

COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2020

The City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 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 (electronic participation); Craig Isom; W. Tyler Melling; Scott Phillips.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Paul Bittmenn; City Engineer Kit Wareham; City Attorney Tyler Romeril; City Recorder Renon Savage; Finance Director Jason Norris; Police Chief Darin Adams; Fire Chief Mike Phillips; Wastewater Plant Manager Eric Bonzo; Wastewater Collections Operator I Randy Clove; Water Superintendent Robbie Mitchell; City Treasurer Wendy Bonzo; HR Director Natasha Hirschi; Sergeant JR Robinson; Public Works Director Ryan Marshall; Fire Fighter James Wood; Fire Engineer Jon Savage.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jonathan Ward, Tom Jett, Melodie Jett, Ben Batty, Bryan Varela, Bailey & Azaira Phillips, Holli Wright, Lewis Kunz, Zachary Kunz, Bretton Ferrano, Kelly Ferrano, Madi Hall, Monica Hall, Becky Phillips.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilmember Melling gave the invocation; the pledge was led by Councilmember Phillips.

AGENDA ORDER APPROVAL: Councilmember Hartley asked that we postpone the Engineering Standards until the Homebuilders have time to review.

Councilmember Isom moved to approve the agenda order, postponing #8; second by Councilmember Phillips; vote unanimous.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS; STAFF

COMMENTS: ■Melling – I announced a month ago that we would do our Council Walk in the 400 North 1400 West to Main Street, that will be postponed. We will announce the date later. ■Phillips – I want to acknowledge Melodie Jett it's her birthday, wish her a happy birthday, thanks for the contributions to the community. Also, in light of the things that have happened, and I commend the Mayor and Staff, but we continue to be cautious to be mindful to the citizens and respectful. It is a tight rope to keep the economy moving but follow the guidelines. I would hope we continue to monitor that and adjust if needed. ■Mayor – we have postponed all public hearings on items, as of today things are changing day by day, but we will try to continue City Council, but the public hearings, where we want people to be involved, we will postpone to a future date. Paul – the kickoff to the general plan will be postponed. Phillips – I am concerned that we be sensitive to citizens that are in jeopardy, I would like a refresher on the utility side where residents with financial situations, what can we do to help them. Paul – Wendy is here for billing and Robbie from the Water Dept. the current system we bill every 30 days for the meter readings, water, sewer, garbage and storm drain. You don't get a notice until

you are 60 days behind. The interest and penalties compound on top of each other. We talked about how the other providers are publishing statements saying they won't shut off. If we do that, please realize the penalties will continue to compound so we will compound more penalties upon the bills they rack up if the City does not shut them off. We had Mr. Limb come in and we made concessions to let him catch up. Phillips – I understand, but I want to be sensitive to the citizens and the businesses that have closed for 3-4 weeks. I want to be sensitive and realize it is not an ordinary time in the world and I want to make sure we have discussions and don't close the door. Paul – the shut-off list was posted yesterday, we postponed notices until after this meeting, so we know what you want us to do. If you want a concrete proposal back, we should figure that out tonight and so Robbie can move forward. Phillips – I looked at other cities and they don't want to let people out of their obligations. Mayor – the shut off list that came out yesterday you already had to be 60 days delinquent. Phillips – look at starting March 25th. Mayor – the list they currently have do you want them to proceed. Melling – I would be inclined to go like Rocky Mountain Power and Dominion Energy, still notify of a shut off date, if they are behind now and have been for 60 days, I would be inclined to start now until the date the schools open up or something, but at least until May 1st. we should still notify the they would be shut off, but not shut them off until schools and restaurants are open up, May 1st or some date. Phillips – I would say if they are currently in arrears we should move ahead with the normal fashion, but set something from this date forward, but I don't know what the period should be. If they have hardships to job loss or layoff. Mayor – we can say until May 1st and then revisit it. There is no certainty on a date, no one can tell when that will happen. Melling – I would say on a note “per our policy your water would be shut off at this time, but because of COVID-19 we are looking at a date of May 1st as earliest date”. Paul – the notices are preprinted. Melling – how many on the list? Robbie Mitchell – this month 184 notices. In January 198, and we shut off 26, February 195 on the list and shut off 12. I have 2,000 notices we put a sticker on. If you want special language, we will have to do something different. Phillips – the number is pretty standard with a small number that are shut off. I will be interested to see if it spikes next month. I am concerned that we will see a spike. Robbie – my concern is if you postpone it, it will continue to build up. If they can't pay \$80, in 3 months it will be \$300. Isom – we send out and they respond. We will have compassion and make provisions for those in trouble. Paul – we have the ability with the shut off date to extend 2 weeks to try and help folks, we get requests all the time. We give 3 a year on the accounts, if you want us to use that method to grant more extensions that would be something we can do. Phillips – do they have to come in person or call? Paul – they call and talk with me or Wendy. Phillips – I would like, if possible, to come back and make sure we get a report in April to see where we are and if there is a spike. In the meantime, be compassionate. Melling – are the notices mailed out? Robbie – no, they are hung on the door, or tape to the window on the door, they are hand delivered. Melling – my main concern is the small population that is very despondent with a chance of hope in their view. For the door hangars have an additional one that says if your ability to pay has been impacted by COVID-19, please let us know. Another olive branch that would not create an additional burden on staff. Something like I am in food service and will not be working and have them be proactive. Mayor – this list would not have been impacted by COVID-19. Next month if we have a spike in numbers we will know more, and the