

**Town Hall Meeting, Tooele City, Utah
Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Tooele City Hall, Council Chambers
90 North Main Street, Tooele, Utah

City Council Members Present:

Steve Pruden
Brad Pratt
Dave McCall
Scott Wardle
Melodi Gochis

Minutes prepared by Amanda Graf

Mayor Winn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mel Roberts

2. Roll Call

Mayor Debra Winn, Present
Scott Wardle, Present
Brad Pratt, Present
Steve Pruden, Present
Dave McCall, Present
Melodi Gochis, Present

3. Budget Presentation

Mayor Winn discussed the budget, responsibilities of the various departments, and services that the City provides to the Community. She also explained that there is a survey that can be filled out. It will also be available on the City's website and can be returned to the City Hall via email, mail, or in-person. The Mayor's Power Point presentation is attached to these minutes, and is available on the City's website.

4. Public Comment

Glen Stevens represents the Sons of Utah Pioneers; they operate the Tooele Pioneer Museum. They need help refurbishing the Carnegie Library Building. It's in terrible need of repair; the southwest

corner is leaning, the paint is peeling, all of the windows need to be replaced, as well as the front door. The building was built in 1911 and is one of 16 remaining Carnegie libraries in Utah of the original 23. It was added to the National Register of Historic places in 1984 and is only one of two in Tooele that are in that registry (the other one is the Railroad Museum). They are also requesting a \$5,000 annual operating budget to help run the museum. He provided pictures to the Council for their review of the building.

April Resendez has discussed with many individuals in the community who have a desire for a public sports facility for a Junior Jazz program for Tooele. She understands that there was an embezzlement situation that caused the program to be discontinued for the Tooele. Her understanding is that \$33,000 was owed to the Tooele School District for using their facilities. They want to partner with Tooele City to allow for the City's youth to have a recreation facility to be used year-round.

Christine Jones represents the Tooele Bit and Spur Rodeo Grounds, otherwise known as the Tooele City Equestrian Park. She asked if this was the only forum for the budget process to submit requests, or if they need to submit requests at another time. She is concerned about spending excess money on England Acres Park when there are existing parks like the Equestrian Park that have been neglected. They have a 50-year agreement with the City that needs an overhaul.

Larry Kramer thanked the City for providing a facility for pickle ball. The Elton Park tennis courts are unused and run-down. Pickle Ball is growing in the state of Utah. He would like to see the tennis courts turned into a Pickle Ball facility.

County Commissioner Myron Bateman is concerned about the wastewater and would like to make sure that there is adequate funding for that. He agrees that a new public safety building is also needed. The City needs to come up with other ways to generate revenue and should look at raising taxes to meet those needs. The County Commission is also going to look at ways to help with the roads.

Tyson Hamilton would like to see the Support Local campaign to come back to show the importance of spending tax dollars in the local community. He would also like to see the downtown be revitalized so it can look better.

Jeff Saunders came forward; he lost the election for Tooele City Council last fall. When he was campaigning a constituent contacted him about how high the elected officials' salaries are. He looked up data on Utah's Right to Know and found that while Tooele is the 22nd largest City in Utah they have the 2nd highest paid City Council and 6th highest paid Mayor in the state. On that website it states that the Council's annual salary is about \$18,500 with \$5,000 in benefits. He looked up census information and found that Springville, Cottonwood Heights, and Clearfield cities are similar in size to Tooele. Tooele pays about \$5,000 more per council member per year than those cities. Springville only pays about \$12,000/councilman per year. He suggested the City does an audit to look at the salaries of elected officials of cities of similar sizes to make the salaries comparable.

Shauna Bevan came forward and expressed her desire to have the city lights repaired. She lives on the west end of Utah Avenue but there are no lights in that area; they have livestock in that area and

the lack of lighting poses a danger. In addition, she took some Cub Scouts to the police station and feels that the public safety building definitely needs to be rebuilt.

April Resendez came forward again. She lives along Middle Canyon Wash and had someone attempt to break into her home. Middle Canyon Wash goes through England Acres. She would like to expand it to make a walking path to connect her neighborhood to the park. She said she would be happy to donate part of her property to have a walking path connect to the Middle Canyon Wash.

Sandy Critchlow would like to see the free trash pick-up program changed. She has taken pictures of people who have left their garbage on the roads for several weeks prior to the pick-up. She is a Realtor and stated that it's hard to market homes when there is trash left around the community. She feels that if individuals would like to have that extra trash pick-up they should be charged for it. She provided copies of pictures to the Council to review.

Josh Witkowski lives in Erda but worked for the past three years as an umpire for The Tooele County Little League programs. He feels that all of the baseball fields have been significantly neglected since he was a child playing on them. He's also noticed that the competitiveness of Tooele County baseball has decreased significantly since he was a child. He feels that repair of the fields would help revive the Little League programs.

Cindy Elton is also with the Bit and Spur riding club. She commended the Mayor for putting this meeting together. She suggested that more emphasis should be placed on the parks that could bring in additional revenue, like the golf course or the Equestrian Park. The horse industry in the state of Utah is a multi-million dollar revenue industry. They already have two-three day horse shows that are shown in the summer months that they would like to continue.

Jeff Saunders came forward again and stated that inflation happens every year. He asked the Administration to have the courage to create a budget that allows for a spending increase to match for inflation to help cover the costs of the needs in the Community.

W. Tyler Winn expressed his desire to have the necessary funds for the police officers. His son was a police officer and struggled because of the low wages. He stated that his home was burglarized; it's a difficult task for them to track down the criminals. He stated that the 57% turnover rate for police officers in our community is very unfortunate; it costs a lot to train them and then they get snagged away by a city that can pay more. The individuals who volunteer for the fire department also donate a lot of time and their own resources to volunteer as firemen.

Susan Howard expressed a desire that new buildings be built for efficiency rather than design features. The high ceilings in many of the city buildings like the library take up a lot of unused space and require a lot of extra air conditioning.

W. Tyler Winn Jr. used to be a police officer for Tooele City. He left in 2013 due to the low wages, in addition to the overload of calls that each officer responds to each year. The police officers are overworked and can't be proactive because of their high call volume. The turnover is so high in the police department because they can only be reactive instead of proactive due to the high volume of calls. The pay is also much lower than the pay for officers in Salt Lake County.

Laney Riegel knows that the money that is received through property tax is so small compared to what they need for the services offered in the community. She knows it would be a tremendous tax hike to do any of what everyone wants to see happen in the City. She feels that the City should market itself to commercial developments to increase the tax base. She would like to see a City Planner that has a five and ten year plan that is attainable and executable to help attract these businesses.

Kami Perkins would like to see an investment in a street sweeper. She feels that the average person doesn't understand how having clean gutters and streets clean makes a difference in the community. She would also like to see the parks and facilities that the City currently has be taken care of before expanding and building other parks.

Braxton Roberts would like to see taxes raised to be able to put more back into the Community; it would really benefit the employees and community as a whole.

Kristine Jones came forward again and reiterated that she would like to see the money be put back into the older parks instead of spending more on England Acres Park. She doesn't live in Tooele but spends most of her money in Tooele. In addition, she used to run a street sweeper and the maintenance alone costs \$50k/year; she suggested the City not invest in a sweeper due to the high costs involved.

Lori Witkowski is partners with racetooele.com. They are trying to bring more tourism dollars to Tooele County; the maintenance and care of the baseball parks is a big issue. As they try to bring tournaments to Tooele the facilities and fields are being judged on their poor appearances. Those tournaments bring lots of tourism dollars into the community. They are also trying to bring an endurance run into the community, which is a nationwide equestrian club. They need to prove that Tooele has the facilities in order to bring that run into the community. She agrees that the Bit and Spur club really needs the financial help to bring more tourist dollars into the community.

April Resendez came forward again. There has been difficulty in getting adequate dirt at softball fields adjacent to the Pratt Aquatic Center. There has been expression of dissatisfaction amongst individuals in the community in the ability to bring in proper dirt for the fields. They recently tried to hold a tournament at the Tooele City softball field and Jerry Cordova with USSSA said that they were close to shutting down the tournament as they were unsafe due to their poor conditions.

Carol Cluff came forward; she's lived in Tooele for 52 years and raised her kids in the community. She has members of her family that are involved with businesses in the County. She had a burglary in her home this past year and her oldest son had a fire in her home over the weekend. She wanted to express her appreciation to those who responded to their needs at that time. She also expressed her appreciation to the City Council and Mayor for all they do for the Community.

Tracy Shaw expressed her appreciation for the Town Hall meeting. She is a small business owner in the community and has had difficulty in dealing with the City in regards to her businesses. She recently attempted to make minor changes in her restaurant but ran into obstacles with the City. She wanted to change one of her bathrooms from being gender specific to a family bathroom so she

could add changing tables to that bathroom but the City told her there was an ordinance prohibiting her from doing so which was very frustrating to her. She also has a mobile catering business. She was approached by the local baseball team at the high school asking her to provide concessions for the teams and their families as the snack shack at the Dow James building is unsafe to use and unusable. It makes her sad that the facilities at our local parks are so neglected that they can't even be used.

Tony Graf expressed his desire to see increased funding for the police department. He is a prosecutor for Salt Lake County. As a prosecutor he relies heavily on the police officers. He hopes that the pay for the officers for Tooele can be put on par with the other cities along the Wasatch front.

Scott VonHatten works with the parks department for the City and stated that the parks are a reflection of the City. They take care of the pump houses, duck ponds, storm water drains, etc. They are extremely limited on staff. He feels that the funds should be put into the existing parks instead of spending funds on new parks. There have been parks where playgrounds have been removed due to safety issues and they have still not been replaced two years later. They have very limited funds that come in to help his department; he suggested possibly increasing the fees to reserve parks to help their budget and increase their staff.

Chairman Pruden asked if anyone else wanted to come forward; there were no other public comments. He expressed his appreciation to those who came forward with their concerns. He stated that all of the expressed concerns are important. Some of the concerns expressed are administrative issues; if citizens have concerns about non-budget items they should contact the Mayor's office to get those needs addressed. Chairman Pratt explained that some of the laws are not guided by the City, but are state, national, and international laws they have to follow that cannot be changed. He expressed his appreciation to the citizens and stated that they would take their input into their future budget discussions.

Council Member Wardle expressed his appreciation for the process and stated that the transparency in explaining the budget process and funding to the community is a wonderful thing.

Council Member McCall stated that he wanted to hear from everyone in the room; everyone has something that bothers them that they want to see changed in the City. The town hall is something that has never happened before. The Administration needs the input from the citizens of the community to be able to address their needs and concerns.

Council Member Pratt expressed his appreciation to the community for coming to the meeting. Their attendance shows that they are invested in the community. Their input is very valuable. Not everything has been said tonight can be accomplished today, but as everyone works together to give their input eventually all of those desires will come to fruition at some point. They will do their best to take care of the needs and necessities of the community and be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars.

Council Member Gochis expressed her appreciation to those who have brought forth their concerns about the organizations they are passionate about. Hard decisions will come before the Council but their interests lie in the passions of the citizens.

Chairman Pruden stated that they want to answer the questions of the community, but cautioned citizens that oftentimes information can get misconstrued on social media; if citizens have a question they can contact the City to get them answered. If anyone has a question about some of the laws, ordinances, or finances of the City they can ask the City administration, instead of relying on innuendo or hearsay. He thanked the Mayor and her staff for spearheading this event. He reminded them that the City Council holds meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Mayor Winn stated that there will be future City Council agendas that will address budgets. She also reminded the citizens to fill out the surveys. This year they will be organizing and spearheading a spring clean-up. She expressed her appreciation to everyone for coming; she said they would always listen to the citizens' concerns.

5. Adjourn

Council Member Pratt moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member McCall seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Council Member McCall, "Aye," Chairman Pruden, "Aye," Council Member Pratt, "Aye," Council Member Wardle, "Aye," Council Member Gochis, "Aye." The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

The content of the minutes is not intended, nor are they submitted, as a verbatim transcription of the meeting. These minutes are a brief overview of what occurred at the meeting.

Approved this 21st day of March, 2018

Steve Pruden, Tooele City Council Chair