

Minutes of the Bountiful City Council Meeting

City Council Chambers
October 4, 2000 - 7:00 p.m.

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| Present: | Mayor: | John R. Cushing |
| | Council Members: | Samuel R. Fowler, Barbara Holt, Stewart Knowlton, John S. Pitt and J. Gordon Thomas |
| | City Manager: | Tom Hardy |
| | City Attorney: | Russell Mahan |
| | City Engineer: | Paul Rowland |
| | Admin. Services Director: | Galen Rasmussen |
| | Planning/RDA Director: | Blaine Gehring |
| | Recording Secretary: | Nancy T. Lawrence |

Official Notice of this meeting had been given by posting a written notice of same and an Agenda at the City Hall and providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis County Clipper, Deseret News, and Salt Lake Tribune.

Mayor Cushing called the meeting to order, following which Mike Foukas, visiting Boy Scout, led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The invocation was offered by Councilman Knowlton.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held September 27, 2000 were presented and approved as corrected. Councilman Thomas motioned for approval, Councilwoman Holt seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. Councilpersons Fowler, Holt, Knowlton, Pitt, and Thomas voted "Aye".

OPEN HOUSE WITH UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY - PROPOSED 1/4¢ SALES TAX INCREASE

Jeffery Harris, representing Utah Transit Authority (UTA), narrated a presentation which supported a 1/4¢ sales tax increase for the purpose of making transit improvements. He presented population growth statistics and the subsequent increased demand on travel, which he stated would double in the next twenty years. In an effort to meet the increased travel demands, it is the proposal of UTA to create a *balanced* transportation system - bus, commuter rail, and light rail. The proposed expansion of the existing bus system includes changes to night service, increased service on Saturday and new service on Sunday and holidays, shuttle service to the rail systems, and increased coverage and frequency.

It is also proposed that a regional commuter service connect Brigham City to Payson, and that light rail extensions to the airport, Draper, the University hospital, West Jordan, and West Valley be constructed. He explained the methods of research used by UTA to determine their proposed improvements and stated that their commitment is to provide quality, with an efficient, well-managed system and requested support from the Bountiful community for the proposed tax increase.

Councilwoman Holt asked how much sales tax is currently going to UTA and how much more revenue the proposed increase will represent. Mr. Hardy stated that approximately

\$1 million is the current allocation to UTA, and this would double if the increase were approved. Councilwoman Holt also asked where the nearest Park and Ride would be, will the vote of the people be binding, will the one increase of 1/4¢ cover all proposed improvements, or will UTA need additional tax increases in the future. Mr. Harris responded that all of the proposed improvements can be implemented (over a period of time) with this one-time increase; the voters decision will be binding; the exact location of a Park and Ride has not been determined, but it will most likely be in the area of 500 South 800 West.

Discussion followed regarding possible locations for the commuter rail system and Mr. Harris indicated that UTA will be ready to present a long-range plan in 1 ½ - 2 years. The issue will be voted on county-wide (not city-by-city). Jason Christensen, representing *People for Sensible Transportation*, encouraged support of the proposed tax increase. Luke Winter (citizen) asked how long it would be before improvements would be made. Mr. Harris indicated that the night and Saturday, Sunday, holiday increase in services would be implemented within 4-6 months. To add new routes, etc. will take longer because it takes two years to purchase a bus and receive it. Building of the light rail will take 12-24 months. Further information regarding this item can be found at www.rideuta.com. There was no official action.

EXPENDITURES, EXPENSES, AND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **APPROVED FOR PERIOD SEPTEMBER 21 - 27, 2000**

Mayor Cushing presented the report of Expenditures and Expenses Greater than \$1,000 for the period September 21-27, 2000 with disbursements totaling \$428,387.31 and he called for comments. Following a short discussion, Councilman Pitt motioned for approval of the report, as presented. Councilman Knowlton seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. Councilpersons Fowler, Holt, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas all voted "aye".

DISCUSSION RE: BUS BENCH ADVERTISING IN CITY

Mayor Cushing reviewed that a few weeks ago there was a discussion regarding bus benches and the Council took action (*see minutes of September 6, 2000, page 5*). At the request of the business who has provided bus benches in the past, this item has been placed on the Agenda again this evening. Mr. Mahan reviewed that under State and City statute, the Council has authority to regulate or prohibit the use of public right-of-way (where the benches are placed), as they feel is best policy.

Charles Schwab, representing Metro Outdoor Advertising, thanked the Council for this opportunity to come before them and he presented materials which gave a history of his company's dealings with the City since 1986. (He noted that the benches were first placed in Bountiful by another company, beginning in 1976). He emphasized that his company has handled any and all requests or complaints from Bountiful within 24 hours and that bench service by a private company saves local, state, and federal governments costs and expenses of providing these benches. He noted that the upkeep of the benches has been good and the benches are sturdy, well kept, and attractive.

Mr. Schwab requested that the Council reconsider their action and allow a contractual agreement with Metro Outdoor to continue. He suggested that a bus stop coalition could be set up to provide organization, service and accountability. The Mayor thanked Mr. Schwab for

coming before the Council and presenting the facts as seen by Metro Outdoor. Mr. Schwab acknowledged that action has been taken by the Council to not allow bus bench advertising; however, he stated that he felt this decision was made without all facts being presented. Ray Johnson, citizen in attendance, requested that the Council consider the matter in the light of private enterprise vs government providing a service. The Council discussed problems which have occurred regarding bus benches and the combined use of advertising (most of these problems were apparently not with benches placed by Metro Outdoor). Councilman Knowlton reviewed that the action taken by the Council to have the benches removed was based on the fact that this type of advertising is in conflict with others portions of the sign ordinance. The Council did not take any action on this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Knowlton and seconded by Councilman Fowler. Councilpersons Fowler, Holt, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas all voted "aye".

JOHN R. CUSHING, Mayor

KIM J. COLEMAN, City Recorder

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