

MINUTES

MANTI CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 20th, 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 all present to stand, and he then led them in reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

The Mayor then recognized members of the Manti City Youth Council, who were present for a ceremonial swearing in – or taking of the *Oath of Office*. Prior to administering the oath, the Mayor asked that each member of the youth council come forward to the podium, state their names and tell a little bit about themselves. First up was Mayor Cari Carmody. She was followed by Miriam Bishop, Jessica Smith, Bobby Smith, Kristen Deleeuw, Rawlee Mickelson, Joey Mickelson, Ethan Christensen, Joshua Peterson, Joshua Vernon, Whitney Dyreng, Kodie Godfrey and Kathryn Christensen. Mayor Soper then recognized the youth council advisor Denise Hagemeister and invited her to address the Council. Hagemeister said that it had been a great privilege to serve the community and work with some of its young people during the past five years. She stated that serving as a member of the youth council, each gains valuable experience – for example seeing the results of projects when no follow-through occurs as opposed to when great follow-through occurs. She thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to work with some of Manti’s finest young people and remarked that even though she felt unqualified for the task when she was asked to serve as advisor, that it has been a wonderful experience. Mayor Soper then thanked Mrs. Hagemeister for her dedicated efforts and noted that he understands the time involved as his wife had served as advisor previously. Then turning his comments to members of the youth council he said: “you are our future leaders and we need you”. He thanked the group for their willingness to become involved and serve in the community. Then, noting that the group had another meeting to attend to, he excused them.

The Mayor then recognized James Valko and invited him to come forward to address the Council regarding his cats. Valko went on to repeat and expand on much of the information he shared at the August 22nd Council Meeting, concerning his conversation with Manti City’s animal control officer about his cats. Valko claimed that he has talked with all residents in the neighborhood and that only one neighbor has concerns about his cats. He also claimed that the day after being told by animal control that he was in violation of the city ordinance, 8 cats went missing and the following day two more were poisoned and had to be “put down”. Valko acknowledged his cats run at large through the neighborhood but said he is working with a rescue group to find homes for the cats which he feeds and cares for including getting neutered and vaccinated at his own expense. Valko said that the threat he received by the animal control officer had caused him great anxiety, which required him to be hospitalized. He said that the idea of a cat trespassing is the silliest thing he’s ever heard of and if he finds out that anyone has killed one of his cats, he will put them in prison. Valko then stated that due to a miscommunication between he and a rescue group he works with, they (rescue group representatives) were unable to attend tonight’s meeting and he asked for permission to be able to address the council at a future meeting.

Councilmember Chidester asked Valko about the nature of the threat he received from animal control. Valko said it was a threat that he was “breaking the law”. Administrator Kent Barton

then told Valko that the city had not removed any of his cats and that the city has never, or would never poison a cat. Valko again asked for permission to return to a future meeting and was told “yes” by the Mayor, who then added: “I echo what Kent Barton told you – the city does not poison or steal cats”.

Moving on to continuing business, the Mayor asked that discussion turn to the request from the Resource Clothing Bank to take down additional space in the MIBA Building, and mentioned that he and some members of the Council had toured the building along with Kent Barton earlier in the day. Jason Vernon said that he supports the clothing bank and would like to see us be able to provide space but he feels access is a concern. Vaun Mickelsen said that he agreed with Vernon. Jason Maylett said the he has liability concerns with the space but would like to cooperate with the clothing bank if those can be solved. Kent Barton said that he would like to have an expert evaluate any structural risks in order to make certain that the space is safe. Mayor Soper said that he believes the good things the clothing banks is doing outweighs the risks and we shouldn't let risks prevent us from doing good things. Jason Maylett said we need to understand the risks and added that he believes that we cannot go to great expense to make the space useable. Kent Barton suggested that he meet with Nancy Bean to determine for certain how much area the clothing bank needs and added that he would like to discuss with Dale Nielson and Blake DeMill how much space can be freed up and evaluate what work would need to be done to make the space available. He also said he believed it was critical that we conduct due diligence on possible structural risks. More discussion ensued and the Mayor asked Kent Barton to move ahead and meet with Nancy Bean as well as his crew and evaluate the building and what we can do to help with additional space.

Regarding the Public Library, Kent Barton reported that the building has recently been treated for bats and, that all repairs to the children's library have been completed and the area has been reopened. He also said that he is working with the Library Board Chair Becky Christensen, concerning updating of the master plan for the library which is out of date and, which once completed will address the concerns related by citizens who had addressed the Council regarding the library at the August 22nd council meeting.

Concerning the west Union street improvements, Dale Nielson, Public Works Director, said that all of the concrete work has been completed, sprinkler system installed and topsoil placed behind the retaining wall. He said the road alongside the curb and gutter has been excavated and graded and that road base will likely be placed over the next few days unless rain prevents it. Finally, a culvert replacement requiring the cutting of 200 West near the intersection with Union will take place within the next few weeks. Double chip sealing will be applied next summer. Nielson then continued, giving an update on guardrail repair, saying that once the Brigham Field Ditch burial is completed alongside the Sports Complex, he plans to work on two of the guardrails that are partially missing. Citizen Candy Carmody, said she hoped one of those would be the missing guardrail on 300 East. Nielson said that particular guardrail would be the first one addressed.

Moving the discussion to the Sports Complex, Jason Maylett said that he is impressed and pleased with the progress that has taken place and that the facility will be a great asset to the city and its residents.

The Mayor then asked about any progress with a proposal for an annual community cleanup going forward. Kent Barton said that with all of the projects going on, he, Dale Nielson and Cory

Hatch have not had an opportunity to formulate a proposal. He said that he would like to have discussions with Dale and Cory over the coming weeks and have a proposal ready by the end of the year. He said the proposal would include a recommendation of either a street side clean-up or large dumpster placement for community use. Discussion ensued during which Dale Nielson said that the cleanup takes a lot of time each year, generally about 2 weeks time. He remarked that there have been instances where residents hired dump trucks to remove items from their back yards and then dumped the loads street side for the city to clean up. More discussion ensued and there was clear consensus among members of the Council that an annual “cleanup” is a good thing for the community and should be continued in some format.

Seeing there were no items for discussion from members of the Council, Mayor Soper remarked that during a recent conversation concerning a water leak at the home of his neighbor, the neighbor complimented our Water and Sewer Superintendent Cory Hatch, saying that he was quick to respond and very helpful in identifying and repairing the leak. The Mayor said that he wanted to share that conversation and compliment. He then noted that he appreciates the good work all of our crew is doing to keep the city services running. The Mayor then remarked that he and some members of the Council and city staff had attended the recent conference of the Utah League of Cities and Towns held last week in Salt Lake City. The Mayor said the meetings and breakout sessions were helpful and provided a “great opportunity to learn from the experts”. He expressed appreciation to the League for providing the forum for education and to the City of Manti for making it possible for city leaders to attend.

The Mayor then directed councilmembers to the draft version of the minutes from the previous council meeting and asked if councilmembers noted any corrections. Seeing that no changes or errors were noted, the Mayor called for a motion to accept the minutes of the September 6th, 2017 Council Meeting as presented. 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.

The Mayor invited Administrator Kent Barton to make his report. Barton then reported on the following:

- Displayed a copy of the official ballot for the upcoming election, which was included in the packet, and made mentioned that Manti, along with the entire county will be voting by mail-in ballot this year. The county clerk’s office will conduct all ballot tabulation.
- Noted that a copy of the S1 UMPA billing for electricity was included in the packet. Stated that the August billing peaked at \$117K, and noted that June and July billings came in at \$115K and \$113K respectively. Said that with the cooling weather he expected the September billing to drop sharply.
- Directed Councilmembers to a copy of the insurance settlement for wind and water damage incurred at the Senior Citizen’s Center. Remarked that since the settlement has now been received, repair work will be scheduled.
- Mentioned an invitation to a leadership training session being offered by the Utah Local Governments Trust for community officials scheduled on October 26th from 9am till noon. Asked that anyone interested in attending advise him and he would get them registered to attend.
- Advised that October 2nd at 10:00 AM has been scheduled for the document signing and official transfer of properties between the city and the Utah National Guard. General

Burton will be in attendance along with Mayor Soper for the signing of documents. He invited any available councilmembers to join them for the event.

- Referred to a late addition in the packet being a “rolling calendar” that he has just developed, showing key dates such as upcoming council meetings and special events such as conferences or community celebrations.

Looking over the calendar, the Mayor remarked that the next Council Meeting was scheduled for October 4th at 6:30 pm. He asked members of the Council if any had conflicts that evening. None were reported. Seeing there was no additional business or discussion desired, Mayor Soper called for a motion to “pay the bills” and adjourn. Darren Dyreng made the motion. Jason Vernon seconded. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Gary Chidester, Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett, Vaun Mickelsen and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none. The bills were presented for payment, following review by the Mayor and Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

General Account

AJ Mower	\$ 115.47
Kim Squire	903.79
Bankcard Center	401.72
Manti High School	400.00
Utah State Treasurer	710.47
Jones & DeMille	44,650.35
Harward & Rees	226,183.41
Todd Alder Construction	101,167.21
Justin Aagard	60.00
Utah Municipal Power Agency	117,334.96
Bud Keisel	1,000.00

Korry L. Soper, Mayor

Kent Barton, Recorder/Administrator