 due to inflation. He explained that
5 although there have been two property tax increases since that time, neither has been substantial
6 enough to compensate for the loss of inflation. He said the City has been lucky that sales tax growth
7 has mostly kept up with inflation, which is why there has not been an increase in property tax rates
8 needed. He warned that sales tax growth is no longer sufficient to keep up with the service level
9 increases and the cost of inflation.

10 Mr. Beck explained that the four sources of income for the General Fund are property tax,
11 sales tax, franchise tax and the Bountiful City Light & Power (BCL&P) transfer. The City only has
12 control over two of those sources, and BCL&P should not be put in a position where they cannot
13 finance their maintenance and capital improvements. After sales tax is collected, it first goes toward
14 the City's operating needs, and any excess is moved to the Capital Projects Fund. The Capital
15 Projects Fund only has one source of income, which is sales tax. Over the past several years the
16 General Fund is taking a higher and higher percentage of the sales tax revenue, leaving the Capital
17 Projects Fund with less and less. This greatly diminishes the City's ability to save for future capital
18 investments. He said they monitor that fund very closely because it is a crucial tool for keeping the
19 City a pay-as-you-go entity.

20 Councilmembers discussed the idea of generating more sales tax with more businesses
21 coming to Bountiful. Mr. Beck explained that it would take many, many more of our highest
22 remitters, grocery stores and car dealerships, in order to makeup the difference.

23 Mr. Beck explained the minimum reserve levels for the Capital Projects Fund, saying that the
24 City is on trend to dip below the reserve limit in 2022. According to his projections, if the City stays
25 on this trend without increasing property taxes to correct it, the Capital Projects Fund will dip below
26 the \$10M target reserve amount, which is very concerning.

27 Mr. Beck explained that as management staff they recommend a property tax increase in
28 either FY2022 or FY2023 and then maintaining that course to keep up with annual inflation. In order
29 to calculate how much they should raise taxes initially they looked at average spending on capital
30 improvement projects, the current gap between revenues and expenditures and the additional cost of
31 three new employee positions. They recommend a \$815,000 increase (31.5%) and then a 2% increase
32 thereafter to keep pace with inflation. For the average homeowner in Bountiful that will equate to an
33 increase of \$50.84 a year.

34 The Council thanked Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Beck for their presentation and agreed that an
35 increase was necessary to keep Bountiful on secure financial footing and able to provide its many
36 great services to its residents. Councilman Higginson said he was on board if this trajectory was
37 necessary but wanted to know if they could adopt a slower approach to raising the taxes instead of a
38 large jump all at once. Councilwoman Bradshaw and Councilman Simonsen said they would be in
39 favor of more incremental increases as well. They asked if Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Beck could come
40 back during a work session with more options. Mr. Beck said they would do that.

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42 The meeting was closed at 6:59 p.m.
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1 **Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**
2 **City Council Chambers**
3

4 Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Mr.
5 Dallin Burgin, Bountiful High soccer player, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Dan Lake,
6 Bountiful Heights Stake, offered a prayer.
7

8 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

9 The public comment section was opened at 7:08 p.m.

10 No comments were made.

11 The public comment section was closed at 7:08 p.m.
12

13 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON APRIL 7, 13**
14 **& 27, 2021**

15 Councilwoman Harris asked to make an edit to the minutes from April 27th concerning the
16 solar power presentation (page 14, line 21 of the packet). The Council was agreeable to the change.

17 Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve the minutes including the edit as presented
18 and Councilman Simonsen seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,
19 Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.
20

21 **COUNCIL REPORTS**

22 Councilman Higginson did not have a report.

23 Councilwoman Bahr took a moment to advertise that the BCYC is accepting applications until
24 Friday and encouraged all the high school students in attendance to apply.

25 Councilwoman Harris announced that the annual Bountiful Business Symposium is scheduled
26 to take place on the morning of September 15th. It is open to anyone who owns a business in
27 Bountiful.

28 Councilman Simonsen reported that there will be a Memorial Day celebration at the Bountiful
29 Veterans Park on May 31st at 11:00 a.m. He invited everyone to come hear from men, women and
30 families from the community who have served and helped make this a wonderful place to live.

31 Councilwoman Bradshaw reported that there are some upcoming volunteer opportunities for
32 trails projects. On May 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. they need help clearing the green debris from the
33 last trail project event. On June 5th, National Trails Day, they will be doing a project from 7:00-10
34 a.m.; more details to follow.
35

36 **BCYC REPORT**

37 Ms. Halley Robinson, BCYC City Planner, reported about their leadership conference the past
38 weekend. The theme of the conference was “Seek Your Own Summit”, which they hosted at City
39 Hall. They heard from multiple speakers and did a service project writing thank you notes to those
40 who serve in the community.
41

42 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF**

43 **A. EXPENDITURES GREATER THAN \$1,000 PAID APRIL 19 & 26, 2021**

44 **B. MARCH 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT**

1 Councilwoman Bahr made a motion to approve the expenditures and the financial report and
2 Councilman Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,
3 Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

4
5 **RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS – MAYOR LEWIS**

6 The Mayor welcomed the high school students in attendance and remarked how fun it is for
7 the City to be able to recognize the outstanding students from both of Bountiful’s remarkable schools.
8 He invited Viewmont High School’s Principal, Mr. Jason Smith, to come present his students first.

9 Principal Smith introduced two state wrestling champions, the Vykelles (the school drill team)
10 who are two-time second place finishers at state and their coach who was voted 5A Coach of the
11 Year by her peers. He stated that Viewmont had six valedictorians and seven Sterling Scholars in
12 attendance and had them introduce themselves.

13 Mr. Aaron Hogge, Principal of Bountiful High School, came up and introduced his students.
14 He explained that they had over 30 all-state academic athletes this year and five national-merit
15 scholars. He recognized the girls golf team that won the regional tournament two weeks ago and
16 placed seventh out of 16 teams in the state tournament. Principal Hogge then recognized the boys’
17 soccer team who were the region champions this year.

18 The Mayor thanked everyone for their efforts and for coming tonight.

19
20 **CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF BOUNTIFUL OPERATION AND CAPITAL**
21 **BUDGET (TENTATIVE BUDGET) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND SET THE TIME AND**
22 **PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET – MR. GALEN**
23 **RASMUSSEN**

24 Mr. Galen Rasmussen presented the FY2022 tentative budget for approval and explained that
25 FY2022 begins July 1, 2021. He reviewed the budget creation process and reminded the Council that
26 after adoption of the tentative budget tonight, the budget will be available to the public, and a time
27 and place must be set for a public hearing before adoption of the finalized budget. Staff recommends
28 June 22, 2021 for the public hearing during the City Council meeting at City Hall.

29 Councilwoman Bradshaw asked if the American Recovery Act funds would be included in
30 this tentative budget. Mr. Rasmussen explained that they would have to amend the document later to
31 include those funds since they only just received guidance from the federal government about those
32 funds.

33 Councilman Higginson asked if he would be able to participate electronically, since he will be
34 out of town for the American Public Power Association conference that week. Mr. Gary Hill assured
35 him he would be allowed to attend electronically.

36 Mr. Rasmussen went through the budget, explaining that the revenues and expenses are
37 balanced, the Council’s policy priorities are referenced in the budget, certain fee increases have been
38 proposed, a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for employees has been proposed, merit increases
39 for eligible employees have been proposed, new staff positions have been added, and health
40 insurance costs have not increased. Total budget revenues and expenses net at \$67.7M. He then
41 presented each of the funds of the City, explained what they are used for and showed their total
42 balances.

43	General Fund –	\$20,597,915
44	Capital Fund –	\$7,434,800
45	Debt Service Fund –	\$25
46	RAP Tax Fund –	\$839,850

1	Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund –	\$1,390
2	Landfill Closure Fund –	\$0
3	Recycling Fund –	\$676,873
4	Storm Water Fund –	\$1,960,176
5	Water Fund –	\$5,428,321
6	Light & Power Fund –	\$28,607,086
7	Golf Fund –	\$1,975,821
8	Landfill Fund –	\$2,518,582
9	Sanitation Fund –	\$1,326,747
10	Cemetery Fund –	\$709,992
11	Computer Replacement Fund –	\$87,902
12	Liability Insurance Fund –	\$652,957
13	Workers Compensation Fund –	\$318,677

14 Councilman Higginson made a motion to approve the tentative budget and set June 22, 2021
15 as the date of the public hearing and Councilwoman Bradshaw seconded the motion. The motion
16 passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris, Higgins and Simonsen voting “aye”.
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18

19 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND**
20 **INSTALLATION FOR EGGETT PARK FROM SONNTAG RECREATION IN THE**
21 **AMOUNT OF \$44,800 – MR. BROCK HILL**

22 Mr. Brock Hill presented a request to purchase replacement playground equipment for Eggett
23 Park. He explained they are using RAP Tax funds for this purchase and that it has been budgeted for.
24 They contacted four suppliers and received quotes from all four. Staff is recommending approval of
25 the bid from Sonntag Recreation. They evaluated the bids based on availability, quality, type of
26 equipment and quantity of equipment. They feel Sonntag will provide the best value to the City and
27 they were able to guarantee that they could install the equipment this year. The total price includes
28 equipment and installation.

29 The Councilmembers all agreed that the bid from Sonntag looked like the best equipment for
30 the price.

31 Councilwoman Bahr made a motion to approve the purchase from Sonntag Recreation and
32 Councilwoman Bradshaw seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,
33 Bradshaw, Harris, Higgins and Simonsen voting “aye”.
34

35 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2021-05 PROHIBITING THE USE OF**
36 **FIREWORKS EAST OF DAVIS BOULEVARD AS DESCRIBED - MR. CLINTON DRAKE**

37 Mr. Drake explained that this ordinance is simply a continuance of last year’s ordinance
38 because no details have been changed. State law requires and enables municipalities to enact policies
39 for the safety of their community. He said that Chief Stone has reviewed the ordinance and approved
40 the boundaries and policies therein.

41 Councilman Higginson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-05 and Councilwoman
42 Bahr seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris,
43 Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.
44

45 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE BID FROM IMBA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,765 FOR**
46 **TRAILS DESIGN – MR. FRANCISCO ASTORGA**

1 Mr. Astorga explained that six of the proposed trails in the Trails Master Plan require NEPA
2 approval before they can be completed. The Forest Service requires that designs and locations be
3 established for these trails before NEPA approval can be granted. The Planning staff recommends
4 accepting the bid from International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), to design the trails. He
5 said it is exciting to be moving forward on these trails, and that once these are done it will put the
6 City in a better position to apply for more grants to help with trail creation.

7 Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve the bid from IMBA and Councilman
8 Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris,
9 Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

10
11 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SOUTH DAVIS BRANCH LIBRARY AS THE**
12 **BOUNTIFUL CITY POLLING LOCATION AND THE DAVIS COUNTY VOTE CENTERS**
13 **FOR THE 2021 PRIMARY AND GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – MR. GARY HILL**

14 Mr. Hill explained that state law requires the Council to approve all of the Davis County city
15 polling locations as vote centers for the 2021 municipal election. The location of the polling center in
16 Bountiful will be at the South Davis branch of the Davis County Library. Bountiful residents will be
17 able to vote at any of the approved polling locations in Davis County.

18 Councilwoman Bahr made a motion to approve the South Davis branch library and other
19 Davis County polling locations as vote centers for the 2021 municipal election and Councilman
20 Simonsen seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris,
21 Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.

22
23 **ADJOURN**

24 Councilman Higginson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Bradshaw
25 seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson
26 and Simonsen voting “aye”.

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28 The regular session was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
29



Mayor



City Recorder