SMITHFIELD CITY COUNCIL **JUNE 9, 2021**

The Smithfield City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting at 96 South Main Street, Smithfield, Utah on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. The meeting began at 6:30 P.M. and Mayor Jeffrey H. Barnes was in the chair. The opening remarks were made by Curtis Wall.

The following council members were in attendance: Curtis Wall, Jamie Anderson, Deon Hunsaker and Wade Campbell.

Jon Wells was excused.

City Manager Craig Giles, Fire Chief Jay Downs and City Recorder Justin Lewis were also in attendance.

VISITORS: Diana Despain, Arnold Neilson, Desirae Jo Andrew, Katherine D. Carpenter, Kinsley Stevens, Brynlee Strate, Jeff Strate

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 26, 2021.

A motion to approve the May 26, 2021 city council meeting minutes was made by Wade, seconded by Curtis and the vote was unanimous.

Yes Vote: Wall, Anderson, Hunsaker, Campbell
No Vote: None
Absent: Wells

ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST AWARD WINNER PRESENATION

Mayor Barnes mentioned normally the State of Utah holds an Arbor Day poster contest with elementary schools throughout the state. This year the contest was not held because of COVID-19.

The Tree Committee decided to hold a local poster contest this year.

All three local elementary schools participated.

The theme was “The trees outside our window”.

The posters were judged for each grade. The first-place winner of each grade received a ribbon and $10. Second and third place selections received ribbons.

A grand champion from each school was selected.

The grand champions are:

Kinsley Stevens - Sunrise Elementary

Brynlee Strate – Summit Elementary
Desirae Jo Andrew – Birch Creek Elementary

Mayor Barnes presented each grand champion with their poster which had been put in a frame by the Tree Committee.

Deon mentioned Arnold Neilson was named the Lion of the Year by the Lion's Club for his service to the community.

RESIDENT INPUT

There were not any comments or questions.

APPROVAL OF KATHY TOOLSON AS A BOARD MEMBER ON THE SMITHFIELD CITY LIBRARY BOARD.

Wade mentioned Kathy wants to be involved and serve.

Kathy is a former English teacher and administrator.

> ***A motion to appoint Kathy Toolson as a board member on the Smithfield City Library Board was made by Wade, seconded by Curtis and the vote was unanimous.***

Yes Vote: Wall, Anderson, Hunsaker, Campbell
No Vote: None
Absent: Wells

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON IMPLEMENTING FIREWORKS RESTRICTIONS FOR 2021.

Jamie asked if fireworks should be banned this year throughout the entire city.

Wade stated fireworks might be possible for July 4th but July 24th most likely will not happen.

Chief Downs mentioned the governor announced restrictions on state land and the unincorporated areas of the state.

Chief Downs mentioned the restrictions have been implemented earlier than he has seen in the past. Right now is extremely dry and there are already several wildfires throughout the state. Curtis mentioned one area required some homes to be evacuated.

Chief Downs mentioned 90% of the wildfires are manmade. The fire in Morgan, Utah was caused by an excavator hitting a rock which caused a spark and started the fire.

Chief Downs mentioned Governor Cox is considering a statewide ban of fireworks.

Curtis asked if firework stands will be closed if fireworks are banned? Chief Downs replied they could still sell them but people could not ignite them so there would be no reason for people to buy them.

Deon mentioned he reviewed the water restrictions put in place by Governor Cox. Almost the entire state is in the red flag area.

Deon stated he was not sure how the governor could put restrictions on unincorporated areas of the state. Chief Downs replied the governor can put restrictions on unincorporated areas but it is up to each city or town to implement their own restrictions.

Chief Downs mentioned the previous restrictions were as follows. No fireworks could be discharged north of Center Street and east of 200 East or south of Center Street and east of 800 East.

Chief Downs mentioned even with the restrictions in place there are still yearly problems. It is hard to distinguish some legal fireworks from illegal fireworks without seeing the labels on them.

Craig asked if someone can be cited for illegally discharging fireworks? Chief Downs replied the police department could cite them for fire code violations or ordinance violations.

Curtis mentioned people are shooting targets in the Dry Canyon area almost on a nightly basis. Can this be restricted? Craig replied the area in question up Dry Canyon is not in the city limits so the city has no jurisdiction.

Curtis asked if the gun range above Richmond is open? Justin replied it is open.

Chief Downs mentioned last year fires east of Hyde Park and Richmond were caused by target shooters.

Chief Downs informed the council a citation could result in a $1,000 fine or up to six months in jail.

Mayor Barnes asked if the gun range is monitored by the county? Craig replied that is correct. Chief Downs mentioned there are not any gun range restrictions in place right now.

Mayor Barnes mentioned maybe this year fireworks should be banned in the city for July 4th and 24th. Wade replied July 4th might be okay but July 24th certainly will not. Curtis mentioned each day it will get dryer and conditions will worsen.

Chief Downs mentioned restrictions could be put in place now for July 4th and then evaluated in July to see how to proceed with July 24th.

Wade suggested implementing the previous restrictions now and discussing the issue again at the June 23rd council meeting to see if more restrictions are needed.

Curtis stated he wasn't sure if he supported a ban at this time for fireworks in the city because the vast majority of those discharging fireworks are responsible people.

Craig suggested including in the restrictions that fireworks cannot be discharged in parks or on any public property. There are a lot of dry trees and debris in city parks and on city property. Jamie felt the request was appropriate. Chief Downs mentioned the city could be liable if there are issues which arise from people lighting fireworks on city property. Jamie mentioned this new restriction should be implemented yearly.

Deon mentioned the dates of when fireworks can be discharged need to be emphasized in any notice the city puts out. Where July 4th is on a Sunday there is potential for a lot of fireworks on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Chief Downs mentioned there are typically four or five fireworks stands in the city. This year there is going to be one on the property west of the fire station as well.

> ***A motion to implement the restriction of firework discharge in the following areas: (1) All areas north of Center Street and east of 200 East, (2) All areas south of Center Street and east of 800 East and (3) all city owned properties, was made by Curtis, seconded by Wade and the vote was unanimous.***

Yes Vote: Wall, Anderson, Hunsaker, Campbell
No Vote: None
Absent: Wells

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Craig informed the council the new well had been drilled to 900 feet.

The screens for the well should be installed the week of June 14th.

The new well should be tested the week of June 21st.

Once complete the well will be capped until the well house and service line are installed.

The wellhouse is being relocated. This will cause the playground equipment in the area to have to be removed. A small waterline running through the area will be relocated as well.

Curtis asked if the playground equipment is not usable elsewhere because it is not up to current code? Craig stated that is correct.

Craig and Clay attended a CTAC (Cache Technical Advisory Committee) meeting.

The city applied for a roundabout project at 250 East 600 South. The committee recommended approval of the project and now it goes before the mayors of the valley for the final vote. If approved, the project would start in 2022.

Another project recommended for approval is a new road from the roundabout at Wolfpack Way in North Logan to Hyde Park Lane in Hyde Park.

A project on 100 West in Logan was recommended as well as some other smaller projects.

Mayor Barnes asked how much was approved for the Wolfpack Way project? Craig replied the initial estimate was $7,000,000 for the project. The project was changed and the amount recommended for approval was $4,900,000.

Mayor Barnes mentioned the two roundabouts in Logan on 1200 East are not a good location for these types of projects.

Craig mentioned the funding for these projects is to help with air quality. The idea is to keep vehicles moving and not idling. As well as, having trails or paths where people can use a bicycle and leave their vehicle at home.

Craig informed the council the county notified the city all parcels in Cache Valley will be re-evaluated for property tax value purposes this year.

The average parcel in the city would increase from a value of $306,000 in 2020 to an average of $363,000 this year. The average home would see an increase in the yearly property tax amount in the amount of $42.72 which equates to a 14.65% increase.

Justin mentioned the state notified the county all properties are to be re-assessed.

Craig mentioned last year the city received $1,218,508 in property tax revenue. If nothing is done this year and the rate is not held the same as last year the amount will increase to $1,266,355. If the property tax rate is held the same as the last couple of years the amount will increase to $1,451,971.

Jamie stated he is torn on holding the rate this year where the budget is balanced and approved.

Craig mentioned the city is going to need funding for more hours at the library if that is an item the council still wants to pursue. Funding is needed for new employee positions as well as the city continues to grow.

Justin mentioned the county has to be notified no later than June 22nd whether the city is going to move forward with the hearing as they have mailers and advertising which is required.

Curtis mentioned if nothing is done this year then it will need to be done next year.

Mayor Barnes mentioned some people might not want to consider holding the rate during an election year. Jamie replied he is not concerned about the election. Jamie is concerned about doing what is right. Curtis concurred.

Wade stated he understood the need for funding of new employees as well as wage increases to keep current employees.

The property tax increase is large and Wade was torn on how to proceed.

Jamie stated the council has previously committed to avoid having large property tax increases in future years. Holding the rate the same helps with that.

Jaime stated he was leaning towards going through the process of considering whether or not to hold the rate the same.

Deon stated he voted against the property tax rate the last two years. Parcels which were re-assessed received even larger increases than anticipated. Most of the increases were for senior citizens. Seniors are hurt the most where they are on a fixed income. The city has a lot of seniors. More communities are currently being built in the city for those 55 and older.

Mayor Barnes stated he was concerned those who received an increase last year would get an increase again this year because their parcel is being re-assessed again this year. Jaime replied the city does not control the value of any parcel or determine any parcel value.

Wade asked for confirmation on the amount approved in the budget. Craig replied the amount from last year was included because that is the only information which was available at that time.

Deon stated holding the rate the same includes more than new growth in the city. Increases in valuations makes people pay more as well. Jamie replied the city has nothing to do with valuations. The valuation is determined by the county not the city.

Deon stated there is a perception in the community the city receives the entire amount of property tax paid by a parcel owner.

Mayor Barnes stated he receives a phone call every year from the same resident who states the city does not need to hold the rate the same and should let it decrease year after year as values increase.

Jamie expressed frustration that residents continually complain but yet none of those complaining every run for office.

Curtis mentioned the city has accomplished a lot the last couple of years by holding the rate the same and he did not want to go backwards.

Curtis stated he would have liked Cache County Executive David Zook to be in attendance at the city council meeting to explain why values are increasing. Justin replied this decision was not made by the county. The state informed the county all parcels need to be re-assessed. Curtis replied he would like to talk to those who made this decision as he has issues with the decision to re-assess all parcels.

Curtis mentioned the increase this year would be about $200,000. If an increase is done next year, then it would be around $400,000 or $500,000 if nothing is done this year. The city cannot get behind. It is hard to find and keep employees. The right decision needs to be made.

Curtis said he was 60/40 in favor of holding the property tax rate the same to keep the city on track.

Craig mentioned at least 1/5 of the city will be re-assessed every year.

Deon mentioned all parcels were re-assessed last year. Craig replied only 1/5 were reassessed in 2020 and all parcels were reassessed in 2019.

Jamie expressed disappointment in the state for reassessing all parcels this year.

Jamie and Curtis stated they supported holding the rate the same this year.

Deon stated he would vote against any type of property tax increase.

Wade said he understood the concern about getting behind but would not support an increase this year.

Mayor Barnes suggested visiting with Jon Wells about his thoughts on holding the rate the same.

Craig asked for clarification when the staff talked with Jon if he supported the request then proceed with the public hearing and if he did not support the request then do not proceed with the rate request and public hearing. Jamie replied that is correct.

Craig mentioned the state has cut back outside watering at their buildings to two days per week. Local residents are asking if any restrictions are in place. The hours at the splash pad have been reduced. Some cities are implementing fines for people watering during the day. The city is going to start the process of cutting back watering on city parks.

Wade stated residents he talked to said to not water park strips and cut back at the cemetery now Memorial Day has come and gone.

Deon stated the residents should be notified of the restrictions the governor has put in place. Residents need to be told what the city is doing to conserve water. Residents need to be told if they don’t cut back that restrictions will be implemented.

Deon expressed concern for those who irrigate with irrigation water and those who irrigate with culinary water. The culinary water users are being asked to cut back and the irrigation water users do not have any restrictions at this time.

Wade stated he did not support restrictions at this time. The city needs to lead the way in asking the residents to conserve.

Mayor Barnes asked for an update on the culinary water system of the city. Craig replied two pumps are running about 14 hours per day which is a lot for this time of year. The irrigation company will be implementing restrictions soon.

Jamie mentioned watering at the golf course needs to be cut back as well. Greens and tees might be the only areas which should be watered. Craig mentioned he talked with Golf Course Superintendent Chad Daniels and the rough area at the golf course will no longer be watered.

Craig mentioned golf cart use will need to be changed as well as there are already dirt patches in areas of heavy golf cart use.

Curtis mentioned grass will not die from a lack of water. It will come back over time. If trees are not watered, they will die. Trees should be a focus and not grass.

Mayor Barnes mentioned some watering tips are being added to the upcoming newsletter. The information was gathered from Utah State University.

Curtis mentioned he is letting his front yard burn up and focusing on keeping his backyard nice this year.

Curtis mentioned Summit Creek is basically dry right now.

Curtis mentioned the splash pad might need to be closed for the year. Craig replied that is under consideration especially if restrictions are put in place.

Justin mentioned those who utilize the irrigation water in Smithfield should feel fortunate. The Richmond Power & Irrigation Company moved to irrigation watering turns of 24 total hours per week on June 1st and is going to 12 hours of watering per week on July 1st.

Curtis mentioned the state is going to put a real focus on the metering of irrigation water in the future.

Craig mentioned a writeup will be drafted and sent out to the residents. The water situation will be reviewed at each council meeting moving forward for the next few months.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Wade mentioned there was great participation by the fire department in the Health Days Parade.

Wade was not sure the results of the book sale during Health Days as the board has not yet met this month.

Deon mentioned the Citizen of the Year was Rhonda Wright and Nicole Zollinger. They oversee the Smithfield Chamber of Commerce.

The Lion's Club stand at the Blue Sox diamond was so busy there was a 45-minute wait during the baseball games on the Saturday night of Health Days.

Deon asked if the cemetery had been cleaned off after the Memorial Day holiday? Mayor Barnes replied the clean off had been completed. Craig mentioned there were a few complaints.

Deon asked if people were upset over the clean off process? Craig replied that is correct.

Mayor Barnes asked what the complaints were for? Craig replied for removing hanging baskets and other items. Everyone has a different opinion on what is garbage and what is a treasure. Mayor Barnes replied the hanging baskets will die if they are not watered at least every other day.

Deon mentioned the Lion's Club is going to collect plastic which can be recycled into park benches.

Mayor Barnes mentioned the fireworks show at the end of Health Days was a good show.

Wade mentioned he received a lot of comments from people stating they were happy Health Days was held this year. Forrester Acres was nice. The horse pulls were a success. There was good participation at all events.

Curtis mentioned the horse pulls this year were a sanctioned event where in the past they were not. Participants came from Vernal, the Salt Lake area as well as other places. A team from Nibley won the heavyweight division.

Wade mentioned people appreciated having the event in June.

Wade did not receive one complaint about the event being held in June rather than May.

Jamie mentioned the golf course is still doing really well.

There is an initiative to put a trail system along the highway from Hyrum to Richmond. Jamie gave his input on the proposed trail system to representatives from the county.

Curtis mentioned he was not aware of any complaints about Health Days being held in June. Next year, the high school will be back on a regular schedule which means school will not end until the first week of June.

It was nice being able to utilize the auditorium after school was out so there were not any conflicts with the school.

From a rec center perspective it is hard holding Health Days in June because camps are going in June.

The pickle ball tournament was a success. More bleachers could have been utilized because there were so many people watching.

Curtis mentioned Jon had a concern when they talked about a month ago about holding Health Days in June long term.

Mayor Barnes mentioned the last day of the 2021/22 school year is Thursday, June 2nd. If Health Days is held in June next year it would be June 6th through the 11th.

Curtis mentioned the only area which showed a decrease in participation was the race. Usually Health Days is the first race of the year. This year a couple of local races were held elsewhere earlier than Health Days. Not as many people signed up for the race this year as in the past. The event was still a success but did not have as many participants as in the past.

The Health Days committee will review this year's event at one of their upcoming meetings and a recommendation will then be made to the council for the 2022 dates.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Barnes did not have any additional items to report or discuss.

****Jamie made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 P.M.****

SMITHFIELD CITY CORPORATION

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Jeffrey H. Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Justin B. Lewis, City Recorder

SMITHFIELD CITY CORPORATION
96 South Main
Smithfield, UT 84335

AGENDA

Public Notice is given that the Smithfield City Council will meet in a regularly scheduled meeting at 96 South Main, Smithfield, Utah, on **Wednesday, June 9, 2021**. The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M.

Welcome and Opening Ceremonies by Deon Hunsaker

1. Approval of the city council meeting minutes from May 26, 2021.
2. Resident Input
3. Approval of Kathy Toolson as a board member on the Smithfield City Library Board.
4. Discussion and possible vote on implementing fireworks restrictions for 2021.
5. City Manager Report
6. Council Member Reports
7. Mayor's Report

Adjournment

*****Items on the agenda may be considered earlier than shown on the agenda.*****

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodation for this meeting should contact the City Recorder at (435) 792-7990, at least three (3) days before the date of the meeting.