

**COUNCIL WORK MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

The City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Maile Wilson Edwards; Councilmembers: Ron Adams; Terri Hartley; Craig Isom; W. Tyler Melling; Scott Phillips.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Paul Bittmenn; City Attorney Tyler Romeril; City Recorder Renon Savage; Finance Director Jason Norris; City Engineer Jonathan Stathis; Project Engineer Don Davis; City Planner Don Boudreau; Project Engineer Lisa Benson; Project Engineer Trevor McDonald; Police Chief Darin Adams; Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson; Public Works Director Ryan Marshall.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dallas Buckner, Ron Larsen, Jace Burgess, Laura Henderson, Teri Kenney, Tom Jett, Tim Watson, Ron Riddle, Brent Drew, Peggy Green, Karli Eldredge, James Jetton, John Shafer, Dennis Gray, Tina Dickinson, Vickie Graham, Jeff Richards, Justin Christensen, Brad Green, Garth Green, Stewart Adams.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chief Adams gave the invocation; the pledge was led by Ken Nielson.

**AGENDA ORDER APPROVAL:** Councilmember Isom moved to approve the agenda order; second by Councilmember Adams; vote unanimous.

**ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS; STAFF**

**COMMENTS:** ■Isom – our Mayor did an admiral job in reporting the State of the City at the Chamber of Commerce this morning. There was a lot of great information. As horrible as 2020 was we did a lot of good things. Phillips – will it be available on the City website? Mayor – I will get the slide put on the City website, it talks about projects, building permits, sales tax, etc. ■Melling – one question from a constituent about water quality, they were able to find total dissolved solids and ph but was looking for detailed report. Jonathan – they can contact the Engineering Department or the Water Department. We provide information in the yearly water report. Paul – the water report is on the website under engineering. Jonathan – there is an annual report from the water department each year that comes in the utility bill as well. ■Phillips – a quick shout out to our Southwest Utah Public Health Department, all people that I have talked to about the vaccination say how smoothly it went and they are appreciative. ■Jonathan – I want to introduce the new project engineer, Mary Lisa Benson, we are happy to have here in the Engineering Department. Mary Lisa Benson – I appreciate the opportunity to work here. I was born and reared in Parowan. My career has taken me Denver, Boston, Anchorage, and Los Angeles. I am glad to be back where people are productive.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** ■Peggy Green, Iron County Care and Share – I want to share a story that is sad in nature, but it is purposeful. The story highlights the gaps in our community and a clear example of why we are no longer able to wear all the hats.

On January 15, a social worker from the Cedar City hospital reached out to James, our Emergency Temporary Shelter Manager. A homeless gentleman had made his way to the hospital, and after his immediate care he was referred to a local physician. He was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The hospital social worker was searching for hospice care for the gentleman and at the time nothing was available. The social worker thought the situation was very temporary and reached out to us.

The social worker was able to secure home health to see the gentleman in our shelter and the process would continue to find hospice. While the situation was not something we are equipped to do on a regular or long-term basis, with the help of home health we felt a few days to a week we could do and agreed to welcome him into the shelter.

On the suggestion of entering our shelter, the gentleman ONLY agreed to come to shelter if James was working. This highlights the trust our vulnerable population has in our team and organization.

A spot arose in hospice and the gentleman was struggling to say yes. Why? He lived solo in homelessness, in the canyon, year-round. No walls, no roof. A visit to the ER and later a doctor, and a terminal diagnosis was not what he needed to make the transition. He needed mental health support to process his death. He needed someone experienced and knowledgeable to support him and help make hospice ok for him.

The gentleman passed away last week. His health declined rapidly, home health came once, the doctor wouldn't care for him in our shelter, no plans ever came to light on hospice care, and he passed away in the best care we could offer.

It wasn't enough.

I know each of you, you are going to ask how you can help.

First - I am extending an invitation to join a GAP Analysis exercise hosted by the Iron County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee. The exercise is required by the State of Utah, and funding our community utilizes for support programs. SPECIAL NOTE: the work completed by the Local Homeless Coordinating Committee is not organization specific and provides a collaboration of over 25 partners to produce solutions.

The GAP Analysis and numerous other reports are available to many throughout the state. Ultimately, the data lands with the State Homeless Coordinating Committee led by the Lt. Governor.

Mayor – when is the gap analysis? You need a cross section, what does that mean in how we can assist, do we need to help you get individuals? Peggy – the State Homeless Coordinating Community just released the timeline, so I can get the gap analysis and committee together. We will talk about how using, shelter, mental health, everything we serve. It is a group exercise, a short agenda and look at the last two gap analysis which were informal. This is