

**Tooele City Council
Work Session Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Tooele City Hall, Council Chambers
90 North Main St., Tooele, Utah

City Council Members Present:

Scott Wardle, Chair
Melodi Gochis
Tony Graf
Ed Hansen
Justin Brady

City Employees Present:

Mayor Debbie Winn
Michelle Pitt, Recorder
Roger Baker, City Attorney
Jim Bolser, Community Development Director
Steve Evans, Public Works Director (by phone)
Paul Hansen, City Engineer
Darwin Cook, Parks and Recreation Director
Kami Perkins, Human Resource Director
Chief Ron Kirby, Chief of Police
Shannon Wimmer, Assistant Finance Director

Minutes prepared by Michelle Pitt

1. Open Meeting

Chairman Wardle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Scott Wardle, Present
Melodi Gochis, Present
Tony Graf, Present
Ed Hansen, Present
Justin Brady, Present

3. Mayor's Report

The Mayor updated the Council on these items:

The Council had approved new flooring for the library. The library received bids for the flooring, with three different pricing options for good carpet, better carpet, and the best carpet. The difference in the pricing is thickness, the way it is dyed, and the ability to be cleaned. The Council suggested the library purchase the best flooring option.

The Mayor read a statement regarding COVID-19 (Corona Virus) which is attached.

The Mayor reminded everyone that today is Census day. She stressed the importance of completing the Census because it could mean more money and representation for the State and City.

The Mayor expressed appreciation to the administrative staff, City staff, and Council for the way they worked through the earthquake emergency and pandemic. She thanked staff for the many hours worked to ensure that the City stays open and functional.

4. City Council Members' Reports

Council Member Hansen asked how the City could help businesses through the pandemic. He expressed appreciation for suspending the sign ordinance at this time. He said he could see how businesses are trying to keep functioning through the crisis.

The Mayor suggested that businesses check out the resources listed on the Tooele Business and GOED websites.

Council Member Graf said that the meeting for the sign ordinance was suspended. He also said he noticed that businesses are trying their best to stay open during the COVID-19.

Council Member Brady stated that he attended the active transportation committee, and that the North Tooele City Special Service District has a lot of good things going on.

Council Member Gochis also encouraged everyone to complete the Census, and stressed its importance.

She said that the Tooele City Arts Council is proceeding tentatively with their Fridays on Vine schedule and contracts. The schedule will include Exit 99, Christine Fawson, Imagine, JC Needham, Ryan Shupe and the Rubberband, and the National Army Guard Band. The City's Summer Guide has been delayed, so that publication will be completed later this year. LaForge Encore's play has been postponed.

Chairman Wardle attended a regional water meeting. He said that multiple agencies are working together on long term solutions for development.

Chairman Wardle said that Council meetings may need to include something like Zoom Meeting in the future as things evolve with the virus.

5. Discussion:

- Winter Parking Ordinance
Presented by Council Member Justin Brady

Council Member Brady said that the proposed parking ordinance was emailed out. He said that the group looked at other communities' ordinances as examples. The committee took out the time frame that was currently in the ordinance and changed it to say that parking on the street is not allowed any time it is snowing.

Mr. Baker added that their intent was to provide an ordinance that was more enforceable. He mentioned that it may be snowing in some areas of the City and not in others, but if it is snowing on a certain car, that car needs to be moved. They removed the reference to the depth of snow. The changes are meant to make the ordinance be simple and objective.

Chief Kirby thanked Council Member Brady and Mr. Baker for drafting the ordinance. He said it would be easier to enforce. He added that there are times that snow is on the road which may not be caused by immediate snowfall, such as snow drifts.

Chairman Wardle asked if the community officers would enforce the ordinance. The Chief answered they would. Chairman Wardle suggested that the City place messages on message boards while it is snowing to remind citizens to move their vehicles off the road.

Council Member Hansen said that it may be an issue for people to immediately move their vehicles if their vehicle is on the road and it starts snowing during the day, and they work out of town. He also expressed concern about businesses that have parking on the street during working hours. Mr. Baker said that it was impossible to account for every scenario and that the officers will have to exercise discretion as best as they can.

Council Members were asked to submit their comments to Council Member Brady. Council Member Brady will put the ordinance on the agenda when it's ready.

- Budget Discussion
 - o Benefit Package Proposals
Presented by Kami Perkins

Ms. Perkins said that everyone is concerned about the economic impact to the City. One of the biggest costs is the labor cost projections. Ms. Perkins provides labor projections or labor forecasts to the Council and the finance office. She added that there are turnovers and employees that retire during the year, and those things are impossible to predict. She tries to provide to the finance office and give to the Council the best estimates of what those costs will be.

Usually there is an 8 to 15% rate increase on health insurance which is about a \$200,000 cost for increase of health insurance. This year the City has a rate increase of -.16 to .04%. She has not seen the rate this low in the 26 years she has been here.

Ms. Perkins went on to say that the basic changes project \$25,000 to fund business as usual. It doesn't include a cost of living increase or personnel changes, but does include standard merit increases and the \$234 Tier II benefit cost.

She said that the City is going to propose an 1.8% cost of living adjustment in the budget proposal which will be \$180,000. Other costs will include an overflow of police officers. She explained that this was due to three officers putting in resignations. The City filled those positions and then one of the officers decided not to resign, and one decided not to retire.

Ms. Perkins indicated she was working on bringing position requests, reclassification of salaries, and additional career ladders to the Council but the Mayor has asked that all of those things be put on hold for now.

The City could prepare a cost of living adjustment, without an effective date of July 1st. Ms. Perkins said that the adjustment could be a delayed date when revenues are more certain.

Ms. Perkins expressed a concern about unemployment costs. She said that she was anticipating an increase, but is not sure what the amount will be at this time. The City is trying very hard to keep everyone employed, but the future is uncertain and may impact the figures that were provided to the Council.

Council Member Gochis asked if the City is building in a cost of sick leave for the employees. Ms. Perkins answered that the Family First Act is a law that says employers will be reimbursed for sick leave benefits, but governments are not. Ms. Perkins said that the City has employees' wages through June. She doesn't anticipate it will be a budget impact to the City through June, but if it is not budgeted beyond that, it could affect the unemployment portion of the budget.

- Public Safety
Presented by Kami Perkins

Ms. Perkins stated that Resolution 2020-25, dealing with the Tier II Public Safety Retirement Program, would be presented later tonight. She explained that the retirement and pension program for officers had been cut through the State system years ago, which caused problems with hiring and recruitment of officers. To help combat this problem, the City funded and enhanced the Tier II retirement program by contributing additional funds to officers' 401K plan. The amount decided upon was 8% to be contributed to officers' 401K. The State legislature then changed the state retirement system as a whole, and changed the state benefit, which raised the City's rate from 12% to 14% of an officer's salary. This amount has to be paid by the City. The 2.6% can be picked up by the officer, or the employer can pick up that cost for them, through a "pick-up election". The Resolution proposes that the City's 8% contribution be reallocated by

funding the employer share of 2%, add the pick-up election, and leave the remaining balance to go to the enhanced retirement benefit.

Ms. Perkins stated that the information provided to the Council has four options for the Council to consider. Option three is what is proposed, which would be a \$234 cost increase over what is currently being funded. Ms. Perkins explained that the pick-up election has to be done by resolution.

6. Close Meeting to Discuss Pending Litigation and Property Acquisition

There was not a closed meeting.

7. Adjourn

Chairman Wardle adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

The content of the minutes is not intended, nor are they submitted, as a verbatim transcription of the meeting. These minutes are a brief overview of what occurred at the meeting.

Approved this 6 day of ^{May}~~April~~, 2020



Scott Wardle, Tooele City Council Chair

Council members,

Tooele City administration and staff are working tirelessly to address the many changes going on in the world today. We are committed to continue all essential services to our residents while trying to keep some sort of normality in our lives. Although we have closed most city buildings, we are still conducting the business of the city. Our staff continues to follow the guidelines set forth by the federal, state and local governments and health departments concerning social distancing and best practices. The health and safety of our residents and our staff is a top priority. It is my goal to keep our workforce employed.

I am greatly concerned about our local businesses and their employees. We are currently partnering with the Tooele Transcript Bulletin by running full page ads to give information to our residents of what eating establishments are still in business. We encourage everyone to support these businesses as much as possible. I have participated in many electronic meetings with local and state leaders to obtain and distribute the information to business owners that will help them apply for grants and find other ways to stay in business. We are also partnering with the Chamber of Commerce on a website which will include a Virtual Tooele Valley Mall. It will be a website that will include Curbside & Pickup food locations and caterers. Eventually the website will be expanded to include all types of businesses in Tooele. Consumers will be able to make purchases electronically then have items delivered or available for pick up. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Now is a great time to get online and respond to the census. As of March 31; 46.3% of our residents in Tooele City have responded to the census. Currently only 42.8% of Utah's have responded. Let's be the first city in the state to reach the goal of 100%.

I support the Stay Safe, Stay Home directive from our Governor. I am asking residents to please follow the guidelines set forth by our federal, state and local governments. If everyone follows the rules, we will get through this sooner and with a higher rate of economic recovery.

I would like to express my appreciation to the elected officials of this valley. We have been in constant contact with one another in an effort to be united. I am grateful for the administrative staff at the city who have been available 24 hours a day and working long hours to adjust to the many changes that have occurred in the last several weeks. Thank you to the staff who have adapted to the continual requests to be flexible in their work schedules and duties. Your dedication is greatly appreciated. And thank you to the residents for your patience, your compliance with these new lifestyle changes and your support.
