

MINUTES
MANTI CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2012
6:30 P.M.

Mayor Natasha R. Madsen in chair and presiding. Roll call showed Councilmembers, Vaun Mickelsen, Korry Soper, Loren Thompson and Jason Vernon present. Councilmember Darren Dyreng was 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 welcomed a large group of citizens in attendance and then recognized Dale Nielson, Public Works Director. Dale reported on the following:

- Forms being set for the culvert expansion in the flood channel at 500 West.
- Road department is currently repairing “shoulder” areas on city streets.
- Sexton working on straightening of headstones in the cemetery.
- Seeking a good used track hoe targeting in the \$30-40K range.
- Christensen Bros. of Mt. Pleasant was awarded the flood channel repair bid.
- OSHA inspection recently occurred. A few minor issues were noted as needing to be addressed but no fines were assessed.
- Tree trimming along Main Street is planned.
- Christmas Tree lights are being installed along Main Street.

Mayor Madsen thanked Mr. Nielson for the good work that the crew is performing.

The Mayor moved to the next agenda item, a request from concerned citizens with regard to military training exercises that were recently reported in the Sanpete Messenger.

The Mayor asked how many from the group wished to address the council. Several hands were raised. Alan Braithwaite then suggested that Ronald Hall make opening comments on behalf of the group.

Mr. Hall of Manti approached. He thanked the mayor and council for their service to the city and for fulfilling their responsibilities. He stated that citizens also have responsibilities one of which to share concerns when they arise. He stated that we find ourselves in perilous times and quoted Ezra Taft Benson. Mr. Hall then concluded his remarks by saying that citizens have serious concerns about the military coming into our city and suggested that the reasons for their coming might be dishonorable and deceptive.

Alan Braithwaite of Manti approached. He said that internationally, the United States is considered an aggressor. He suggested that the American people are being led astray by their leaders. He quoted Joseph Smith and stated that Satan is using our belief system to lead us astray. Braithwaite suggested that the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) is charged with turning the USA into a socialist state. He said that the mainstream media has been bought and paid for and that we are not getting the truth. He suggested that military training exercises are actually planned for the purpose of turning the USA into a police state.

Neil Van Leeuwen of Manti approached. He emphasized many of the points previously made by Braithwaite. He suggested that war games are for the establishment of martial law. He passed several documents to the mayor and council members and suggested that they familiarize themselves and become conversant in those concepts.

Betty Amrine of Manti approached. She submitted that the government is busy updating and retro-fitting World War II detention camps for renewed use. She also spoke of rail cars that are being converted for use as “gas chambers”. She warned that these and other atrocities are being actively developed for use against the American people.

Jack Monnett of Spring City approached. He questioned the term “irregular warfare” and sought more information on the planned military exercises.

John Russell of Manti approached and asked who in the military was conducting the exercises, where in Manti they would be conducted and if participation would be voluntary or compulsory, He concluded his remarks by stating “we don’t want them here”.

Carol Russell Sansom of Manti, approached and expressed frustration and suggested that no one has any answers. She asked why we couldn’t tell her “that they were coming at such a time to such an area”. Kent Barton, City Administrator responded that they have told us when and where they are coming – that they are coming next year the last week of July and the first week of August to an area that covers 6 Utah counties. Barton continued that the Messenger article made it sound like this was all to be conducted in Manti but that is not the case. Sansom suggested that the military has no right to even ask to come here. She continued that the government owns ¼ of the state said they could go somewhere else. She said they should not come here where we have farms, animals and children and said “we don’t want them here”. She then suggested the Moab area as a better alternative. She then asked if the Special Forces were already among us in our town and said that she and others have seen a lot of unmarked vehicles in the area. Sansom questioned why they would be here already and wondered if they are already going about finding out who is for them and who is against them. She reiterated that the people need more answers. Mayor Madsen responded that we met with the leaders briefly a few months earlier, that it was very preliminary, that we do know a specific time table and a general area and that we do expect more specific answers and plans progress.

Marlene Yardley of Manti approached. She asked if the citizens would be protected and asked if there would be tanks and helicopters in the streets and skies and wondered who would protect the citizens.

Neil Ostler of Manti approached and stated that he had always had respect for the military but said that he would like more answers and understanding. He specifically said he’d like more information on exactly when and where.

Dorothy Williams of Manti approached. She referenced President Obama’s 900 executive orders and worried that this may be an exercise to prepare for martial law. Where the government would take over our power, water, transportation and everything else.

Gil Yardley of Manti approached. He asked what irregular exercises means. Alan Braithwaite interjected and said that there are many things like this that the people want to understand and that is the reason he had been selected as their spokesman. He said that they are concerned that this may be a method for the government to collect information about us and possibly use it against us in the future. Alan continued that he as a soldier trusts our special forces but that he does not trust our government telling our special forces what to do.

The Mayor reiterated that we had been introduced and had a brief meeting. That the event coordinators are going around the area to make sure the public was aware, and that more information would be coming. She stated that there was nothing subversive or secret about this and that as more details emerge; we will certainly make them available to the citizens of Manti.

Sharon Hagloch of Manti approached. She said that based on information that she has already received, the Special Forces are already here, asking questions, finding out about us. She expressed amazement that the city council and mayor don't seem at all concerned about this.

Neil Van Leeuwen interjected that the city please find out who was in charge of this event. He continued that once we find out, we should not have anything to do with this and stated that we are "enabling them to an exercise as if we are in martial law".

Laura Mitsvotai of Manti approached. She expressed concern for the safety of her children in the event any military personnel were to come into Manti. She then stated that she feels that she speaks for everyone here and said she does not trust soldiers around her daughters, that she did not want the military walking around town and that she feels like taking her family and leaving until they are gone.

Doug Squire of Manti approached and stated that the reason Special Forces would be coming is to gather information and suggested that these are hardened soldiers who have developed issues and are unstable. He suggested placing them on our streets with loaded weapons that someone was going to get killed. He stated that 25% of the military would fire on citizens if ordered to do so. He also stated that he had met with Sheriff Nielsen from the county and that he is nervous and that he doesn't feel good about the military coming to Sanpete County.

Susan Squire of Manti stood in place and warned the council that these men knew what they were talking about and the mayor and council should believe them.

Alan Braithwaite again approached and requested that the council give answers to these questions when more information is available. He also requested that if the city has extended a welcome to the military to come here that it be rescinded. He said the people of Manti don't want them here, that they are scared and don't want to have any problems here. Alan said that most of the specific forces are good guys but that it just takes one who gets out of line. He worries that a soldier who may have been in a situation in battle and may have acted out in a way that would be detrimental to the public. He continued and said that the training that the Special Forces are put through actually "breaks" some of them and that as a result they are unstable. He again asked that the city rescind any invitation or welcome that may have been extended. Alan then stated they would let the council now get on to other business.

The Mayor asked if anyone else desired to make comment. When none came forward she thanked the group for attending and voicing their questions and concerns.

Moving to the next agenda item, the Mayor suggested that the discussion concerning the appeal authority be postponed until all council members are present. The Mayor then asked if there was any additional public comment.

Chuck Leatham of Manti asked what changes to expect from the defeat of Proposition 4 in yesterday's election. The Mayor explained that the changes had already taken place when the ordinance was passed and that the defeat of the proposition kept those changes alive in the ordinance.

Alice Leatham asked about street widths and property lines. Members of the council addressed her questions.

Darren Harman stated that he supported the military but understood the concerns of some citizens.

Marvin Leatham asked about the construction project underway at 200 South and 500 West, and questioned why this work was not done earlier in the spring when the city performed other work at the same site. It was explained that the earlier project was a Questar project and that the two were being done independently. He then stated that if the city was purchasing heavy equipment they should do a better job of keeping the Manti Canyon Road maintained. It was explained to him the canyon road is on Federal property and that the Forest Service is responsible for the maintenance of the road.

Moving on to continuing business, City Administrator Kent Barton explained that the state office of economic development had received our application for the designation of an enterprise zone in Manti and that the suggested had been made that the city consider refunding the cost of a business license to qualifying businesses that took advantage of the enterprise zone tax credit in their first year of using the credits. After some discussion Vaun Mickelsen made the motion that qualifying businesses that take advantage of the enterprise zone tax credits receive a refund of the of cost of the city business license in their first year of using the tax credits. Korry Soper seconded. Councilmembers voting "aye": Vaun Mickelsen, Korry Soper, Loren Thompson, and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting "nay": none.

Administrator Barton reported that the environmental assessment application for the MIBA property had been submitted to the EPA and stated that he expected the application to be accepted and work to be scheduled within the next several months.

Korry Soper reported on the Christmas Light Parade and said that Rebecca Walk had agreed to co-chair the event with Dave Gunderson. It is expected that this will be Gunderson final year of chairing the parade. Mr. Soper asked Mr. Barton to make application for parade permit with UDOT and pointed out that the Mayor and Council will also need some type of vehicle to ride in the parade. Barton said he would make those arrangements.

Loren Thompson reported that the library board has identified 8 or 9 homes to participate in the Holiday Home Show, which is planned for November 29th. He also reported that two new members have been appointed to serve on the library board. The mayor asked that we give copies of the book "High, Dry

and Offside”, which deals with Manti’s history be presented in the gift baskets to each homeowner participating in the home show.

Jason Vernon raised concerns about sportsmanship in our youth sports programs.

Mr. Barton indicated that he had received an email from the Ephraim city manager requesting a meeting between the two cities’ recreation departments and council members to discuss deal with concerns from each community regarding youth sports.

Mayor Madsen reported on the following:

- UMPA dinner planned for Friday November 16th.
- Thanked the Chamber of Commerce for a successful Trunk or Treat event.
- Asked about the posting for the Sexton job opening.
- Stated that she had two items to discuss in closed session.

The Mayor then direction discussion to the previous council meeting’s minutes. She noted one typographical error. After completing review of the minutes, Jason Vernon made motion that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Vaun Mickelsen seconded. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Vaun Mickelsen, Korry Soper, Loren Thompson, and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

Kent Barton reported on the following:

- The deed for property conveyed to Manti City from the LDS church for streets adjoining its Stake Center has been recorded.
- Pageant dinners P&L statement has been completed. A copy was given to the mayor and each council member. Net profit for the dinner total \$23,135.17. Kent has contacted Bruce Erickson from the MIBA Committee about the committee making recommendations for use of the funds.
- Stated that he has three items for discussion in closed session, one regarding property negotiations, and two regarding legal matters.

The Mayor asked for a motion to move into executive session to discuss property negotiations. Councilmember Thompson made that motion, seconded by Vaun Mickelsen. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Vaun Mickelsen, Korry Soper, Loren Thompson, and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The bills were presented for payment. Following review by the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Soper moved that they be paid as presented and as money becomes available. Seconded by Councilmember Thompson. Councilmembers voting “aye”:
Darren Dyreng, Vaun Mickelsen, Korry Soper, Loren Thompson and Jason Vernon. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Natasha R. Madsen, Mayor

Kent Barton, Recorder/Administrator

General Account

Justin Aagard	\$40.00
Daisy Christensen	10.00
Jordan Allsop	1,312.50
Senora Childs	10.00
Michelle Francks	132.00
US Postal Service	1,084.30
Utah Municipal Power Agency	72,393.40
Data Base	4,505.97
Utah State Treasurer	13,358.15
Kent Barton	141.30
Steve Robergs	52.00
Michelle Francks	20.00