

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2024
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
PUBLIC HEARING/ELECTRONIC 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 Blaine Porter, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman and City Attorney Barry Huntington joined electronically. Council member Sally Orme was excused.

Also present were Thomas Alvear, Arlis Brooks, Annette Muse, Jerry Muse, Brenda Smith, Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Fred Spencer, Terence Tontlewicz, Victory Crawford, Richard Crawford, Daryl Griffin, Jenny Evans, Lawrence Barnes, Kristin Rex, Westly Rex, Justine McDonald, Jozlyn McDonald, Jayleen Shakespear, August Orvan, Khysen Shakespear and Mary Kate Cooper.

Ashley Coombs joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting as written. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Stowe moved to open the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Lyman, Stowe and Wilson voting aye.

ORDINANCE 2024-19 – ADDRESSING DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS

City Recorder Steed explained Ordinance 2024-19 Addressing Delinquent Utility Bills and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

JENNY EVANS

Ms. Evans asked how much the impact fees are. City Recorder Steed explained the impact fees.

ORDINANCE 2024-20 – AMENDING SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Mayor Torgersen explained Ordinance 2024-20 Amending Scheduled Meetings and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Porter moved to close the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2024-19 - ADDRESSING DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS

City Recorder Steed read Utah State Code 10-7-10.5 (2)(a). City Recorder Steed explained after reading this code and talking to other cities and advisors she has been advised to suggest to the Council to deny this ordinance and look into it further. **Council member Porter moved to deny Ordinance 2024-19. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter and Wilson voting aye.**

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2024-20 - AMENDING SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Council member Porter asked about the ordinance reading “that will be held.” City Recorder Steed explained the word “shall” means you have to have a meeting but the word “may” will give you the opportunity to cancel the meeting if there is nothing for the agenda. **Council member Wilson moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-20. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

FRED SPENCER

Mr. Spencer said they have spent the last two days working on the electrical problems on 506 due to the electrical outage last weekend. Mr. Spencer asked in the future not to allow people to use the electrical outlet on the outside of the Fire Station due to it overloading the breakers.

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) volunteers have had long complicated runs. Mr. Weppner said he appreciates our EMS volunteers.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

ANNETTE MUSE – WATER BILL ADJUSTMENT

Ms. Muse explained her water bill for June was \$476.60 so they checked for water leaks. Ms. Muse said they have put in irrigation for fruit trees and a garden. Ms. Muse said her husband looked at the meter and turned everything off, the meter was not running so there was no leak.

Ms. Muse said she called Stephanie Steed and asked if the city employees could come to check for leaks. Ms. Muse said there were no leaks so she requested a new meter be installed. Ms. Muse said after the new meter was installed the city employees read the meter four days later and they had used 8 thousand gallons of water. Ms. Muse said at that time they had fifteen extra people at their home for the 24th of July Celebration. Ms. Muse said she googled what an average home uses in water and there is no way she has used that much water. Council member Porter explained where Ms. Muse lives the water pressure is higher than an average home. Mr. Muse said their pressure is eighty pounds. Ms. Muse said she used the swan watering company to determine her usage (attached). Ms. Muse said she feels her water meter was defective. This item was discussed at length and the Public Works employees, Council member Porter and Mr. Muse will test the meter tomorrow morning at 11:00. **Council member Porter moved to test the meter and see if it is correct and if it is Mr. and Mrs. Muse will have to pay the current bills if the meter is reading wrong the city will adjust the bills and they will pay the difference. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter and Wilson voting aye.**

JUSTINE MCDONALD – WASHINGTON DC TRIP DONATION

Jozlyn McDonald said the sixth-grade class has the opportunity to go to Washington DC. Ms. McDonald said they have been raising money for the trip but are \$2,500.00 short. Mayor Torgersen said last year the city donated \$100.00 per sixth-grade student to go towards their trip. **Council member Porter moved Donate \$100.00 per sixth-grade student for their Washington DC trip. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Porter, Lyman and Stowe voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed said the budget and financial reports are available for review.

City Recorder Steed reported on the Records Conference and thanked the Council for sending her.

City Recorder Steed said the Annual Audit was moved to this Friday.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Daryl Griffin said everything went well with the boring under Main Street and Fugal Company did an excellent job. Council member Porter said there have been some tight deadlines and he personally would like to thank the public works employees for putting in the long hours.

Mr. Griffin said he would like to thank the County for all their help on the streets.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department had one incident since the last meeting which was a grease fire.

Mr. Weppner said last weekend Margie Weppner and Louise Barnes did a fundraiser and raised \$1,427.00 to go towards a trailer to store the fireworks in. Mr. Weppner said they would like to ask businesses for donations to go towards the trailer. Mr. Weppner said the firework show is for everyone. Mayor Torgersen thanked Ms. Weppner and Ms. Barnes for doing the fundraiser. Mr. Weppner thanked Brent Pickering, Daryl Griffin, Fred Spencer and DeEtte Spencer for their help with the fundraiser.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen said she attended an arts festival meeting and she suggested some changes for next year. Mayor Torgersen said the arts festival board said they appreciate the support of the city.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman thanked the Public Works employees for patching the roads.

Council member Lyman said he contacted Marty Cottam about widening Center Street and there is a lot to do to prepare for it.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson said Brent Pickering picked up the cable for the sidewalk lights.

Council member Wilson said Council member Porter and the Public Works employees helped with the electrical problem in the park. Council member Wilson said he will put together a cost in putting more power at the park for events and install a lightning arrestor on the Fire Station. Council member Wilson said he will have a cost for the next City Council meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe said she volunteered during the quilt show that was held in the multi-Purpose building during the Arts Festival. Council member Stowe said she noticed there is no clock in the building and would like to put one in there. Council member Sowe asked who is responsible for the piano in the building because it needs to be tuned. Mayor Torgersen explained the piano was donated to the Senior Center and needs new strings and keys.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme was not present at said meeting.

UNPAID BILLS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session needed at this time.

**Council member Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.
Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.**

Stephanie Steed, MMC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 10/15/2024