**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.**

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Chad Lyman, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.

Council members Guy Graham and Marlene Stowe were excused.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Louise Barnes, Bob Hartman, Fred Spencer, Victory Crawford, Terence Tontlewicz and Julie Brugger.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Council member Orme moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Wilson and Orme voting aye.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2023 MEETING**

**Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme and Lyman voting aye.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**LOUISE BARNES**

Mrs. Barnes said she knows how hard the Mayor, Council and employees work and how much of their own money they use and don’t get reimbursed for. Mrs. Barnes said she wants to thank the Mayor, City Council and employees for what they do and that they deserve more than the standard pay they get. Mrs. Barnes said she hopes the Council will vote on approving the Christmas Bonuses.

**BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner said he was the chairman of the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Advisory Board but they eliminated his position. Mr. Weppner explained Attorney General Rayes is working on a lawsuit against the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Draft Management Plan (RMP). Mr. Weppner said he urges everyone to submit comments on the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Draft Management Plan (RMP).

**PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

**PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES**

There were no updates at this time.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**AIRPORT GATE**

Mayor Torgersen asked Fred Spencer to explain this item. Mr. Spencer said he has a quote for an Optex Eye Scan for the Airport Gate. Mr. Spencer explained the options of fixing the gate but said the Optic Eye is the best option. Mr. Spencer said the quote for the Optex Eye Scan is $848.67. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Lyman moved to purchase an Optex Eye Scan for the Airport Gate. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Wilson and Orme voting aye.**

Mayor Torgersen thanked Fred Spencer and Louise Barnes for volunteering at the airport.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Mayor Torgersen explained the Wreaths Across America event and said it will be on December 16, 2023. Mayor Torgersen said the wreaths have been purchased with donations from last year. Mayor Torgersen said the City is asking for donations to purchase the wreaths for next year. City Recorder Steed explained you can adopt a Veteran and the Wreaths are $15.00 each or three for $30.00.

**SUBDIVISION UPDATE**

City Recorder Steed explained the State subdivision laws changed in the spring of 2023 and Escalante City will need to update our Ordinance by the end of 2024. City Recorder Steed said the State retained a few firms who are eligible to offer professional support that is fully funded by the State. City Recorder Steed said Michael Hansen with the Hansen Planning Group is one of the firms the State has chosen to do this project and they contacted her to see if the city is interested in having them update our ordinance. **Council member Wilson moved to contract with The Hansen Planning Group to do our updated Subdivision Ordinance. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme and Lyman voting aye.**

**CHRISTMAS BONUSES**

Mayor Torgersen explained the City has given bonuses to the City Council and Employees in the past and a brick of cheese to all employees, City Council and city volunteers. **Council member Orme moved to approve the Christmas Bonuses and a brick of cheese like in the past. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

**RESOLUTION 2023-20 – MUNICIPAL LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

City Recorder Steed explained this resolution is for the lease of City Trucks. City Recorder Steed said United Fleet has changed banks and they are now offering a one-to-five-year lease with the option to purchase the truck after five years. City Recorder Steed said this Resolution does not require the City to lease the trucks but is required if we decide to lease or purchase them.

**Council member Lyman moved to adopt Resolution 2023-20. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme and Lyman voting aye.**

**RESOLUTION 2023-21 - CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ANNUALLY RENEWABLE LEASE, A MASTER RESOLUTION, SECURITY DOCUMENTS AND THE ISSUANCE AND SALE BY THE AUTHORITY OF ITS MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUTHORITY OF ESCALANTE CITY, GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH LEASE REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2024 TO FINANCE THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING AN ADDITION TO THE CITY’S MEDICAL CENTER AND RELATED FACILITIES; AND AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF ALL OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO THE CONSUMMATION OF THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED.**

Mayor Torgersen explained this resolution. **Council member Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2023-21. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Wilson and Orme voting aye.**

**Council member Lyman moved to go out of the City Council meeting and go into the Municipal Building Authority of Escalante City meeting at 6:23 p.m. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

**Council member Lyman moved to go back into the City Council meeting at 6:27 p.m.**

**Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme and Lyman voting aye.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

City Recorder Steed the Budget and Financial reports are available for review.

City Recorder Steed asked when the Council would like to schedule another meeting with Kevin Smedley and the Planning and Zoning Commission to work on the General Plan. There will be a work meeting on November 21, 2023 after the regular City Council meeting to work on the General Plan.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner said since the last City Council meeting the Fire Department has been called out three times. Mr. Weppner said there was a vehicle fire, a backyard fire and they were called to assist 506. Mr. Weppner said the vehicle fire was at the pull off by the Hole-in-the-Rock road. Mr. Weppner explained the Fire Department had to make multiple trips to the State Road shed to fill up with water to fight the fire. Equipment and Fire Hydrants were discussed at length.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN**

Mayor Torgersen asked the Council if they would like to have a Christmas party again this year. The Christmas Party was discussed and will be December 5, 2023 after the scheduled City Council meeting.

Mayor Torgersen explained the Resolutions that were passed tonight are for the addition to the Medical Center. Mayor Torgersen said the addition to the Medical Center will be a Dental Office, Therapy Room and a Wellness Center.

**COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN**

Council member Lyman had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON**

Council member Wilson said he is working on the lights for the buildings and will be helping the Public Works with some repairs on Main Street for the Christmas Lights.

**COUNCIL MEMBER GUY GRAHAM**

Council member Graham was not present at said meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE**

Council member Stowe was not present at said meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME**

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

**UNPAID BILLS**

**Council member Lyman moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Lyman and Wilson voting aye.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Council member Orme moved to go into executive session at 6:46 p.m. for a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Wilson, Lyman and Orme voting aye.** Present at the executive session were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, City Attorney Huntington and City Recorder Steed.

**Council member Wilson moved to go out of executive session back into regular session at 7:17 p.m. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

**Council member Lyman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.**

**Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.**

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City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 11/21/2023.