Call to Order and Attendance:
The Moab City Council held a Special City Council Retreat Meeting on the above date in the Moab Arts and Recreation Center located at 111 East 100 North Street. An audio recording is archived at http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html. Mayor Emily Niehaus called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM. In attendance were Councilmembers Rani Derasary, Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Karen Guzman-Newton, Kalen Jones and Mike Duncan. Also in attendance were City Manager David Everitt, City Finance Director Rachel Stenta, Assistant City Manager Joel Linares, Development Services Manager Sommar Johnson, Communications and Engagement Director Lisa Church, Public Works Director Pat Dean, Deputy Recorder Dani Guerrero, Sustainability Director Rosemarie Russo, Executive Administrative Assistant Carmella Galley and Recorder/Project Specialist Eve Tallman. One member of the press attended.

Workshop to Discuss Setting Goals and Priorities For Calendar Year 2019:
City Manager Everitt introduced the general agenda for the day. Mayor Niehaus guided a review of the prior year’s work plan. Discussion on various topics followed, including moving Quality of Life and Cross-Jurisdictional Initiatives issues to the top of the priority list. Among subjects discussed were special events, constituent communications, the upcoming visioning process regarding a future land use plan, the proposed 10-year sustainability plan, a joint legislative strategy with Grand County, Dark Skies, All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) noise issues, support for the development of the new Utah State University (USU) campus and future shared services with Grand County.

The review of the work plan then moved to a discussion about Housing. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd suggested changing the verbiage of the work plan to shift toward community education efforts. Also discussed were impact fees on accessory dwelling units, planned affordable developments, housing stock and affordability. Discussion ensued regarding promotion of increasing the stock of primary residential units.

Water Resource Protection was briefly reviewed. The upcoming water budget report was discussed as well as cross-jurisdictional decision points regarding water supply. The City’s planned review of water rates and a water conservation educational campaign were added to the list of priorities.

Land Use and Planning topics were next examined. Completion of the in-progress Downtown Master Plan was brought up. Also mentioned were ongoing work on updates to the General Plan, the parking plan, timelines for various initiatives, sidewalk inventory plan and regional transportation planning. Other topics were discussed including hiring of planning staff, code revisions, residential building envelopes, signage, parking and standards for pocket neighborhoods. Code reorganization, infrastructure planning and secondary water planning were discussed including a report on whether they were already in-progress. Traffic calming, pedestrian safety and signage were discussed.

Infrastructure was considered, including sidewalks, fleet management, and parks—including pickle ball, shade structures, trees and other recreational assets. A survey was debated.

Under the topic of central administration, succession planning was brought up, including human resource training initiatives. Revisions to the personnel policies and procedures were
mentioned as an upcoming council review item. Revisions to the on-going performance evaluation process were mentioned, along with the employee wellness incentive program. Council involvement in staff hiring was discussed.

Open and better government issues were brought up. The new agenda management system was touched on and differentiating between legislative and administrative decisions. The online archives, record retention and social media presence were remarked upon. New work regarding rental property owner licensing was mentioned. Councilmember Derasary requested a quarterly revenue update. Mayor Niehaus requested periodic reporting regarding fiscal management. Other topics were discussed, including public works, enterprise funds and City Center office space.

Under the topic of Arts and Recreation, the proposed recreation and trails master plan was mentioned and oversight of trails planning was included in the consideration of reinstating the Parks, Recreation and Trails Director position or other options including a Wellness Director or a grant-writer. It was agreed to revisit the topic in the summer. Other considerations included signage, the golf course lease and support of arts programs. Public safety accomplishments were briefly discussed. Animal control topics were brought up as well as an idling vehicle ordinance. Councilmembers expressed interest in understanding the impacts of development on water supply with an eye toward projecting buildout and implications for water conservation measures. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd requested shorter council meetings and options were debated for altering the meeting format and agenda order. Final changes to the administrative plan were proposed, including more work on planning and zoning topics that are considered old business, the process for consideration of planning documents, how to better engage in the state legislative process, including pending legislation regarding USU, ATV noise and tax rates. A municipal property tax was brought up as well as municipal staff customer service training. Discussion followed about the City’s organizational structure and the role of development services. Mayor Niehaus suggested an examination of possible City-County coordination of development services. Moving code enforcement services to the police department was mentioned. Implications of the pending change of the County’s form of government was brought up.

Executive Session:
Councilmember Jones moved to convene an executive closed session to discuss the Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual. Councilmember Guzman-Newton seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Knuteson-Boyd, Guzman-Newton and Duncan voting aye. Mayor Niehaus convened the executive closed session at 4:14 PM. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to adjourn the closed session. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Knuteson-Boyd, Guzman-Newton and Duncan voting aye. Mayor Niehaus ended the executive closed session at 5:11 PM.

Adjournment: Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Niehaus adjourned the meeting at 5:11 PM.