

MINUTES
MANTI CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Mayor Natasha R. Madsen in chair and presiding. Roll call showed Councilmembers Vaun Mickelsen, Loren Thompson and Jason Vernon present. Councilmembers Darren Dyreng and Korry Soper were excused.

Mayor Madsen announced that a quorum of councilmembers was in attendance and called the meeting to order. She then invited all present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Madsen announced that this special council meeting had been called to consider joining with Ephraim City in making application to the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB) for improvements to the Manti Ephraim Airport. The mayor summarized which improvements were desired and indicated that approximately 80% of the funding is currently in place through state and federal grants that originate with the FAA, along with cash on hand that the airport authority currently holds. The application to the CIB would be for an additional \$465,000, which would be needed to complete all of the desired upgrades. The mayor then stated that she would like to open a hearing to take public comment on the matter at hand and welcomed several area residents who were in attendance. A consensus of the mayor and council was that comments be held to 5 minutes.

Ephraim resident Ted Meikle approached the podium and introduced himself as the chairman of the Manti Ephraim Airport Board. Mr. Meikle said that the board would like Manti City to participate with Ephraim City to apply to the CIB for funding to address infrastructure concerns and necessary upgrades. He went on to give a brief history of the airport and talked about the 6 critical upgrades that are desired. Meikle stated that in order for the airport to accommodate local needs of business and position ourselves for growth, it is critical that these improvements be made. In summary, Mr. Meikle stated that the upgrades were key for economic development as well as for public safety. He spoke specifically about local organizations and businesses that currently use the airport and suggested that an improved airport facility would be advantageous to attracting other businesses to locate or conduct business in our valley. He also suggested that an upgraded facility would enhance public safety and talked about the recent forest fires that have raged in our area. Meikle suggested that an upgraded facility would enhance the ability to combat such fires should they occur in the future.

Jeannie Stressing, a Sanpete County resident residing north of Manti approached. She raised concerns about encumbering Manti and Ephraim residents with the responsibility of grant funds that may need to be returned to the issuing authority. Stressing also raised concerns about installing a used fuel system at the airport and suggested that it may not meet state or federal code.

Ken Gilbert, a Sanpete County resident living near the airport approached. Mr. Gilbert raised concerns about the design of the runway. He suggested that the northeast and southwest direction of the flyway places aircraft on takeoff and approach right over schools, residences and public facilities in Ephraim. Gilbert suggested that a better design would be to stop before investing more funds and to consider a reconstruct of the runway using a North and South

orientation for the runway. He stated that if we continue to develop along the current footprint, we are making a bad situation worse. Gilbert also raised concerns about geese that migrate in the area of the airport and suggested they present a safety hazard. Gilbert went on to say that he felt that any public safety enhancement the airport upgrades would provide for the fighting of fires has been overstated. Finally, Mr. Gilbert questioned the legality of some funding the airport has applied for and suggested that some of the applications that have been submitted may not be accurate or truthful.

Ephraim resident Kevin Christensen approached. Mr. Christensen introduced himself as the Sanpete County Director of Economic Development. Christensen expressed his support for the planned developments at the airport facility. He talked about the important role that the airport currently plays in the economics of the county and suggested the continued development of the airport facility is critical to our valley remaining competitive.

Brian Nielsen of Ephraim approached. Mr. Nielsen suggested that airports in several states and areas of the country are closing due to lack of use. He seemed to suggest that this would be the eventual fate of our facility and that sinking money into the facility would be a waste. Nielsen then suggested that a recent letter to the editor of the local newspaper that Mr. Meikle had penned in support of developing the Narrows Project to bring Sanpete water into this valley had likely offended members of the CIB board. He suggested that they (the CIB) might feel the water may be better used to develop mining concerns on the other side of the mountain. Nielsen questioned Kevin Christensen's growth projections and the feasibility of the project. He went on to say we shouldn't waste CIB money on this project that would surely come back to "bite you". He closed with the thought that there are many airports and many people killed because of airports.

Jeremy Hallows of Ephraim approached. Hallows stated that he is a pilot who flies aircraft in and out of the local airport, including the small jet used by Bailey Farms. Hallows addressed several of the concerns that were stated previously. Concerning the direction of the runway, Hallows stated the original design of the runway was due to the northeast direction of the prevailing winds. Hallows stated that experts have determined this is still the best direction for the runway. Concerning geese and other fowl, Hallows said that while they can and do pose a risk, airports and birds share the same skies all across the nation. Concerning the flying of planes over populated areas he said that aircraft fly over cities and towns all across our country and while there are certainly risks, flying is 6 times safer than driving. Mr. Hallows stated that he believes that economic impact can be enhanced with the planned improvements to the airport. Mr. Hallows then addressed several questions from Ken Gilbert.

The mayor then stated that if there were no additional comments, that the hearing would be closed.

The council meeting resumed and the mayor asked the council how they felt about the issue at hand. Councilmember Thompson stated that he supported the improvements to the airport and making application to the CIB for partial funding. Councilmember Vernon stated that he feels the request to CIB for funding is appropriate. Vaun Mickelsen stated that he also supports making application to the CIB. The mayor stated her position of support for the continued development of the airport facility and asked for a motion to make application to the CIB to assist with the planned development. Loren Thompson made the motion, which was in turn

seconded by Vaun Mickelsen. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Vaun Mickelsen, Loren Thompson and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

The mayor then asked if there be any continuing business from the council. City Administrator Kent Barton stated that he had an item involving property negotiation to discuss in closed session. The mayor called for a motion to move into executive session, which was made by Vaun Mickelsen and seconded by Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Vaun Mickelsen, Loren Thompson and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Councilmember Mickelsen moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilmember Thompson. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Vaun Mickelsen, Loren Thompson and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Natasha R. Madsen, Mayor

Kent Barton, Recorder/Administrator