

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
March 10, 2021

The Moab City Council held a Special Meeting on the above date. Consistent with provisions of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act, Utah Code Ann. § 54-2-207(4), the Moab City Council Chair has issued written determinations supporting the decision to convene electronic meetings of the Council without a physical anchor location. Due to the health and safety risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic and considering public health orders limiting in-person gatherings, the Moab City Council held this meeting by electronic means. An audio recording of the meeting is archived at <http://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>. A video recording is archived at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGl7GYBFMds>.

Moab City Council Strategic Planning 2021-2022

Mayor Emily Niehaus called the City Council Strategic Planning Workshop to order at 6:05 p.m. Participating remotely were Councilmembers Rani Derasary, Karen Guzman-Newton, Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Mike Duncan and Kalen Jones. City staff participating remotely were Manager Joel Linares, Assistant Manager Carly Castle, Attorney Laurie Simonson, Police Chief Bret Edge, Planner Nora Shepard and Recorder Sommar Johnson.

City Manager Linares referred to the strategic planning process materials provided by City departments and reviewed the year. He highlighted fluctuations in revenues and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mentioned imminent additions to the staff.

Council and staff engaged in a question and answer session regarding budgetary concerns, recreation facilities and planning code updates.

Linares next proposed a visioning process that would encompass and dovetail multiple planning documents currently in process. Engagement of a consultant was discussed. Councilmembers Knuteson-Boyd and Jones volunteered to join the Mayor and key staff in developing the vision process.

Assistant Manager Castle provided an overview of continuing and current City Council commitments for 2021-2022. Castle requested input from the Council regarding the extant list of current commitments.

Planner Shepard presented a Planning Department overview. She noted that the next two or three years will shape the future of Moab in the long term. She provided a brief overview of major projects underway, both within the City and in the surrounding area. Councilmember Duncan brought up water concerns and Mayor Niehaus mentioned the development of “Moab South” in San Juan County. Planner Shepard asked, “How can we maintain Moab as a community and great place to live, work and recreate with all this new development?” She outlined key concerns for residents regarding housing stock, community character, density, water and sewer supply and traffic. The Planning Department workflow was outlined and discussed. Increasing the staff was brought up and Mayor Niehaus brought up a proposed municipal property tax. Staff-intensive projects such as Walnut Lane were discussed.

Water supply concerns were touched on with regard to overnight accommodations and community carrying capacity. Mayor Niehaus suggested the topic could be included in the visioning process.

Mayor Niehaus transitioned the discussion to noise issues, encompassing off-highway vehicles (OHVs). The prior day's vehicular noise workshop was referenced with regard to moving forward with the proposed noise ordinance and timeline. City Attorney Simonson reviewed ordinance development and Police Chief Edge reviewed steps, equipment needs, recruitment issues and staff shortages. Councilmember Derasary brought up the offer of financial assistance from the off-road industry and Mayor Niehaus suggested sponsorship from off-road groups; Councilmember Guzman-Newton suggested local residents might also contribute and Councilmember Jones expressed concern about soliciting assistance from off-road advocacy groups. Mayor Niehaus spoke of an idea to create a seasonal law enforcement opportunity. Discussion ensued regarding police department staffing levels.

Adjournment: Mayor Niehaus adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Emily S. Niehaus, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder