

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
January 19, 2023

Moab City Council held a Special Meeting on the above date at Red Cliffs Lodge, Mile Post 14, UT-128, Moab, Utah. Audio is archived at utah.gov/pmn/index.html.

Mayor Joette Langianese called the Special Meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. Councilmembers Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Rani Derasary, Jason Taylor, Luke Wojciechowksi, and Kalen Jones attended. City staff participating included City Manager Carly Castle, Deputy City Manager Ben Billingsley, Planner Cory Shurtleff, Police Chief Jared Garcia, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Annie McVay, Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm, Communications and Engagement Manager Lisa Church, Recorder Sommar Johnson and one member of the public.

Strategic Planning Workshop:

Department Heads presented accomplishments and goals and addressed questions from Council. Jared Garcia reported on Police, Code Enforcement, Animal Shelter, and Victims Advocate Unit. The City Manager asked what defines a “case” and Chief Garcia said each time a call is taken, and a report is created that creates a case. Questions were asked about the differences between person, society, and property crimes. After reporting on the number of hours worked by officers, questions were asked about switching from 12-hour shifts to 8-hour shifts. Councilmembers discussed the knowledge of narcotics and violent crimes (cartels) in the community. Councilmember Derasary asked about the status of the previous drug task force and about law enforcement lobbying and if Chief Garcia and the new sheriff were working together during the current legislative session. Councilmember Wojciechowski asked if officers have dealt with human trafficking situations in the community. He also asked about creating a group to review social services crimes and helping to provide resources for crime victims. Councilmembers asked about SRO position(s), potential funding for the position, and cost share by other agencies. Councilmember Derasary also asked about the victims advocate position and if it's beneficial to have additional staffing. She also asked about speed limit enforcement and if the funding request would allow for coverage of two officers per shift.

City Engineer Chuck Williams reported on Engineering and Transit. Councilmembers asked about having a licensed surveyor on staff, the topography at the Pack Creek bridge, the Spanish Trail water tank location, outfall, and habitat.

Communications and Engagement Manager Lisa Church reported on Communications. Councilmembers asked about website redesign, the TextMyGov app, and discussed changing to a chatbot on the website to achieve better citizen engagement and participation. Councilmembers asked about a geographic notification system and project notification for businesses and residents during construction projects as well as possible mailing lists for notifications. They discussed challenges with absentee property owners and tenant notifications with mailing lists. They discussed public engagement capacity, ways to improve on the delivery of public engagement called for in construction contracts, and the possibility of hiring a public engagement firm to help disperse information under the City's direction.

City Manager Carly Castle, Public Works Director Levi Jones, and City Engineer Chuck Williams reported on Water and Sewer. Councilmembers asked about the digestion time frame (12 hours) for the treatment facility and possible consequences for illegal dumping. They also asked about the water line/service line ratings and discussed the type of storage building proposed for the water treatment facility. Levi and Chuck explained that the storage building is likely a prefab steel building with possible solar panels.

Public Works Director Levi Jones reported on Streets, Facilities, and Fleet. He discussed the possibility of switching to xeriscape throughout the City to reduce the time spent on landscape maintenance. He explained the plans to take care of weeds on the north side of town to reduce the amount of time spent in that area as well as plans for future maintenance for that area.

Councilmember Derasary inquired about obtaining a goat herd for maintenance. Jones discussed the Center Street Gym HVAC system and the delay for IRA funding. He noted that the facilities assessment may capture a better idea of the needs for that facility. Deputy City Manager Ben Billingsley asked about the potential to transition fleet vehicles to the local dealer to reduce the amount of time needed to shuttle vehicles outside the area for maintenance. Councilmembers asked about the existing public works building and other facilities needs and the potential for a long-term strategic asset management plan to include those facilities. They wanted to ensure ongoing discussions would happen about the public works building and that it be included on the capital improvements list as well as a prioritization of space needs. It was noted that the current public works property is on a septic system, not sewer. Councilmembers asked about the necessity for additional staffing in the Public Works Department. Councilmember Derasary asked about large weather events and the capacity to handle them and whether there were additional equipment needs. City Engineer Chuck Williams suggested the possibility of getting bids from local contractors for use of their equipment for emergency purposes and said we have some capacity to partner with other agencies during emergency events.

Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm reported on Sustainability. She discussed the status with Rocky Mountain Power for fast-charging stations and the timeline for another demonstration for dark sky compliant streetlights. She discussed recycling containers and the possibility of matching them on Main Street with coordinated bins as well as a phased replacement program or schedule for the Main Street containers. Councilmembers noted that the existing containers were designed by Earth Studio and the design and construction was funded by the Travel Council. They suggested utilizing the USU welding program for the design and construction of new containers.

City Planner Cory Shurtleff reported on Planning and Building. He walked Councilmembers and staff through the full development application process. Councilmembers asked if the development timeline was based on the efficiency of the applicant or capacity limitations. Shurtleff noted that the Planning Office is anticipating more competency and having higher expectations of development teams for larger developers. Councilmembers asked about the possibility to create approved building plans for smaller homeowners and developers and Planner Shurtleff explained that most of the developable properties are unique and require specialized plans.

Deputy City Manager Ben Billingsley reported on Human Resources, Finance, and the Recorder's Office. Councilmembers asked about the difference between leadership versus supervisor training.

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Director Annie McVay reported on Arts, the Recreation and Aquatic Center, Parks, Sports and Recreation. She explained the rebranding efforts of the MARC including a name change to the Moab Arts and Rental Center and an update to their mission statement. She discussed upcoming public art projects including the location of crosswalk murals. She also discussed the potential need for an arborist in the Parks Department to help with tree assessments throughout the various parks. Councilmembers asked about the status of the Sun Court and she noted that the pickleball group was given permission to make changes to paint. Councilmembers also asked about the process to use the pavilion at Old City Park based on a request from Charlotte Mates.

Development of Strategic Plan Theme:

City Manager Carly Castle and Deputy City Manager Ben Billingsley conducted an exercise with

Councilmembers and staff to develop a theme for the 2023-2024 strategic planning session.

Council and staff discussed four of six pillars derived from Council direction and the visioning process. Each pillar was ranked in order of preference by the attendees. The pillars included Affordability and Equity, Community Fabric and Wellbeing, Environmental Stewardship, and Leadership and Decision Making.

Adjournment: Mayor Langianese adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder