

**Sunset City Corporation
City Council Minutes
December 16, 2014
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Minutes of a regular meeting held December 16, 2014 at Sunset City Hall, 200 West 1300 North, Sunset, Utah; Mayor Macfarlane presiding.

REGULAR SESSION

Mayor and Council Present:

Beverly Macfarlane	Mayor
Chris Hadley	Council Member
Ryan Furniss	Council Member
Trystal Peay	Council Member
Jake Peterson	Council Member

City Employees Present:

Susan R. Hale	Recorder
Linda J. Youngdell	Treasurer/Office Manager
Norm Noyes	Public Works Director
Ken Eborn	Police Chief
Thomas E. Caygle	Fire Captain

Fire Fighters: Brody Ward, Marc Sacco, Joni Goodman, Matt Maass, Kelcee Oyler,

Excused:

Kevin Snow	Council Member
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Others Present:

Mark Becraft	North Davis Fire District
John Taylor	North Davis Fire District
Terry Avondet	Sunset Citizen Corps
Neil Coker	Adam Scott
Andrew Cowan	Darin Cowan
Brenden Mecham	Weston McCafferty
Conner Wilberg	Bryan Martin
Isaac Haarala	Jerin Beames
Jeremy Morris	Tyler Argyle
Mike McCafferty	Jason Kendall
Hudson Kendall	

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Macfarlane.

Mayor Macfarlane gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Council Member Peay made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2014 as presented. Council Member Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Council Members Hadley, Furniss, Peay and Peterson voting yes.

Approval of Vouchers: Council Member Furniss made a motion to approve the vouchers for Weber Basin Water and Utah Local Governments Trust totaling \$273,492.40. Council Member Hadley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Members Hadley, Furniss, Peay and Peterson voting yes.

Public Comments: Terry Avondet feels there are some great people on the Sunset Fire Department and like with any group, there may be people who have situations that cause them to make bad choices. She also feels a whole Department should not be condemned for the mistakes of a few. The Council should get input from the City residents before making any decisions about the Fire Department's future. The City also has a great Police Department that deserves their complete support, respect, faith and trust. She believes questioning their hiring selection process is revolting not only to her, but to many other residents. It is ridiculous for the Council to question a selection and put the Officers' at risk due by being short staffed when it is totally unnecessary. During the course of the past year the Council has established a pattern of disrespectful behavior that has eroded their credibility, not only in this community but in this State. They have allowed one Council Member to control everything, which is wrong. That is the reason there are less residents attending the Council meetings than before. They are tired of seeing what continues to happen. The Council Members were elected to do what the citizenry wants; not to follow their own personal agenda. She hopes they will begin the new year by acting with respect for the Mayor, each other and for the people who attend the Council meetings.

Norm Noyes said he has been an EMT on the Sunset Fire Department and has been on both the giving and receiving end of the services they provide. His opinion, whether they keep the Fire Department or go with the North Davis Fire District, they need to raise taxes and fees to give the residents of Sunset the services they need. As a resident, he is fully in support of raising taxes and fees to accomplish that task.

1. Discuss direction of the Fire Department: Mayor Macfarlane said her intent is not to make a decision about the Fire Department tonight; only to give the Council all the information they need to make this decision. It will take several Council meetings for them to look at all aspects and make the right decision for Sunset. Their packets contain the earnings and cost of the Fire Department for fiscal year 2014 and she has asked Clinton Fire Chief Becraft to come again to give them more details about the budget.

Chief Becraft explained he had talked with Jonathan at the County Assessors Office today to make sure he was calculating things correctly. If the City chose to go with the District, the City would adopt the District's certified tax rate for fire and the City's certified tax rate would be reduced by that amount. That means there would be no property tax increase for the residents and leave approximately \$117,400 in property tax revenue for Sunset.

Council Member Furniss said Sunset has not experienced a lot of growth so the fire service need has stayed pretty steady. West Point has a lot of area to grow. More growth means possibly more equipment and/or personnel. If Sunset goes with the District they have to realize Sunset will help fund the growth of West Point, not just Sunset's services. If the

District services Falcon Hill, they will need a ladder truck and Sunset will have to help pay for that. To keep things in perspective, right now Sunset pays for relatively few apparatus and equipment. Regarding MIDA services, it's not always best to take on more services because that means more personnel, etc. Recorder Hale clarified if the City chooses to go with the District, the City would adopt the District's certified tax rate and the City's certified tax rate would have to be reduced by that amount. And if Sunset chose to keep its tax rate or only reduce it part way, there would have to be a truth in taxation hearing because Sunset's total rate would then be higher than the County set it. Council Member Furniss said after that, the District controls their own tax rate.

Neil Coker said the City now collects \$301,682 in property tax. If the City goes with the District, they would only collect \$117,439. The City would also lose the revenue from the ambulance, which is \$120,000. That is a total loss in revenues of \$304,243. If this years fire and ambulance budgets are deducted from that, it would be \$105,153 less in revenues than it currently receives.

Council Member Furniss asked if Mayor Macfarlane would be addressing any other aspects of the Fire Departments future to which Mayor Macfarlane replied no, she just wanted to talk about this tonight and then talk about more in future meetings.

Recorder Hale explained the report she handed out shows \$301,682 in property tax revenue plus \$120,000 in ambulance revenue for the total revenue of \$421,682. If you take away the North Davis Fire Districts share and the ambulance fees, that leaves the total revenue at \$117,440. If you add back in the \$234,315 fire and EMS budgeted expenditures that would no longer have to be paid, the amount in the black (considered revenue) is \$351,754. That is a loss to the City of about \$70,000. Then add in about \$40,000 for the utilities, insurance on the building and vehicles, etc. which will not be paid any longer and it means the total dollar amount loss for Sunset is about \$30,000. Mr. Coker disputed what Recorder Hale explained, to which Recorder Hale replied the expenditures Mr. Coker used was from the previous year, whereas she used this year's budget, which the present tax rate is based on.

Chief Becraft said he gave an honest breakdown on what it would cost the District to take on Sunset's Fire Department, so if they can do it cheaper they should probably keep the Fire Department. He also said what Council Member Furniss said was right in that Clearfield and West Point will not subsidize Sunset's services. The City would gain in the use of apparatus, use of personnel, training, 2nd in ambulances and extra fire trucks.

Mayor Macfarlane said she hopes these figures help the Council and she would like them all to review what they've learned tonight so they can discuss it more along with other things at the next meeting. Council Member Furniss asked Mayor Macfarlane what her time line on this issue is, as he has heard different rumors. Mayor Macfarlane said she would like to get information from Clinton as well and take the next two or three meetings to talk about it so they can make a good informed decision. After that the decision on the Fire Chief and Asst. Chief will take place.

Council Member Peterson said he would like to receive the packet information before the day of the meeting. Mayor Macfarlane said this time it was because she was just obtaining these figures this afternoon, but in the future she will try to have the information out earlier.

- 2. Mayor and Council reports:** Council Member Furniss (on the North Davis Sewer Board, over Property Management, Transportation & Youth City Council) reported the North Davis sewer line on 1800 North under I-15 is in the process of being relined as it was at failure. Public Works Director Noyes stated he stopped up there to find out what they were doing and they were very nice to answer his questions. Council Member Furniss said the Youth City Council has changed their by-laws to say anyone serving as the Mayor must reside in Sunset and any member who attends any retreat or seminar that requires travel must be 14 years of age or older. He would like the bylaws to be on the next meeting agenda for approval. He hopes the firefighters will be patient while they discuss the department issues and he asked them to keep taking their shifts and doing what they love as it may be their advantage if they stick it out. When a Chief is lost rumor abound and he would like to hold a one on one meeting between the Department and himself. Mayor Macfarlane said it is good they attend the Council meetings so they hear what they are discussing first hand. Council Member Furniss will schedule that meeting he mentioned. Mayor Macfarlane appreciates Council Member Furniss saying he wants to meet with them, but she believes they will get better information when they are all together at a Council meeting. Council Member Furniss said the Mayor obviously does not want him to do it, but he is going to hold a meeting in the Sunset Room because it is a right he has. He will let them know when it is scheduled.

Council Member Peterson (Planning Commission Liaison & over Public Works) said the Planning Commission will meet Thursday and they will discuss the zoning on 800 North. He asked the Council to give the Commissioners their opinions or concerns if they had any. He thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting tonight and said he supports the Department Heads 100%.

Council Member Hadley (over Citizen Corps and Emergency Preparedness) said with the potential changes coming up, he has made contact with the Clinton Fire Department regarding Citizens Corp, Emergency Preparedness and Neighborhood Watch. He asked how their programs were run and tried to identify what items Sunset could maybe adopt to make their programs more effective and involve more citizens. When his ideas are finalized he will bring them to the Council for their input. When a decision is made about the Fire Department it may also decide what avenue they take with these programs. He appreciated the fire fighters hanging in there with all the things going on and changes being made.

Mayor Macfarlane (over Administration, Court, Military Affairs Committee, Police, Fire & on the Wasatch Integrated Systems Board) said she met with the Kiwanis Club and they handed out 20 coats to the three Sunset Elementary schools. She talked with the schools that do the "Lunch with the Mayor" with Clinton's Mayor and they may start having it with Sunset's Mayor next year. She is concerned with the agreement between the Sunset Fire Department and the medical control doctor over their medical supplies, as it expires December 31st. He has agreed to continue on a month to month basis until Sunset finds a

replacement. She attended the MIDA Board meeting and the members said Sunset should talk with the legislatures about moving the Army Rail Station because they might be able to help with funding to move it. Representative Paul Ray told her it is in budget talks now and he will come before the Council to update them about that. If the Army Rail Station gets moved, UDOT can realign the proposed I-15 interchange and that would help Sunset. She met with UDOT and UTA about putting a Front Runner station in the Public Works yard. Their engineers are working to see if one will fit. They told her the lights and security camera along the railroad tracks should happen by the end of the year, but she has not seen any action on it. She thanked the fire fighters for all they've done and asked them to bring any questions or concerns to the Council because she would like to address everything possible.

Council Member Peay (over Economic Development, Recreation & Senior Program) reported the Senior Christmas Luncheon went great and she thanked Public Works for putting it together and everyone who served. There is nothing going on in Recreation until February. She is making phone calls to the Sunset businesses to see how they are doing and if they had any plans for expansion. She has received four emails from citizens who attend Council meetings and they would like to see on the television what the Council is seeing as they discuss items. Mayor Macfarlane said they could do that. Council Member Peay thanked everyone for attending and the fire fighters for hanging in there.

Mayor Macfarlane received a letter from the 388th Fighter Wing Commander inviting her to be an Honorary 388th Fighter Wing Commander from 2015 to 2017 and she has accepted.

3. **Department reports:** Police Chief Eborn said they conducted interviews and narrowed the candidates down to further pursue. He anticipated being able to tell the Council who he is hiring in a week or two. Earlier he had reported they were going to borrow the Clinton radar trailer to put in front of Sunset Elementary School, but they needed to make some repairs, then the storms came in and Chief Chilson prefers not to have the trailer out in bad weather. They will borrow it when there is going to be a stretch of good weather.

Public Works Director Noyes referred to a conversation he and Mayor Macfarlane had earlier and clarified there is sewer work being done on 1800 North and the work being conducted at 1300 North was some preliminary testing to discern what is under the road for design purposes. The next event coming up in Recreation is the Sunset Sam Winterfest on February 2nd. He asked anyone who had an opinion or idea for the festival to talk with Council Member Peay or Recreation Supervisor Maylin.

Treasurer/Office Manager Youngdell said Administration has been busy with business license renewals coming in. With the Office being closed next Thursday for Christmas, she understands President Obama is allowing the Federal employees to take the Friday after Christmas off and use some of their vacation for it. She also understands Clinton and Clearfield Cities are going to be closed on that Friday. Sunset's Personnel Policies and Procedures considers the day after Thanksgiving to be a non-work day for City employees. It is not a holiday, so the employees have to take a vacation day for it. She asked if the Council

wants to address that day this year and maybe look at it for future years when Christmas falls on a Thursday. After discussion the Council agreed to close the Office the Friday and to discuss options for the future at a later time. Treasurer/Office Manager Youngdell thanked them on behalf of the employees. She explained that when this happened several years ago they stayed open and there were very few customers or calls. On the day after Thanksgiving, some employees have pressing work to do or are saving their vacation for some other time, so they do come in to work, but the Office is just not open to the public.

Fire Captain Tom Caygle said they met with the doctor and he told them the same thing Mayor Macfarlane reported earlier about continuing month to month. Their surplus Suburban and Crown Vic vehicles have been placed on ksl.com for sealed bids and he hopes to have them sold by the next Council meeting. Council Member Peterson asked about the Chief truck being stickered. Captain Caygle replied there are Sunset stickers on the back and sides of the truck. Council Member Hadley had been working with prior Chief Lowman on a standard for decaling, but with things going on as they were he told Chief Lowman to put it on hold. Fire Fighter Kelsey Oyler stated the firefighters have opinions they would like to express and they are getting a lot of hearsay. Many of them work, so they would like it if the Council could give them a couple of weeks notice before holding a meeting to discuss the Fire Department so they could arrange time off work if needed. That way they could have their questions answered. Mayor Macfarlane said they could possibly schedule a meeting with them on a Thursday, as that is the Fire Department training night. Council Member Furniss said he is trying to avoid having to post a notice of a meeting, which is required if there are going to be three or more Council Members there. He wants the meeting to be informal with no press so the firefighters feel they can speak freely. That is why he wants to hold a meeting with just himself and the firefighters and maybe invite one other Council Member. Council Member Hadley asked if they could hold an informal meeting for the public in the Sunset Room with all the Council Members present and have it be an open question, answer, comment type meeting. That way, the public can also voice their concerns. Council Member Furniss said independent of that, he will make himself available to whoever wants to and try to clear the air as to why he voted the way he did and why he makes the decisions he makes. Mayor Macfarlane said she may attend that meeting as well.

Council Member Furniss made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Hadley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Council Members Hadley, Furniss, Peay and Peterson voting yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Approved – January 6, 2015

/s/Beverly K. Macfarlane, Mayor

/s/Susan R. Hale, Recorder