

## MINUTES

### MANTI CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

6:40 P.M.

Mayor Korry Soper in chair and presiding. The roll-call showed Council Members Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett and Vaun Mickelsen present along with City Administrator Kent Barton. Gary Chidester and Jason Vernon were absent and excused. The Mayor invited all present to stand and join him in reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Mayor Soper invited Jake Dettinger to come forward to talk about his concerns with a recently assessed \$10 monthly non-resident water fee. Dettinger came to the podium and stated that there were several concerns that he desired to address with the Council and stated that along with him were several neighbors who shared his concerns and desired to make comment. Those in attendance with Mr. Dettinger included Clark and LewAnn Jorgensen, Dave and Kristin Jorgensen, McCrae and Linda Christiansen, Fred Taukei’aho, and Steve Gerber. Dettinger said that he would first like to talk about the road width of 200 West Street directly north of its intersection with 800 North street. Dettinger said that actually, the entire stretch of 200 West was too narrow all the way from the seminary building (500 North Street) to the city limit. He talked of safety hazards especially during sporting events at the football stadium, which located along the road. Dettinger invited Linda Christiansen to join him at the podium and Christiansen went on to relate her ongoing concerns with the narrowness of the road – especially north of 800 North street – and said the County Planning Commission had stated that the city is responsible for the widening of the road. Mayor Soper asked Kent Barton if an engineer’s estimate on widening the road had been completed. Barton said that it was scheduled and in process. Christiansen then said the road is a problem and must be widened. Councilmember Maylett asked: “What’s your proposal?” Christiansen replied: “Widen it”! The Mayor then said that while he understands the concerns of the road width and is committed to exploring potential solutions, this is only one of many narrow streets in the city, several of which have more homes along the street and some of which are even more narrow than the street in question including the street that he (the Mayor) lives on. More discussion on the road ensued after which the Mayor said the city was committed to reviewing an engineer’s estimate and then studying possible solutions. The Mayor then asked Dettinger to continue with his next issue. Dettinger said he would like an explanation of why recent fees (\$10 for water service and \$6 for electric service) were added for non-residents customers. Kent Barton stated that there are no additional electric fees being charged to non-resident customers. Discussion ensued and Barton explained that perhaps Dettinger was interpreting a recent breakout on the electric bill showing a \$6 monthly customer charge, which is being charged to all customers, as an increase. Dettinger accepted the explanation and then asked why the \$10 water service fee has been placed on a nearly new line. Lengthy discussion ensued during which time several

of Dettinger's neighbors logged their displeasure with the additional water service fee. Kent Barton explained that the city has recently completed emergency repairs on one of its mountain springs, which supply water to the culinary system. He said part of the \$79,000 repair bill would have to be covered by property tax revenue and noted that non-resident users do not contribute to the city's property taxes. He also explained that while the line in question may be new, the city is 100% responsible for the line and any future problem or failure with the line. It was noted that lines serving areas outside the city limits have fewer customers per length of line and therefore less contribution for repair reserves on those sections. More discussion ensued and Dettinger stated that perhaps the costs were justified but that the city should have created a forum such as a hearing, meeting or written communication so that customers would have a better understanding, and not feel like they were simply being charged simply because they didn't live in the city limits. Dettinger then brought up the recently imposed \$50 annual fee per family to participate in the city's youth sports program. He said this fee and the lack of communication in the placement of the fee has made he and others feel like the city doesn't want their participation in Manti's sports program. Discussion ensued and other members of the group made similar comments. It was noted that several families have removed their children from Manti's program and enrolled in either Ephraim or Gunnison recreation programs. Dettinger also suggested that this was a poor business decision, as the city will lose both income and volunteers to sport Manti's program. The Mayor explained that residents of the city pay a monthly \$3 recreation fee and monthly \$5 fee for the pool and noted that non-residents do not pay these fees. Dettinger again reiterated that having received no notification or explanation left him and others feeling unwanted. Councilmember Maylett acknowledged that perhaps communication was poor but, being that all residents of the city pay the \$8 monthly (as explained by the Mayor) and the objective was to "level the field" for families that are participating in the sports program but not paying as are residents. More discussion ensued and several members of Dettinger's group suggested they would rather be billed the same as residents – that they are not trying to get a free ride. Others suggested they love Manti and want to feel a part of the community. Comments from the Mayor and Councilmembers assured the concerned group that they are valued and considered members of the "community". The Mayor asked for suggestions on how the "playing field could be leveled". More discussion ensued and the Mayor promised that the Council would consider discuss and consider options that are less decisive. Dettinger then suggested that the city change its Sports Director, saying that the very little work, coordination, communication or direction is being given to coaches. He said Manti's youth sports program has serious problems compared to other communities, and strongly suggest a change should be made. After more discussion, the Mayor thanked Dettinger and those who came with him for their interest in the community and for communicating their concerns to him and the council. He promised that the council would further consider each of their concerns.

The Mayor then asked that Kent Barton proceed with a review of the financial statements. Barton first went through the tax, services, fees and other revenue budgets

and reported that there were no real surprises to report. He then went through the expense budgets and indicated that most everything was proceeding as had been budgeted. Exceptions noted were the nearly \$80,000 in required improvements to Sister Spring, as well as the recent decision to purchase a new garbage truck as the old truck had “died” several weeks earlier. Barton reported that Dale Nielson had been able to find an exceptionally good deal on a used truck paying only \$22,000. Other trucks Nielson had located were selling in the \$50,000 range for similar equipment. Barton also went through the enterprise funds (Water, Sewer and Electric) and similarly reported that everything was proceeding nearly as budgeted. He did mention a pair of fuses estimated at \$5,000 that have been ordered as necessary replacements at our south substation. Barton entertained a few questions from the Mayor and Council concerning the budget and finances, after which the Mayor thanked him for his report.

Mayor Soper then asked Kent Barton about progress with the Sports Complex. Barton said that Jones & DeMille’s engineering group is working through the final design phases of the project. He expects requests for bid to go out early in January.

The Mayor then mentioned that Christmas is approaching and that he would like to know the Council’s desire regarding Christmas bonuses. After brief discussion it was the consensus that bonuses be given at the same level as last year; \$150 for fulltime employees, \$75 for half time and \$37.50 for quarter time employees. On behalf of the employees, Kent Barton thanked the Mayor and Council and said the gift would be much appreciated.

The Mayor then inquired if anyone in attendance desired to make public comment. Mara Elison stood and the Mayor invited her to come to the podium, which she did. Elison then explained that she is interested in securing the home on the Gary Rasmussen property recently acquired by the city. Elison referred to a proposal she had given to Kent Barton for the Council’s review and consideration. She and her husband offered to remove the home from its foundation and relocate to property that she plans to purchase in the city. She suggested this would be a better outcome than the city “burning” the house as has been planned. Some discussion ensued after which Mayor Soper promised that the Council would consider her request and get back with her.

Mayor Soper then asked if there were any changes noted for the draft version of the minutes from the previous council meeting. Seeing no changes were noted, the Mayor called for a motion to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as presented. Vaun Mickelsen made the motion, which was seconded by Darren Dyreng. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett and Vaun Mickelsen. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

Administrator Kent Barton then reported on the following:

- ∞ Workers' compensation insurance renewal received from the Utah Local Governments' Trust. Due to our continually improving safety record, our rate is a 10% saving over last year's premium.
- ∞ Jones and DeMille have submitted an engineer's estimate on the waste water management through land application project, which came in at about \$525,000. Mentioned that we have about \$890,000 remaining in potential "no interest" loan funds in the CIB escrow account for sewer improvements. Also suggested that we apply for CDBG funding as supplementary grant funds.
- ∞ Reported that the new garbage truck is now in service having been inspected and fully serviced. Again explained that the truck appears to have been an exceptional find.
- ∞ Advised that a "clean" 24-hour filter test was received on Sister Spring. The spring is flowing in the culinary system and will need to have another 24 hour filter test taken next spring duration heavy run-off.
- ∞ Explained that the National Guard (30 acres of city property near the Jail complex for shop facility adjacent to the ambulance building) have had all required environmental testing completed with no issues or concern reported at either site. The proposed trade, will now be forwarded to the governors desk for final approval.
- ∞ The power line from the planned 6-Mile Canyon hydro plant has been completed. Within the next few weeks we plan to "heat the line" and send power back to the plant site for use during construction. A meter is being installed at the construction site to record power consumption.
- ∞ Advised that he has scheduled a discussion meeting to occur with the Mayor and Council, representatives of UMPA and the "Net Meter" customer group, to address the groups concerns with the recent implementation of a capacity charge for net meter users. The meeting will occur on January 4 at 4:30 p.m.
- ∞ Updated the Council on progress with the hydro-electric generation plant under construction in Six Mile Canyon.
- ∞ Invited Mayor and Councilmembers to the employee Christmas Party scheduled for Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm, upstairs at Old City Hall.
- ∞ Reported that environmental assessments are currently underway at properties under consideration for trade between Manti City and the Utah National guard.
- ∞ Advised that representatives of Hinton and Burdick had recently completed their onsite work for the annual financial audit.
- ∞ Directed councilmembers to the announcement of "Local Elected Officials' Day with the State Legislature" on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- ∞ Mentioned a letter in the packet from Bill Mickelsen to the US Forest Service to oppose the decision to terminate potable water service at Community Campground near Yearn's Reservoir. Recommends that the Mayor and Council send a similar letter of concern.

- ∞ Stated that he has items dealing with property negotiation for discussion in closed session.

At 8:30 p.m., Mayor Soper called for a motion to move into closed session to discuss an issue dealing with property negotiation. Vaun Mickelsen made the motion, which was seconded by Darren Dyreng. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Darren Dyreng, Jason Maylett and Vaun Mickelsen. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none

RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

General Account

Stephen Johnson	\$5,505.00
Questar	300.00
Joan Johnson	100.00
Utah State Treasurer	1,072.12
Vision Landscape	1,825.00
Chad Moore	202.35

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Korry L. Soper, Mayor

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Kent Barton, Recorder/Administrator