

**MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 10, 2023**

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at www.utah.gov/pmn and video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYhb66dqfzs.

Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and Kaitlin Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Rani Derasary, Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Luke Wojciechowski, Jason Taylor and Kalen Jones attended. Also in attendance were City Manager Carly Castle, Community Development Director Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, City Finance Advisor David Everitt, Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm, Engineer Chuck Williams, Building Inspector Barry Ellison, Assistant Engineer Marc Jolissaint, Attorney Nathan Bracken and 11 members of the public.

Public Comments: None.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Special Service District—Presentation

EMS Director Andy Smith presented an update, including a new vision statement for the District and a report on equipment, staffing levels, call volume and a map showing call locations. He said there has been a 42 percent growth in demand in ten years and between 55 and 60 percent of calls involve local residents. He described outreach efforts including a youth academy, and mentioned internal leadership development and an employee mental health and wellness program. He answered Council questions regarding recruitment and retention of staff, and billing patients for services rendered.

Consent Agenda—Approved

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Jones moved to approve the consent agenda as follows: adoption of an Indigenous Peoples Day 2023 Proclamation, approval of minutes for the September 26, 2023, Regular Meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$1,113,538.18. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

General Business:

Utah Renewable Communities (URC) Program Utility Agreement—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Sustainability Director Lamm described the implementation phase of the program with Rocky Mountain Power (RMP). She said 18 Utah communities will participate, and once the agreements are signed, RMP will submit the agreement to the Public Services Commission.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Derasary moved to approve the Community Renewable Energy Program Agreement between the Community Renewable Energy Agency and Rocky Mountain Power. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

Surplus Property—Approved

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve **Resolution 25-2023:** a resolution of the governing body of the City of Moab declaring certain property owned by the City of Moab as surplus. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

Downtown Dispersed Parking Project Contract Award—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Engineer Williams presented details of the downtown dispersed parking project bids and background. He said the bids were all over budget and detailed efforts to reduce the scope of the project to bring the overall cost down, with the final reduction still approximately \$1 million over the City's budgeted amount. Discussion ensued regarding Utah Department of

Transportation (UDOT) Hotspot Funding requirements to increase overall parking spaces. Council expressed concern about reductions in aesthetic and pedestrian components of the final design including tree reductions and irrigation infrastructure, street lighting options, pedestrian and bicycle safety and more. Williams explained the prior partial expenditure of the Hotspot grant on the transit pilot project and the Emma Boulevard parking lot. Staff recommended using some of the City's fund balance to make up for the budget shortfall. Pros and cons of bonding, the Kane Creek Boulevard Reconstruction Project, other upcoming infrastructure needs and rebidding the project were discussed. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd pondered whether it was still the project to meet the City's needs and later expressed dismay at the cost but concluded the project needed to move forward. Councilmember Taylor said he was hesitant due to the high price tag for a net increase of 193 parking stalls and the need to take money from the general fund, and added there is still a great need for more downtown parking. Councilmember Wojciechowski brought up the economic benefits of more downtown parking, which will increase tax revenues. He noted the current chaotic congestion that influences the Moab experience. He urged staff to continue to look for grants and alternative funding sources. City Manager Castle brought up future bundled bonding opportunities for pending infrastructure projects that could reimburse the parking amount. Councilmember Derasary stated she did not support the current scenario because she felt residents were being shortchanged regarding beautification versus the prioritization of parking lots. She suggested the scope of the project could be reduced to fewer blocks, so we could afford all the amenities the public has been expecting on those blocks. She brought up unexpected costs for public engagement and construction administration. Williams clarified the costs were more transparently reflected in the project expense rather than absorbed by the general budget.

Motions and Vote: Councilmember Derasary moved to table the motion to allow more time to consider the options. The motion had no second and the motion failed. Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the alternative bid 3 from Kilgore Companies doing business as Legrand Johnson for the Downtown Dispersed Parking Construction Project in the amount of \$7,256,674.20 and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye and Councilmember Derasary voting nay.

Encroachment License Agreement for 98 Center, LLC—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Mayor Langianese explained the public feedback process for the encroachment process. Discussion followed regarding the upcoming City code rewrite and the fairness to other applicants while approving an encroachment before the rewrite completion. City Manager Castle mentioned the burden of redevelopment costs and consideration of the public trust regarding encroachment onto City property. The proposed encroachment involved a kitchen exhaust chase for a restaurant expansion that would extend 30" into a planting bed adjacent to the sidewalk.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Jones moved to approve a license agreement between City of Moab and 98 Center L.L.C. for property infrastructure encroachment into City Right-of-Way at 98 E Center Street. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

City Manager Updates:

City Manager Castle noted an open enrollment period for City recycling and trash pickup. She mentioned an open house for the Sustainability Action Plan and upcoming off-peak hours for Moab Area Transit. She said municipal election ballots would be mailed by October 31 due to the later election date established by the State of Utah. She mentioned the City's \$9,000 cost share for the County's Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Wojciechowski reported on a meeting of TrailMix and an opportunity for public input regarding the Manti-LaSal Forest Plan. He said he attended the City Council candidate forum.

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd described an incident regarding a person experiencing a mental health

crisis on the highway shoulder and a Good Samaritan who came to the person's aid.

Councilmember Derasary thanked the City and staff for participation in Indigenous Peoples' Day and urged the City to consider it a City-sponsored event in the future. She requested the City recognize the City's indigenous staff members. Derasary reported on a meeting of the Grand Water and Sewer Service District (GWSSA). She expressed EMS' thanks for better communications regarding road closures from Public Works, and shared their request to have a contact at the City who can inform them in advance of special events road closures, such as the closure related to the Red Rocks art festival. She mentioned the anniversary of the Family Support Center and noted a recent Utah women's leadership webinar.

Councilmember Jones reported on meetings of the Utah Renewable Communities board and the solid waste district.

Councilmember Taylor reported he attended an EMS budget committee meeting and the Indigenous Peoples' Day gathering.

Mayor Langianese reported on meetings of the Association of Governments and the Utah Office of Tourism. She said, in response to a federal government shutdown, she urged the State to assist with funding not only the major Southeast Utah national parks but also Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments. She said she had upcoming meetings with the Department of Energy and a joint meeting with County leadership. She concluded by announcing upcoming consideration of the outdoor lighting ordinance revisions and the prospect of developing property owned by the Moab Area Partnership for Seniors into employee housing for healthcare workers.

Adjournment: Councilmember Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye. Mayor Langianese adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder