

City Council Meeting

Meeting minutes

Willard City Council Meeting

October 24, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Willard City Council Chambers

80 West 50 South Willard Utah 84340

Officials Present:

Mayor Travis Mote

Council Member Mike Braegger

Council Member Jordan Hulsey

Council Member Rod Mund

Council Member Rex Christensen

Council Member Jacob Bodily

City Staff:

Colt Mund, City Attorney

Jeremy Kimpton, City Manager

Susan K Obray, City Recorder

Chief Theron Fielding

Madison Brown, City Planner

Others Present:

Chad Call

Lynn Murphy

Ken & Ruth Ormond

Call to Order & Public Hearings

Invocation

The meeting began with an invocation led by Council Member Braegger.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Mote.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Mayor Mote inquired if there were any declarations of conflict of interest regarding the published agenda. There were no declarations.

Open Comment Period

Mayor Mote initiated the open comment period, giving individuals three minutes to address any topic.

Chad Call spoke about inconsistencies in the approval of subdivision plans for Granite Ridge Phase 5. Chad highlighted discrepancies in the number of lots approved compared to the original approved number and expressed concerns over clerical errors that led to an increased number of lots. The issue was noted, and city staff and engineering were scheduled to review it further. He commented that the subdivision shows on the master service agreement there are 25 lots. 25 lots were voted on and approved. It had been recorded with 32 lots; something was overlooked. He said it needs to be looked at again by the engineer, the square footage and open space is going to be different from what was agreed upon. The amount of water that needs to get turned over to the city is different by 7 lots. Mayor Mote stated that city engineers and staff will investigate it.

Planning Commission Report

Mayor Mote stated the planning commission was canceled due to the lack of a quorum.

New Business

Confirm Ken Ormond as an Alternate Planning Commission Member

The council discussed the proposal to confirm Kenny Ormond as an alternate member of the Planning Commission, replacing the current member Blake Harrop who had expressed a desire to step down.

Motion: Council Member Mund move to approve Ken Ormond as an Alternate Planning Commission Member. Council Member Bodily seconded motion. Motion carried.

Certify the Bay View Estates Annexation

Mayor Mote introduced the certification of the Bay View Estates annexation located at 8190 South Highway 89, Developer Brian Robbins. Colt Mund, City Attorney explained the city had authorized it for further consideration, resulting in certification by the City Recorder and City Attorney. No action was needed, as it was merely an informational step in the process toward public hearing.

Discussion with Willard Coalition-Lynn Murphy

Lynn Murphy from the Willard Coalition thanked the council for efforts toward reopening canyon access. She noted trailhead improvements but continued barriers due to existing signage and fenced areas. Mayor Mote replied, acknowledging ongoing negotiations, anticipated adjustments for access, and coordination with relevant entities. Lynn Murphy stated word for word:

I wanted to thank the council members for all your efforts to restore access to the canyon. I have not been able to get up there and do much hiking for the last few months, so I took a quick walk up there and I noticed that there has been trail maintenance going on. I do not know who exactly is responsible for that, but I very much appreciate it. The base of the south trail has been repaired so that hikers do not have to scramble up steep bank to get onto the trail now.

Also, above where the water tanks are, that fence around those water tanks. That trail above there has been rerouted so that you do not have to wade through those prickly weeds. That is awful. They put in some nice switchbacks to the north of that area. I would like to thank those who braved the signage and the fence to make the trail more family and pet friendly.

Unfortunately, the fence is still a barricade to many enthusiastic hikers, and there is no good entrance from the parking area. Granite has placed a chain link on their gate, so stepping through it is not really an option anymore. I prefer to put the days of crawling through barbed wire behind me, so I find a boulder on the south side of the gate to get around that. It is not a great option for a lot of people. They really should not have to do that.

They should not have to decide between boulders and barbed wire to get into that area. Because Granite buried access to the trail from the parking area, I personally find the best option to avoid having to go through overgrown weeds is to walk up Granite's Road to turn off into the canyon. I realize that is not an ideal situation since gravel trucks do occasionally use that and until we have a better access point, threw, I feel that's acceptable. I do not know how I feel about that. I know the city does not control what happens on the Wells property.

However, because the city is negotiating with Granite and the Wells family, I feel like you do have the ability to encourage removal of at least a section of the fence to allow hikers to access a start of the trail.

Also, removing signage from that area is critical to let people know that they can use the trail. I have had people ask me if the trail is open or not and how they can access it. I give them my own opinion and tell them it is up to you. The county has acknowledged the public easement. It will eventually be recorded.

In the meantime, the trail needs to be used and maintained. I ask the council members, please, to strongly encourage the removal of some or all the fences and signage. That is really all I have to go over now. I would like to make that safer for everybody to use and more pleasant and so that people know what is accessible and what is not.

Lynn Murphy was thanked by the Mayor for her comments.

Minutes

Approval of October 10, 2024, Minutes

It was brought up that Council Member Bodily was not listed on October 10, 2024, meeting as being in attendance.

Motion: Council Member Braegger moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2024, meeting with the amendment to list Jake Bodily as present. Seconded by Council Member Christensen. Motion carried.

Financial

Warrants, Vouchers, Reports

The financial documents provided to the council were made available for review. They were reviewed and signed.

Department Reports

Public Works

Updates on public works included details of snow preparation, maintenance schedules, and improvements on facility structures. It was noted that preparations for winter continued on schedule, despite needing additional equipment.

Police Department

Chief Fielding provided updates regarding the assembly of newly acquired gear with the grant money they received, which was progressively beginning to arrive.

Fire Department

The Fire Department presented updates on repairs of equipment, specifically mentioning a water pump replacement and potential offers on surplus equipment. Additionally, discussions noted the dynamics of managing fire coverage alongside South Willard's fire services, expressing interest in formalizing agreements to update compensation. The Mayor asked for a copy of the Fire Contract with the County.

Council Member Reports

Jacob Bodily

No comments offered.

Rod Mund

Raised concerns about the maintenance of trails.

Mike Braegger

Noted concerns regarding legal aspects of utility charges and effectively responding to citizen concern about unexpected additional utility charges.

Rex Christensen

Emphasized the previous discussion on beginning truth-in-taxation processes for the following year, advocating it aligns municipal responsibility and attains financial accountability.

Jordan Hulse

No comments offered.

Next Agenda Items

Future agenda plans in potential fire and police agreements specifically within joint municipal districts.

Mayor's General Correspondence and Information

No specific comment under this agenda item.

City Manager's Report

City staff have been actively preparing for winter conditions. The Staff have been working on Civic Review. The preliminary part of the budget will be brought to the department heads in January or February. Jeremy said the truth and taxation will take place February or March. Possibly have the County come and give a presentation on Truth and Taxation.

City Planners Report

The Mayor asked Madison Brown, City Planner about an update on the power poles. She said she talked with Rocky Mountain Power, and they are doing the lights in the Orchards Subdivision first, and the pole that was knock over in Deer Run. They will send someone up next week to look at it.

City Attorney Report

Nothing to report.

Consideration of Motion to Enter a Closed Session-7:25 p.m.

Motion: Council Member Braegger moved to enter a closed session for a discussion. Seconded by Council Member Mund. Roll call unanimous agreement, resulting in adjournment to a closed session.

Motion: Council Member Bodily moved to close the closed session and open the regular meeting. Council Member Mund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion: Council Member Braegger moved to adjourn. Council Member Christensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.