

Minutes of the
BOUNTIFUL CITY COUNCIL
June 8, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

- Present: Mayor Randy Lewis
- Councilmembers Millie Segura 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
- Finance Director Tyson Beck
- Streets Director Charles Benson
- Police Chief Ed Biehler
- 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 – 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

CONTINUATION OF PROPERTY TAX DISCUSSION – MR. GALEN RASMUSSEN & MR. TYSON BECK

Mr. Galen Rasmussen reminded the Council that tonight is the final opportunity they have to make a decision regarding a property tax increase. The three choices previously discussed were a \$815,000 increase in FY2022 with 2% raises every year thereafter, a \$950,000 increase in FY2022 with no raises for five years afterward, or a 15% increase for three consecutive years. Once the Council decides which option they would like, a date must be set to go through a Truth in Taxation process as mandated by the State.

The Council discussed the scheduling of the date for the Public Hearing with staff and Wednesday, August 11, 2021 was suggested, noting that the first council meeting in August would likely be cancelled to accommodate.

Council members asked Mr. Tyson Beck about the differences between the three options, and he answered their questions.

Councilman Higginson reminded the Council that they cannot obligate future councils to uphold a gradual increase and added he hopes they can have a unanimous vote on this issue when the time comes.

Councilwoman Harris said she can see the wisdom in “biting the bullet”, but she prefers the gradual approach, especially recognizing the impact for those on fixed incomes. She asked Mr. Beck

1 about how the gradual approach would impact our purchasing power and inflation. He answered that
2 if the three consecutive years do happen as hoped, that would put the City in a similar position to the
3 other options, but his concern centers on the fact that no one knows what the future will hold. The
4 City has already committed to a certain level of service with the purchase of land and the creation of
5 new parks, etc. If the follow-up does not occur, then the City would be in a hard position financially.
6 Mr. Hill added that the financially responsible thing to do in that situation would be to reduce the
7 budget and only add to it when a tax increase has been approved. If the Council approves a 15%
8 increase this year, then the City should cut back on how many employees it plans to add, or in some
9 other area of the budget, in order to avoid using City reserves.

10 Councilwoman Bahr said she is in favor of the \$950,000 increase, explaining that she believes
11 the City should strive for financial security and does not agree with the risk inherent in the gradual
12 approach. She likes that the \$950,000 increase will get the City where it needs to be much faster and
13 is only a \$9/year difference for the average household. She also said the City should not get in the
14 habit of raising taxes every year.

15 The Council recommended option two, a \$950,000 increase in FY2022 and to set the date of
16 the Truth in Taxation for August 11, at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Higginson and
17 Simonsen preferred option two and Councilwoman Harris said she preferred option three but would
18 support the Council's recommendation in order to move forward. The Mayor said he supported the
19 Council's decision.

20
21 The meeting was closed at 6:59 p.m.
22
23

24 **Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.**
25 **City Council Chambers**
26

27 Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Mr.
28 Charles Benson led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mr. Chance Thomas, from the Bountiful Central
29 Stake High Council, offered a prayer.
30

31 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

32 The public comment section was opened at 7:05 p.m.
33

34 Claudia Lindeburg (2057 South 50 East) asked the Council how much the City paid for the
35 cemetery land purchase. Mr. Hill said he would be happy to discuss that with her immediately
36 following the meeting.
37

38 The public comment section was closed at 7:06 p.m.
39

40 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON MAY 25,**
41 **2021**

42 Councilwoman Bradshaw made a motion to approve the minutes from May 25, 2021, and
43 Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,
44 Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting "aye".
45

46 **COUNCIL REPORTS**

1 Councilwoman Bradshaw reported on the trails project last Saturday, saying that there was an
2 excellent turnout from both Bountiful and Woods Cross High schools. She also thanked Mr. Brock
3 Hill for coming to help on his day off and for manning the temperamental woodchipper.

4 Councilman Simonsen reported that the Memorial Day program at the Veterans Park was a
5 success with many families attending. He thanked the City for allowing them to build the Veterans
6 Park.

7 Councilwoman Harris thanked Councilman Simonsen and said it was a wonderful event to
8 attend. She then asked for a follow-up on the City watering practices that were introduced last
9 meeting. Mr. Gary Hill reported that all of the City park timers are set to water before 10:00 a.m. and
10 after 6:00 p.m. as is policy. He explained that there have been some incidences, however, that have
11 caused watering to happen during restricted hours. At Centennial Park in particular, sometimes
12 residents will turn the water off, unplug the clocks or unscrew the valve covers, all of which result in
13 the system not functioning properly. We have also had sister agencies unplug our clocks while they
14 work in the right of way, which then resets the clock when they plug it in again. At times this has
15 caused water to be running when it should not be and has also caused dry spots because the system is
16 not watering when it should be. Mr. Hill asked that residents please report any suspicious watering
17 activity when it occurs to the Parks Department so it can be addressed immediately.

18 Councilwoman Bahr did not have a report.

19 Councilman Higginson asked to share the details of the cemetery property purchase. He
20 explained that when it first came up for sale the asking price was 50% higher than appraised value
21 and the Council voted in good conscience to not purchase it. After the property was sold to a
22 developer and divided into parcels, the appraised value was driven up and the City purchased it at
23 market value, which was indeed more than the original asking price.

24 Concerning the Recreation District Master Plan, Councilman Higginson reiterated that
25 Bountiful allowed the Rec Center to be built without any cost to any of the other cities who use it and
26 that now it is time for another city to “step up” and offer their land for an amenity that will benefit
27 everyone.

28 Councilman Higginson asked Mr. Gary Hill to talk about the state of the deer abatement
29 program. Mr. Hill explained that the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has responsibility for
30 deer in Utah, and they gave the City permission to put together a plan for deer abatement, but at the
31 last meeting they unexpectedly told staff in attendance that all deer meat taken within the city limits
32 must be processed within an hour. Chief Biehler added that the City would also be responsible for
33 issuing permits to anyone who takes a deer, which must be kept until all the meat is consumed. These
34 new requirements will drastically increase the complexity and the cost of doing an abatement
35 program. The DWR is also requiring the City to hold another public hearing on the matter before
36 beginning the program in August, which is tentatively scheduled for July 13th. Mr. Hill said there are
37 a lot of concerns now about whether the City will be able to meet residents’ expectations and how
38 much time and money this will require.

39 Councilwoman Bradshaw suggested that the City have a meeting with the director of the
40 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who oversees the DWR, to explain the hardship this is
41 creating for cities who have a deer problem. She feels that seeking intervention and pushing back at
42 the State level might do some good. She feels this is just too burdensome for cities.

43 The Council all agreed that a meeting with DNR was a good idea. Chief Biehler commented
44 that a meeting with them might add to our time and could cause us to miss our August 1st deadline
45 again this year. He worries that the residents are getting very frustrated that nothing is being done.

1 The Council advised to keep moving ahead with the current plan approval and the public hearing
2 process, but work on scheduling a meeting with the DNR and DWR in the meantime.
3

4 **BCYC REPORT**

5 Mr. Zach Gardner reported that the BCYC held its Induction Ceremony last week, welcoming
6 new members, saying farewell to outgoing members and swearing in new leadership. The BCYC will
7 also be supplying volunteers during the Chalk Art Festival this coming weekend.
8

9 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF:**

10 **A. EXPENDITURES GREATER THAN \$1,000 PAID MAY 17 & 24, 2021**

11 **B. APRIL 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT**

12 Councilwoman Bahr made a motion to approve the expenditures and the financial report and
13 Councilman Higginson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr,
14 Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.
15

16 **CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2021-11 WHICH APPROVES THE DISSOLUTION OF THE**
17 **MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF BOUNTIFUL, UTAH – MR.**
18 **CLINTON DRAKE**

19 Mr. Drake reported that the Municipal Building Authority (MBA) Board met earlier this
20 evening and recommended approval of Resolution 2021-11, which dissolves the Bountiful City
21 MBA.
22

23 Mr. Hill explained that the MBA was formed as a way to finance the construction of the
24 Public Safety and Courts building, but the City now has the ability to use bonds backed by sales tax
25 revenue for the purpose of those projects and thus the MBA has been rendered unnecessary. All
26 obligations created by the MBA have long been paid off.

27 Councilman Higginson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-11 and Councilwoman
28 Bahr seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris,
29 Higginson and Simonsen voting “aye”.
30

31 **ADJOURN**

32 Councilman Higginson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Bahr
33 seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bahr, Bradshaw, Harris, Higginson
34 and Simonsen voting “aye”.
35

36 The regular session was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Mayor



City Recorder