

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FRUIT HEIGHTS CITY
910 South Mountain Road
March 16, 2021

WELCOME: Mayor John Pohlman called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

PLEDGE & OPENING CEREMONY: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Eileen Moss, and the meeting was opened with City Manager Brandon Green offering a word of prayer.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Diane Anderson, Gary Anderson, Julia Busche, Jeanne Groberg, Eileen Moss and Mayor John Pohlman were all present.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Brandon Green and City Planner Jeff Oyler.

VISITORS: Justin Wright and Brian Bare.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

CITY BUSINESS:

Municipal Energy Tax Discussion (Brandon Green)

City Manager Brandon Green reported that he has spent considerable time researching the Municipal Energy Tax that allows the City to collect on Natural Gas and Power. He explained that Fruit Heights is not currently collecting this tax, but he verified that all other cities in the county are collecting it. The State Tax Commission office explained that Fruit Heights City would need to adopt an ordinance to collect the tax.

City Manager Brandon Green also explained that Rocky Mountain Power and Dominion Energy would collect the tax and then every quarter they would send a disbursement to the City. He acknowledged that it is still unclear how much money the City would get in revenue through this tax. There would be businesses and homes in the City that would be excluded from the tax.

Council Member Eileen Moss made the point that this tax has been discussed over the years and people have felt that the City should not charge this tax just because it can -- there should be a specific purpose. She observed that the only way for the City to get a cemetery is to raise the funds, and this tax may be a way to do it. City Manager Brandon Green also added that the ordinance would be adopted in July and the City wouldn't start collecting the tax until October.

Council Member Jeanne Groberg was unsure that there was actually a clear mandate from the residents in support of a cemetery. She discussed ways to learn this, including waiting for the new City Council after the next election to decide allowing residents to voice their opinions with their vote.

Council Member Diane Anderson commented there may be two different issues here. The tax money does not necessarily have to be used for the cemetery. She said that the City could decide to go forward with the tax without committing the money to the cemetery.

Council Member Gary Anderson is concerned that the federal government will be raising taxes to meet the government's needs and he was worried that the City will burden the future generation with taxes.

Council Member Eileen Moss reminded the Council that they prioritize what is important each year and the cemetery is always close to the top. She commented that maybe the plans can be simplified to reach the goal.

Mayor John Pohlman reminded the Council that they were discussing the Municipal Energy Tax and it was not necessary at this point to know exactly what it will be spent on. He highlighted the fact that Fruit Heights is the only City in the county that doesn't already charge this tax.

Council Member Julia Busche asked if there was an idea of what this would cost each household. Council Member Eileen Moss said that it would be six percent at the most. The City Council continued to discuss the pros and cons of raising the taxes for the residents of Fruit Heights City.

Mayor John Pohlman pointed out that the issue of the Municipal Energy Tax was not to discuss, approve or deny but to see if the Council feels like it is worth City Manager Brandon Green taking the time to figure out more about the tax and what it can do for the City. What it would be used for could be discussed at a later time. After much discussion the City Council concluded it was worth City Manager Brandon Green's time to pursue learning more about the tax and the numbers for the City. He would present his findings to the City Council at a future meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

February Check Register and February Budget Report

Council Member Eileen Moss reported on the February Check Register. She explained that the Cares Act money has helped accomplish things that were high on the priority list and she was grateful for it. City Manager Brandon Green next commented on the format of the February Budget Report indicating it was the same format as in the past and the numbers were there to let them know where the City's finances stand relative to its budget.

INFORMATION ITEMS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mayor John Pohlman reviewed the City Calendar. He also added that the City Council was invited to attend the next Planning Commission meeting on March 23 to thank Commissioner Chris Martineau for his service since it would be his last meeting before he leaves to serve a mission. He also reminded everyone that the City Easter Egg Hunt would be held on April 3.

CITY COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS:

Council Member Julia Busche reported on the upcoming Great Utah Shakeout. It will be held on Thursday, April 15. She also discussed the cards that will be displayed in residence windows on that day as well as getting registered with the State.

Council Member Jeanne Groberg reported that the Youth Council is getting ready for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 3. She will be attending a Civics Committee meeting next month but, as of the last meeting in February, for the upcoming July 4th celebration, the Kaysville musical was planning to go forward, the block party would not happen, the parade was still uncertain, the devotional was expected to happen, but they were still hoping for a speaker, the 5K race would not happen and the breakfast was uncertain. She said things have evolved since February, so she would update the Council after her next meeting.

Council Member Gary Anderson reported that he had been up to visit the mountain biking trails with City Manager Brandon Green. He said that they both felt it was important that the City has some oversight on the improvements being made to the trails to make sure it is safe. A couple of the trails have good improvements but there are jumps that have been worn down and are not safe. He observed that support from the City is important, and it is important to protect the City's interest while facilitating and helping the kids feel ownership and feel proud about the trails.

Council Member Diane Anderson reported on the Vietnam War Dog Memorial dedication in Layton on March 13. She said there was a good turnout even though the weather was not good. She said the memorial is amazing and she is so proud of Jim and Linda Crismer for all they did to make the memorial possible. Council Member Julia Busche also commented that information about the dedication is also included on the Fruit Heights City Facebook page.

City Planner Jeff Oyler reported that he is finalizing a grant that he has been working on with City Manager Brandon Green that needs to be submitted by the end of the week. Council Member Eileen Moss asked for an update on legislative issues. City Planner Jeff Oyler replied that there is a lot to discuss but that he wanted to wait to give attorneys time to look over the legislation and he would report after that. He did say that there will be some significant changes to the City ordinances and will probably need to be in place by July 1 or by the end of the year.

City Manager Brandon Green reported on possible plans for the new detention basin south of the City building. Curtis Tanner had drawn up possible plans that included a basketball court/pickleball court, open space where a future culinary well will go, a splash pad, a ½ mile loop walking path around the perimeter and trees to be planted by the citizens of the City (a memory grove). The purpose of the plan is to give the City direction of what they could do with the space. He also mentioned looking for grant money that could help with the project.

City Manager Brandon Green also gave an update on UDOT. It was discussed that Nicholls Road will close next week on the east side so now both the east side and the west side will be closed for about the next three weeks. The culinary water, secondary water and the sewer line all need to be moved. Nicholls Road will close again in July for a long period of time. The Council also discussed other issues caused by the UDOT project.

Council Member Eileen Moss made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Diane Anderson seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the Fruit Heights City Council Meeting held March 16, 2021

Not approved until signed.

Brandon Green

Brandon Green, City Recorder

Date approved by City Council: May 4, 2021