

Minutes of the Bountiful City Council Meeting

**City Council Chambers
June 21, 2000 - 7:00 p.m.**

Present:	Mayor Pro Tempore:	John S. Pitt
	Council Members	Stewart Knowlton, Samuel R. Fowler and J. Gordon Thomas
	City Manager	Tom Hardy
	City Attorney:	Russell Mahan
	City Engineer:	Paul Rowland
	Administrative Services Dir:	Galen Rasmussen
	Administrative Intern:	Cody Strong
	Department Reps:	Clifford Michaelis, Power George Sumner, Fire
	Recording Secretary	Nancy T. Lawrence
Excused:	Mayor:	John R. Cushing
	Councilwoman:	Barbara Holt

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 Pro-tem Pitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Knowlton led the pledge of allegiance to the flag, following which Councilman Fowler offered the invocation.

MINUTES APPROVED FOR THREE MEETINGS

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting held June 14, 2000 were presented and unanimously approved as written on a motion made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Knowlton. Councilpersons Fowler, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas voted "aye".

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission held April 18, 2000 were presented and unanimously approved on a motion made by Councilman Fowler and seconded by Councilman Knowlton. Councilpersons Fowler, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas voted "aye".

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council and Power Commission held April 25, 2000 were unanimously approved as written on a motion made by Councilman Fowler and seconded by Councilman Thomas. Councilpersons Fowler, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas voted "aye".

EXPENDITURES, EXPENSES, AND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS APPROVED FOR PERIOD JUNE 8-13, 2000

Mayor ProTem Pitt presented the report of Expenditures and Expenses Greater than \$1,000 for the period June 8-13, 2000 in the amount of \$222,698.31. Following discussion by the Council, these expenditures and expenses were unanimously approved on a motion made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Knowlton. Councilpersons Fowler, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas voted “aye”.

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-01 ADOPTED RE: AMBULANCE FEES

Chief Sumner explained that the Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Services, establishes maximum allowable ambulance rates by rule. The new rate schedule for FY 2000-01 allows a 7.25% increase. He recommended that Resolution No. 2000-01 be adopted which allows city administration to react to annual regulatory changes without bringing the issue to City Council each time. He noted that the rate schedule is subjected to a very rigorous, prolonged and public scrutiny and as a regulated monopoly (ambulance service) the “maximum” rate is really the standard prevailing rate throughout the industry.

Councilman Thomas asked if raising rates was necessary and Mr. Hardy explained that the existing ambulance service does not pay for itself, but is subsidized by taxes. The only fees that are addressed in this Resolution are ambulance and mileage. Other charges allowed under the law, such as emergency surcharges, night surcharges, waiting time or non-transport fees, are not charged by Bountiful City. Councilman Knowlton made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2000-01 establishing ambulance fees. Councilman Fowler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. Councilpersons Fowler, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas voted “aye”.

REVIEW OF COST-OF-LIVING SURVEY - TAXES, UTILITY RATES, AND CHARGES

Cody Strong, Administrative Intern, reviewed a study which he has completed regarding how much Bountiful City residents pay for selected taxes and utilities in contrast to other Utah cities. The report included Clearfield, Layton, Logan, Murray, Ogden, Orem, Provo, Salt lake City, Sandy, West Jordan, West Valley, Centerville, Farmington, North Salt Lake, West Bountiful and Woods Cross. It focused on two taxes (property tax and franchise tax), and four utilities (water, sewer, electricity and garbage).

Highlights of the study revealed that Bountiful residents pay less overall on their taxes and utilities than residents of any other city listed. Only Woods Cross, Logan and West Bountiful had lower property taxes than Bountiful, and when contrasted to cities that have similar populations, Bountiful’s property tax is the lowest in the State. Bountiful ranked in the top five for lowest cost in all categories: 4th in property tax, 5th in franchise tax, 4th in water fees, 1st in sewer and electricity fees, and 2nd in garbage.

Mayor ProTem Pitt thanked Mr. Strong for his fine presentation and suggested that it be made available to the public via the Web. Mr. Hardy stated that it will also be included in the next City newsletter. The Mayor ProTem then congratulated Mr. Hardy and the City staff for keeping the City on “target”.

PUBLIC HEARING TO RE-OPEN THE 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mr. Rasmussen explained that each year public entities have a final opportunity to review their operating and capital budgets and to reopen those budgets for revision, if needed. The departments have reviewed their budgets and it has been determined that some budgets will be over-spent due to circumstances that occurred during the fiscal year and were not anticipated. He referenced Ordinance No. 2000-09, entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGETS OF THE CITY OF BOUNTIFUL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1999 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2000, and recommended that it be adopted. This ordinance provides a detail of the general and capital projects funds and enterprise funds and changes necessary for both revenues and expenses. At 7:22 p.m. Mayor ProTem Pitt asked if there were any persons in attendance to speak to this issue. There were none and the hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2000-09 ADOPTED

Councilman Thomas made a motion to adopt ordinance No. 2000-09, as presented. Councilman Fowler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. Councilpersons Fowler, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas voted “aye”.

DISCUSSION RE: PLACEMENT OF UTA SIGNS THROUGHOUT THE CITY - EARL THOMAS

Earl Thomas, resident of Bountiful, approached the Council with a concern regarding Curb Site Blight which exists in the park strip area. He reviewed the City services which operate in this narrow band of land (various utilities, Utah Department of Transportation, UTA, streets and public safety, and cable TV) and cited specific examples of encroachment and blight of signs, particularly on 400 East Street, Main Street, and several specific other addresses. He focused particularly on UTA which has “overstepped its authority or gentlemen’s agreement to try to work with the City and its citizens to control blight and other encroachments”. He gave examples of signs that are ill-placed, and newly placed signs where the benches and sign bands on existing poles have not been removed, etc. He requested that the Council consider setting up a Committee to serve as a controlling body to address this problem and offered to serve on this committee.

Mr. Rowland addressed several specific concerns cited by Mr. Thomas, noting that the right-of-way along State roadways is controlled by the State, not the City. He thanked him for drawing attention to signs that have become illegible and explained that the City has not taken a pro-active role in regulating the location of bus signs. Pete Baumgard, representing UTA, explained that they are in the middle of completing a mandate by the Federal government to change their signs to ones which will function with a Global Positioning System. Due to an August 1st deadline to complete this changeover, UTA may have overlooked better planning practices and not handled some situations with sensitivity. He said they will gladly work with the City and/or individuals where problems have been identified.

Mr. Thomas requested that UTA respond with courtesy and cooperation in working to resolve citizen concerns. He explained a personal situation where the bus stop was moved from 1000 North Main to 965 North Main and is located in front of rental property which he owns. He said that there has been considerable property damage done by high school students who gather at that location to catch the UTA bus (shrubs damaged, flowers destroyed, and use of the apartment foyer as a shelter while waiting for the bus). Mr. Hardy explained that the State will install a traffic signal at the 1000 north main Street intersection in the near future, and perhaps the bus stop can be moved back to the 1000 North corner at that time.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Thomas reported that the Service Council met Saturday morning. Organization of the Neighborhood Watch program is almost complete. He asked if the size of the Council could be increased to 12 or 14 members. Mr. Mahan affirmed that it could, if that were the choice of the group. This idea will be researched further.

Councilman Fowler reported that he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on behalf of the City for the opening of I-15 in the Bountiful area. He said that the freeway system seems to be carrying the traffic well.

Councilman Fowler also reported that he attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon this week where Mr. Hardy represented the City in giving his presentation. He thanked Mr. Hardy for the manner in which he represented the City and applauded him in that regard.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on a motion made by Councilman Fowler and seconded by Councilman Knowlton. Councilpersons Fowler, Knowlton, Pitt and Thomas voted "aye".

JOHN S. PITT, Mayor Pro Tempore

KIM J. COLEMAN, City Recorder

* * * * *