

MINUTES  
MANTI CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010  
6:30 P.M.

Mayor Natasha R. Madsen in chair and presiding. Roll call showed Councilmembers Vaun Mickelsen, Loren Thompson, Alan Justesen and Galen Christiansen present. Councilmember Korry Soper had advised he would be absent from the meeting.

Mayor Madsen said there was a quorum and the Manti City Council could conduct business. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Mayor Madsen recognized Brian Nielson, Candidate for Sanpete County Sheriff.

Brian provided a brief background on his experience and education in law enforcement and related fields. He said that he felt a better “buy-in” on police coverage in Manti would benefit both the City and the Sheriff’s Department. He spoke highly of the current organization and implementation in the Sheriff’s Department and the follow through exhibited by the Sanpete County Sheriff.

Some discussion ensued in regard to such items as traffic control, four-wheeler activity, school zone enforcement, the drug task force, the detective operations of the Sheriff Department and overall security provided. All of these areas were addressed by Mr. Nielson who endorsed the action, activity and organization by the current Sheriff.

Following some additional discussion Mr. Nielson thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and they thanked him for introducing himself.

2. Mayor Madsen recognized Clint Ashton, Hunter Composites owner.

Mr. Ashton said that Hunter Composites had 26 to 28 employees approximately 18 months ago. The workforce at Hunter is now down to 2 to 3 personnel due to the severe economic downturn which has impacted his firm.

Mr. Ashton stated that he was present to thank Manti City for their understanding and cooperation but also to request some additional time to work with the firms he has been working with in the past who are now in receivership. He indicated the total amount due him was considerable and he recognized that he owed a considerable amount of money to Manti City for both utilities and rent. He was asking for another two or three months to work with the court appointed authority governing the receivership of these firms in the hope of receiving some funds against his outstanding invoice amounts.

Mr. Ashton also said his firm is working in a new market area but it is still in developmental stages and there is a limited volume taking place.

Mayor Madsen expressed her desire that any dollars that could come from Hunter Composites toward utilities and other expenses to the City should as this has become a cash drain. Mr. Ashton said he understood this and that he will try to direct funds to Manti City as quickly as possible.

Councilmember Justesen advanced the idea that there be a moratorium on past due rent and utilities and that Mr. Ashton begin making payments against utilities on a current basis in the hope of getting the firm back on its feet and then work on the past due items.

Mr. Ashton stated that the amount of floor space currently used by his firm has been reduced considerably and he would ask that the utility allocation be adjusted to that square footage.

Councilmember Christiansen expressed his feeling that Manti City should reduce the utility allocation to the square footage used by Hunter Composites and that they should be allowed to continue in operation, provided they could pay utility bills following adjustment of allocation, until the first of the year and then the matter be looked at again. All Councilmembers present concurred.

The City Recorder was instructed to work with Mr. Ashton to accomplish the stated adjustments.

3. Mayor Madsen requested a preliminary report on the swimming pool action and operations.

The City Recorder reported briefly on repair activities currently underway in conjunction with CEM, Pool Manager Steve Roberts and Public Works Director Dale Nielson.

The City Recorder recommended that Manti City file with the insurance company for repair of the boiler, estimated to cost in excess of \$10,000.00, and if the insurance company does not honor this request then action be taken with the local repair operation as a final resort. The Mayor and Council concurred.

Councilmember Christiansen felt that a cover over the swimming pool boiler would have prevented this problem and if heating had been provided to the boiler no freezing would have taken place. Some discussion ensued.

4. Sheriff's Candidate Brian Nielson was still present at the council meeting and Councilmember Thompson posed a question to him relative to Mormon Miracle Pageant operations. Mr. Nielson said he felt action and organization implemented by the Sheriff's Department had worked very well and he was complementary of action by the Department. He indicated there were no major changes in operation planned relative to the Pageant.

5. Mayor Madsen referred to the Pioneer Heritage Project on the north end of the City. Tom Anderson said that Manti City was to advise the committee of the cost of an engineer to evaluate requirements for power in that area. The Mayor referred further discussion to Councilmember Justesen.

Councilmember Justesen reported that he had been in contact with Doug Barton relative to information from his contractor. Councilmember Justesen said that the information received from the contractor showed estimates of \$83,000.00 for a buried line and almost \$143,000.00 for rerouting through the center of the blocks. Also the

contractor apparently had no sources for the heavier wire being requested by the Manti Power Department.

Councilmember Justesen said he had talked with the Provo City Electrical Superintendent and they would be willing to provide an engineer to consult on the matter. The cost would be approximately \$700.00.

Following some additional discussion Mayor Madsen said she is very supportive of the position of the Manti City Power Department in regard to this electrical line. She requested that Councilmember Justesen follow up with Doug Barton about funding the evaluation by an engineer from the Provo City Power Department. The Mayor will contact Tom Anderson and report on this matter.

6. Councilmember Christiansen made note of the Todd Ballard business license and recommended follow up. The City Recorder reported it had been referred to the city attorney and the prosecuting attorney for input.

7. Mayor Madsen made note of the following items . . .

- a. Manti City has raised sewer rates to \$19.00 per month and she noted that Fairview City has recently raised their sewer rates to \$42.00 per month to accommodate bond payments.
- b. Read a letter from the Ephraim City Power Department thanking the City for the assistance of the Manti Power Department and being very complementary of the Department.
- c. There will be a regional review meeting of possible highway problems with UDOT. This review will take place on or about September 30<sup>th</sup>. An appointment should be set with UDOT if there are perceived problems.
- d. In Mayors and Commissioners meeting the request has been made to remind all homeowners in the communities to have their addresses clearly visible on their homes to aid in emergency response.
- e. Garna Clark has provided recommendation for a Main Street Beautification chair and the Council concurred with proceeding with that appointment.
- f. There will be land use training in Ephraim on October 13<sup>th</sup> and some additional training will also be available. Deputy Recorder JoAnn Otten has circulated materials to the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment to offer the training.
- g. In the court case on the Lowell Draper building setback violations, the trial was completed earlier in the day. The Judge ruled that the building could stay where Lowell had built it. Mr. Draper had pleaded guilty on two charges of ignoring a red tag order and was fined \$750.00 with the understanding that the other charges would be dropped. The Judge had cautioned Mr. Draper as to behavior in this context.

8. The minutes of the council meeting of September 1<sup>st</sup> were reviewed after which Councilmember Justesen moved they be approved as corrected, seconded by Councilmember Thompson. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Alan Justesen, Loren Thompson, Vaun Mickelsen and Galen Christiansen. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

9. The City Recorder reported that no additional communication had been received from the American Civil Liberties Union. It was his intent to send another letter this week noting the matter was now set aside pending either payment or other requests from the ACLU.

10. The bills were presented for payment and following review Councilmember Thompson moved the bills be paid as presented and as money becomes available, seconded by Councilmember Mickelsen. Councilmembers voting “aye”: Loren Thompson, Vaun Mickelsen, Alan Justesen and Galen Christiansen. Councilmembers voting “nay”: none.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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Natasha R. Madsen, Mayor

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William A. Mickelson, Recorder/Administrator