

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES--DRAFT
REGULAR MEETING
April 12, 2022

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Audio is archived at www.utah.gov/pmn and video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIcHzlroxK8.

Attendance and Call to Order:

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and asked Doug McMurdo to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Rani Derasary, Kalen Jones, Luke Wojciechowski and Jason Taylor attended. City staff participating included Acting City Manager Carly Castle, Finance Director and Acting Deputy Manager Ben Billingsley, Engineer Chuck Williams, Arts and Special Events Director Kelley McInerney, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Deputy Recorder Stephanie Robinson and Recorder Sommar Johnson.

Citizens to Be Heard:

Helene Rohr: Last week data was presented that once again pointed to housing and community as the two big topics Moabites are most concerned about. The symbiotic effect is clear and important to note, for Moab's housing conditions influence the mental and physical well-being of residents, and healthy residents make for a healthy community. The Mayor was quoted in an article saying we need to find homes for people who work and live here. Without any complaints from neighbors, I received notice of code violations for my properties that offer long-term housing for active employees. One of the properties has been in its current configuration for eight years and the other for 22 years. Taking away established employee housing goes against what you say you want to do for the community: find homes. I'm not the only landlord who has to deal with this, but consider my scenario as a time-sensitive case study. Even if there is no immediate way for you to amend the code, start looking at our long-term housing units. Ask yourself whether now is really the best time to shut them down.

Sara Melnicoff: The City passed Resolution 45-2019 to adopt the Sustainability Action Plan. Despite this aspirational plan, preparation for climate-related impacts is inadequate, and two of the things outlined therein, including halting the loss of wildlife populations, and inclusion of underrepresented populations, are missing from Moab's sustainability planning. Four years ago, I met with City officials and explained there's a better method than trapping and killing animals, especially during baby season when a lot of babies are left to starve in their nest. There are ways to get them to leave on their own, to encourage instead of trapping and killing. Also, in the Plan, there's no mention of recycling, which is one of the building blocks of sustainability. I have installed eight recycle bins at Lions Park, and people are appreciative.

Charlotte Mates: I just wanted to commend the City for the fantastic think tank. I have never felt so well heard. Let's get the word out to every citizen the best way we can, whatever that takes.

Presentations:

Moab Free Health Clinic:

Kate Jagla gave an overview of the mission and services offered by the Free Health Clinic. She presented statistics for care provided and announced the pending purchase of the former Utah State University (USU) campus. She described partnerships with the hospital and health department and answered Council questions about financing options.

Grantwell Recreation, Arts and Parks (RAP) Tax Recommendations:

Brigham Young University graduate students Lissie Allred and Laurie Haupt presented their recommendations for the proposed citizen committee to determine allocations for the City's RAP tax. They described the committee structure and membership, funding application forms

along with a scoring and evaluation framework, and committee orientation and meeting schedules. Other RAP tax communities were mentioned. Acting Deputy Manager and Finance Director Billingsley stated formal materials would be presented to Council at the next meeting.

Consent Agenda—Approved

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows: Special Event Permit for Moab Arts Festival 2022; Award of 2022 Vector Mudslinger Model MS800 vacuum trailer; Proposed **Resolution 10-2022**: A Resolution Declaring Certain Property Owned by the City of Moab as Surplus; Letter of Support for a USDA Grant for the Housing Authority of Southeast Utah Mutual Self-Help Program; Approval of Minutes for the March 18 and 19, 2022, Special Meetings and the March 22, 2022, Regular Meeting; and Approval of Bills Against the City of Moab in the Amount of \$1,107,410.74. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Wojciechowski and Knuteson-Boyd voting aye.

New Business:

Community Contributions 2022—Tabled

Presentation and Discussion: Arts and Special Events Director McInerney presented an overview of proposed funding for community groups and nonprofits. Discussion ensued regarding whether Seekhaven’s services were funded elsewhere in the regular City budget. Councilmembers expressed interest in funding the Moab Valley Multicultural Center at a higher level. Councilmembers noted that some requests were redundant for certain demographic groups, were not as urgent as other funding requests, were possibly fundable by the County, or could potentially be included with RAP allocations.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Derasary moved to table approval of Community Contributions for the 2022-23 fiscal year until April 26. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Wojciechowski and Knuteson-Boyd voting aye.

Task Order to Develop a Water Utility Resource Management Plan—Approved

Discussion: Engineer Williams briefly described the project. Councilmember Derasary expressed concern about an added \$30,000 fee to complete the plan.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve a Task Order for Hansen, Allen & Luce, Inc. to develop the Water Utility Resource Management Plan and authorize the Mayor to sign it. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Taylor, Wojciechowski and Knuteson-Boyd voting aye and Councilmember Derasary voting nay.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023—Discussion

Finance Director and Acting Deputy City Manager Billingsley presented the timeline for the budget process. He highlighted major expenditures, such as adding seven positions, reflecting a six percent increase in total employee costs, which included Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and merit increases. The proposed positions, based on departmental requests, included a building inspector, code enforcement officer, domestic violence specialist, wastewater worker, transit coordinator/grant writer, vehicle maintenance worker and seasonal parks worker. Councilmember Jones asked about noise code enforcement, Councilmember Wojciechowski asked about the grant writing detail, and Acting Manager Castle noted that the building inspector’s salary would be offset by development fees. Councilmember Jones also asked about the need for a high clearance 4x4 vehicle. Billingsley juxtaposed operational expenses against capital projects and brought up Dark Skies compliance, a police community relations program, downtown parking, Mill Creek infrastructure, the Pack Creek pedestrian foot bridge, water and sewer projects and the public works shop. Community Contributions and the RAP tax proceeds were discussed, as well as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Transitional housing

was brought up, along with expenses for studies and planning expenses. The negative balance in the stormwater fund was explained. Next steps in the budget process were described. Councilmember Derasary asked about integrating the outcomes of the visioning process into the budget and Councilmember Jones asked about public engagement in the budget process.

City Manager Appointment—Approved

Discussion: Mayor Langianese presented her appointment of Carly Castle as City Manager. She stated she had received support from each member of the Council individually. Councilmembers stated their support and confidence in Castle.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Jones moved to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Carly Castle as City Manager. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd and Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Wojciechowski and Knuteson-Boyd voting aye.

Administrative Report: Castle reported on the appointment of Jared Garcia as Police Chief. She announced meetings with the Utah League of Cities and Towns as well as with BAE Urban Economics, and noted the Sustainability Director had resigned. She brought up a request to purchase a water gauge and noted the impending expense for a downtown dispersed parking pilot project. Councilmembers requested that staff reach out to businesses and agencies that would be impacted by the pilot parking project.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd stated she attended a USU luncheon and the City’s think tank.

Councilmember Jones reported on a Travel Council meeting and stated the timed entry program at Arches National Park has positive feedback. He said that hotel occupancy and room rates were relatively high, and the Jeep Safari had the lowest attendance in years. Jones attended the County Planning Commission’s General Plan review and noted the Utah Association of Homebuilders was trying to weaken energy efficiency standards in the state building code.

Councilmember Wojciechowski reported on the Planning Commission’s deliberations regarding Proposed Ordinance 2022-05. He said he attended ribbon cuttings for USU and the Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) as well as a victim advocate meeting, the City’s think tank, and a TrailMix meeting. He noted that the Forest Service has only one local crew member due to housing issues.

Councilmember Derasary stated she participated in the police chief interview and attended the USU ribbon cutting. She attended a meeting of the Grand Water and Sewer Services Agency (GWSSA) with Regional Engineer Marc Stilson at which the new water gauge was discussed. She said she recorded a statement regarding regional haze and brought up local concern among agencies regarding emergency management outreach and communications. She said she had received positive feedback regarding the Arches timed entry pilot as well as the think tank. She concluded by mentioning the ongoing issue regarding Arches Drive residents and a bunkhouse.

Councilmember Taylor said he attended three ribbon cuttings, for a business, USU and USARA. He mentioned a sustainable trails committee and the Airport Board meeting, noting there is currently no airport director.

Adjournment: Mayor Langianese adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder