

MINUTES
MANTI CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 8th, 2017
6:30 P.M.

Mayor Korry Soper in chair and presiding. The roll call showed Council Members Gary Chidester, Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen and Jason Vernon present along with City Administrator Kent Barton. The Mayor invited Boy Scout, Nathan Allen, to come forward and lead all present in reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

The Mayor then invited Cory Hatch, Water & Sewer Supervisor, to make his report to the Council. Hatch then reported on the following:

- Recent Rural Water Association of Utah conference at St. George where he received additional education credits and tested for the next certification level.
- Worked with the crew in removing the foundation of the old fire station in preparation to use the area for food booths during the Mormon Miracle Pageant in June.
- Water sampling history from Sister Spring and a planned MPA test for the spring during high run-off in May or June.
- Met with Arbor Committee to recertify Manti’s designation as a “Tree City”, and to make plans for upcoming possible tree planting and maintenance projects.

Mayor Soper suggested prioritizing the planting of Spruce trees along the east border of the cemetery. Hatch said this project is on their plan. The Mayor offered the assistance of the Council to get the trees planted, and, looking towards a group of Boy Scouts in attendance, the Mayor said he was sure the scouts would help as well.

Hatch then reviewed the city’s Waste Water Management Plan, which we are required to update and submit to the State of Utah annually, and, which must be accepted by resolution of the Council. The plan includes a self-assessment score in several areas, which Hatch explained to the Council. After brief discussion, the Mayor called for resolution # 2017-03-08 to accept the 2017 Waste Water Management Plan as presented by Mr. Hatch. Jason Vernon made the motion, which was seconded by Vaun Mickelsen. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Gary Chidester, Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

The Mayor thanked Hatch for his service to the city and invited Blake DeMill, Electrical Superintendent to make his report to the Council. DeMill reported the following:

- Three-phase line completed to Keller Lane, north of town.
- Due to other projects they have not been able to start with maintenance tree trimming, which he hopes to begin soon.
- Inspected the Load Tap Changer (LTC) at south substation and found that it was in good condition. The cost of the inspection, which includes required

maintenance is about \$8,000. Said he will be budgeting and scheduling inspections of the LTC's at the other 3 substations.

- Seasonal maintenance at the hydro power plants
- Flow control mechanism at upper plant having issues, looking into rebuild or replacement options.

The Mayor asked DeMill how tree trimming is scheduled and continued clarifying that a citizen had told him about a back yard tree that may be a future threat to power lines. DeMill responded that his crew inspects the lines every year, but if concerns or potential threats to the lines are noticed by citizens, they should call the city office to report. Mayor Soper then thanked DeMill for his work and efforts on behalf of the community.

The Mayor noted that Area Fire Control Officer, Fred Johnson had not yet arrived to report, and seeing there was no continuing business slated for discussion, he asked if any members of the Council had items to report. Vaun Mickelsen mentioned the Rural Water conference that he recently attended and remarked that the education sessions were excellent.

Gary Chidester reported on a recent Library Board Meeting and also shared details of the following from the recent Airport Board meeting he attended:

- Upcoming National Guard training to occur at the facility May 2nd – 9th
- Status of Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) system installation
- Taxiway and apron maintenance and improvements

Jason Vernon noted that representatives from the Utah National Guard were scheduled to present to the Ephraim City Council at their March 15th Council Meeting. Vernon asked if they had asked to present to the Manti City Council. Kent Barton said neither the National Guard or Ephraim City have contacted him regarding a presentation to the Manti Council. Mayor Soper said: “maybe we should invite them to come to our meeting.”

Seeing there were no additional reports from councilmembers, the Mayor made mention that House Bill 149, which was created at the urging of our own JoAnn Otten, has passed both the House and Senate and will become law once it is signed by Governor Herbert. The measure, also known as Miley's Law, will require the State create and maintain a registry for individuals convicted of felony child abuse, similar to the registry that currently exists for sex offenders. The Mayor commended Otten's vision and efforts, which will help to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

Mayor Soper then reported on his recent trip to Washington DC with the board and executive management of UMPA. He discussed visits made to our congressional delegation and discussions with those representatives, which included concerns regarding the following:

- Tax-exempt legislation should remain in place for bonding of infrastructure projects.
- The EPA and possible relaxing of carbon emissions standards under the current administration.
- Electrical grid security and the importance of keeping oversight at the local level.
- Seeking support for scaled-down nuclear power projects such as the one currently under development in Idaho, of which UAMPS is a funding partner.

The Mayor then noted that Fred Johnson, Area Fire Control Officer with the State of Utah had arrived, and invited him to come forward to make his presentation to the Council. Johnson then noted that wildfires are increasingly impacting municipalities in our state and noted that this has come at tremendous expense to the State of Utah. He said that Governor Herbert issued a challenge to the fire protection officials to fix the problem and reduce costs and improve safety for our citizens. Johnson then explained that a new program has been designed, approved and put in place, which will allow all concerned, both at the state and local level, to take a more proactive approach to the treatment and prevention of wild fires. Johnson said under the new program, the state would indemnify communities from liability associated with a wildfire where the communities have “opted-in” to the program and contribute an assessment annually for fire suppression efforts. The contribution may be in the form of cash or in-kind activities aimed at preventing fires. Johnson explained that the assessment for Manti for the coming year would be \$2,221 and that at least half of that amount would have to be directed to thinning of vegetation. The remainder could be directed toward training and community awareness or other corresponding efforts. A report would be required by the city each year showing where the assessment is spent. The annual assessment may be reduced over time as vegetation is treated and risks abated. Johnson also explained that communities that “opt in” to the program will not be charged additional fees from the state in the event that state resources are required in the fighting of a fire that occurs in the community or originates in the community. Communities that “opt-out” of the program will still receive the full support and assistance from the state in fighting fires that occur in or originate in their communities – however, they will be charged by the state for the expense of the fires. Johnson said the state is offering a partnership to its communities aimed at fire prevention, awareness and mitigating risk to the state and its communities due to the losses from wild land fires. He said as part of joining the partnership, each community would also be required to create and adopt a Community Wild Fire Protection Plan, and would be granted two years to develop the plan. The plan should prioritize projects such as thinning vegetation and rejuvenation of the ecosystem to include vegetation that is more resistant to the quick spread of fires. The plan also requires minimum standards be met for the training of local fire personnel, and condition of fire prevention equipment. Johnson added that Manti City’s personnel and equipment currently meets the required standards. Councilmember Vernon asked who would be responsible for the cost of a fire that occurs on both state lands and federal lands. Johnson said the costs would be allocated and shared based on who owns the land. Johnson also addressed the procedure

and triggers that would take a fire out of local control and under control of the state. He said that he appreciates the relationships the state has with local jurisdictions and encouraged the Manti City to consider the partnership being offered by the state. After brief discussion, the Mayor said it appeared there was a consensus among the council that the agreement be adopted and that measure would be placed on the agenda of a future meeting for discussion and consideration of adoption. Johnson thanked the Council for its time and consideration.

Mayor Soper then asked the Council if there were any changes noted for the draft version of the minutes from the previous Council Meeting. After correction of three spelling errors noted by Councilmember Dyreng and Mayor Soper, the Mayor called for a motion to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 15th, 2017 as corrected. Vaun Mickelsen made the motion, which was seconded by Gary Chidester. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Gary Chidester, Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

Administrator Kent Barton then reported on the following:

- The status of relocation efforts for the food booths during the Mormon Miracle Pageant, including recent discussions he had with the County Commissioners and the Fair Board concerning the request of the Council that food booths not be allowed on the fairground during the pageant. It was agreed by all that non-food booths would be allowed at the fairground but no food or refreshment booths be allowed.
- Referenced engineering agreements in the packet with Jones and DeMill for the planning and development of the sports complex.
- Discussed progress with the South Sanpete School District concerning desired street upgrades on west Union Street, adjacent to the elementary school. Explained that the city had been asked to cover the cost of road widening and placement of curb and gutter from 100 West to 200 West. The school will cover the cost of a sidewalk from the curb to the street and continuing along school property to the school building. The school district will also install a bike rack area on school property and in addition, pay for the cost of a drainage sump to be constructed on city property to catch runoff from between Main Street and 100 West Street.
- Advised that his contact at the LDS church advised that the purchase of city property known as 100 East between the temple ground and distribution center will go before the appropriations committee on March 21st and the sale should then be finalized in short order.
- Asked for an updated headcount from the Council concerning those who desire to attend the upcoming Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) conference in St. George the first week of April.
- Updated the Council on the status of House Bill 164 concerning requirements for communities who transfer enterprise funds to their general funds. Said that with

- the modified language in the bill, it is no longer opposed by the ULCT, and has subsequently passed by votes in both the House and Senate.
- Also referenced the great benefit and protection to children in our state due to the tireless efforts of JoAnn Otten and those she has worked with in the drafting and passage of HB 149 (Miley’s Bill).
 - Indicated that he has items dealing with property negotiation, personnel and possible litigation, for discussion in closed session.

At 7:45 p.m., Mayor Soper called for a motion to move into closed session to discuss issues dealing with property negotiation, personnel and possible litigation. Jason Vernon made the motion, which was seconded by Gary Chidester. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Gary Chidester, Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

The bills were presented for payment. Following review by the Mayor and Council, Vaun Mickelsen made the motion to pay the bills and adjourn. Darren Dyreng seconded. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Gary Chidester, Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Korry L. Soper, Mayor

Kent Barton, Recorder/Administrator