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# City of Washington Terrace

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Minutes of a Regular City Council meeting  
Held on January 16, 2018  
City Hall, 5249 South 400 East, Washington Terrace City,  
County of Weber, State of Utah

10 **1. WORK SESSION: FIRE AND AMBULANCE STRATEGY PLANNING 5:00 P.M.**

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12 **MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT AT WORK SESSION**

13 Mayor Mark C. Allen  
14 Council Member Scott Monsen joined via electronic means  
15 Council Member Blair Brown  
16 Council Member Larry Weir  
17 Council Member Scott Barker  
18 Council Member Jeff West  
19 City Manager Tom Hanson  
20 City Recorder Amy Rodriguez  
21 Public Works Director Steve Harris  
22 Chief Kasey Bush  
23 Finance Director Shari' Garrett  
24 Lt. Jeff Pledger

25  
26 **Others Present**

27 None

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29 Hanson stated that there are challenges with the Fire operations. He stated that he would like input on  
30 where the City needs to go from here.  
31 Chief Bush outlined some of the challenges with Fire operations.  
32 He stated that the call numbers are increasing each year averaging over 19 calls per week in 2016, (3 calls  
33 per day). Hanson stated that some of the trends are medical components, as well as more people calling  
34 911 for emergencies. Bush stated that South Ogden is averaging 5.8 calls per day, in comparison to 2.8  
35 per day for Washington Terrace. He noted that per capita comparisons put the City on par with South  
36 Ogden City and Riverdale City. Bush stated that the nursing homes in the City equate to around 40  
37 percent of our calls.  
38 Bush then spoke on pay comparisons with neighboring cities, noting that South Weber and Plain City are  
39 transitioning to part time with 12.00 an hour. He stated that Riverdale and South Ogden average \$14-\$18  
40 an hour. He stated that Washington Terrace pays \$4.00 an hour. Bush stated that recruitment is very low.  
41 Bush stated that money is a key element for retention, stating that we lose volunteers each year as they  
42 transition out.  
43 Bush stated that the options for sustainability are:  
44 1. Leave it as it is  
45 2. Invest in ambulance service to help offset costs.  
46 3. SAFER grant application  
47 4. Fire District Consolidation

48 5. Lease space to Ogden

49  
50 Hanson stated that Riverdale and South Ogden are researching a Consolidated Fire District, with  
51 Washington Terrace joining as an option. Hanson stated that the biggest challenge is that we are running  
52 a full time department with a volunteer force. He stated that the numbers support a full time department.  
53 He stated that many of the firefighters do not live in the City. He stated that Public Safety is one of the  
54 core functions of the City.

55 Council Member Brown stated that it is unfortunate that we cannot work together with South Ogden and  
56 economize. Hanson stated that even if we consolidated with the other cities, we need to be able to operate  
57 on a volunteer basis. Hanson stated that we need to change things on recruitment and retention.

58 Bush stated that there are manpower and staffing challenges. He stated that he is looking at investing in  
59 an ambulance. Bush stated that without the addition of an ambulance, tax rates would increase by 57%  
60 per year (\$97 per year) to generate the funds needed to support a part time department. He stated that  
61 with the addition of an ambulance service, taxes would increase by 24% (\$24 per year).

62 Hanson stated that the ambulance is picking up a portion of the cost of having people on shift. Bush  
63 stated that nursing home calls came in at 986 in 2016. He stated that the collection rate that was run  
64 during the study is at 42 percent for ambulance calls. He stated that \$318,000 would have been brought in  
65 this year, with operating expenses at \$397,805. The total impact would net (\$141,372). This is assuming  
66 that the transport growth is 3 percent. He stated that we could break even by 2030. Bush stated that the  
67 billing would have to be contracted out. Bush stated that the liability is the same for an ambulance as it is  
68 for a transport now. Hanson stated that there is an increase risk and exposure to the City. Bush stated that  
69 our department now are all trained to be on an ambulance. Hanson stated that they are trained, but the  
70 service is non-billable. He stated that Ogden Ambulance service shows up and they receive the revenue  
71 even if Washington Terrace did the initial work on the patient.

72 Bush stated that if the growth is assumed at 6.5 growth, the City would break even by 2023. Bush stated  
73 the equipment would depreciate per year and it is built into the capital costs. He stated that the ambulance  
74 would probably need to be replaced every five years.

75 Council Member Brown asked what qualifies Zion's Bank to provide insight to us on this subject. Bush  
76 stated that they have staff who have set up several Fire District Consolidations and have run the numbers  
77 for them. Hanson stated that the consultants who specialize in Fire Services charge around \$50,000.

78 Hanson stated that Zion's Bank may not be good strategists, however, their strength lies in gathering data  
79 and working with the numbers.

80 Bush stated that Clinton City is the closest comparison to our city in regards to calls and area. He stated  
81 that they have a full time department and still come up around \$30,000 short each year.

82 Hanson stated that if we join a district, the city will have to pay the margin to provide public services to  
83 the City (either fee based or tax based).

84  
85 Hanson stated that there are two questions he asks of Council:  
86 How does want Council want us to manage fire moving forward?  
87 How do they want us to pay for it?

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89 Council Member Brown asked if there is a way for us to recoup some of the money from the nursing  
90 homes. Hanson stated that the business license is hefty for the nursing homes, however, those funds are  
91 put into the general fund.

92  
93 Bush stated that an ambulance would create a higher level of service. He stated that having our own  
94 ambulance would provide a quicker transport for critically ill patients. Hanson stated that he realizes that

95 it would be a huge impact on the City and residents. Hanson stated that once we go full time, there is no  
96 turning back to a volunteer department.  
97 Mayor Allen stated that he does not want to run a department on grants. He stated that we need to be  
98 cautious as to whom we consolidate as their tastes may run higher. Bush stated that we would control our  
99 own ambulance license in the City, as opposed to Ogden controlling it now. Bush stated that if Ogden  
100 City fights us on the license, we would have to pay mediation and it would take a little longer. Bush  
101 stated that the license fee is around \$600. Hanson stated that if we have the license, we would have to use  
102 it in some way. Bush stated that we would have to try our own service.

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106 **MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

107 Mayor Mark C. Allen  
108 Council Member Scott Monsen joined via electronic means  
109 Council Member Blair Brown  
110 Council Member Larry Weir  
111 Council Member Scott Barker  
112 Council Member Jeff West  
113 City Manager Tom Hanson  
114 City Recorder Amy Rodriguez  
115 Public Works Director Steve Harris  
116 Fire Chief Kasey Bush  
117 Captain Clay Peterson  
118 Lt. Jeff Pledger

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120 **Others Present**

121 Charles and Reba Allen, Kathy Mckay, Aubrey Allen, Ryker Allen, Josh Taylor, Stacey Nixon

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124 **2. ROLL CALL 6:00 P.M.**

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126 **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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128 **4. WELCOME**

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130 **5. CONSENT ITEMS**

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132 **5.1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

133 **5.2 APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2, 2018, MEETING MINUTES**

134 Items 5.1 and 5.2 were approved by general consent.

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136 **6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

137 Aubrey Allen- 149 E 5200 S- read a statement on behalf her husband Jason concerning competitive  
138 baseball teams in the Terrace. She stated that they developed a program with other residents called the  
139 Junior Lakers Baseball Club and with the help and endorsement of the high school coach, now manage 6  
140 teams. She stated that the parents, coaches, and players volunteered their time to clean up the playing  
141 fields to provide a professional experience for the players. She stated that there is a third field that is

142 rarely used and asked Council to allow them to modify the field by removing the grass and spreading dirt  
143 for a level playing field. She stated that the City may need to provide some additional dirt to spread  
144 around. She closed by saying that the club believes that the small investment will make a big impact in  
145 the lives of young men and women who would be using the field.

146

147 Resident Kathy Mckay- 109 W 5150 S - stated that she is tired of residents parking on the grass and  
148 lawns. She stated that she does not understand why the city allows them to park on the dirt. She stated  
149 that the water and the dirt goes down the street before it goes to the storm drain. She stated that she and  
150 her neighbor must catch the dirt left by the cars dragging dirt down the road when they pull out of their  
151 yards.

152

153 Ryker Allen- 149 E 5200 S- stated that Rohmer Park is like a home to him as he has played many games  
154 there. He stated that Rohmer Park, and baseball, bring his family and friends together. He stated that he  
155 loves baseball as it has taught him to work in a team and helps him to learn and grow. He stated that he  
156 would like the junior league baseball teams to continue.

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158 Riverdale Resident Josh Taylor stated that he would like the Rohmer Park field to be modified. His hope  
159 is that they can continue to have practices and games at Rohmer Park. He asks that the Council Members  
160 walk the baselines and realize that they currently are not safe. He stated that it would be a benefit for the  
161 City to have the field modified.

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163 **7. COUNCIL/STAFF RESPONSE AND CONSIDERATION TO CITIZEN**  
164 **COMMENTS**

165 Hanson stated that the ordinance allows for people to park on their yard during the winter months  
166 because we require that they have the cars off of the street. He stated that there are certain consequences  
167 with this allowance. He stated that he realizes that this practice can cause damage, however, we are at a  
168 catch 22 because we require that they have the vehicles off of the street. He stated that he realizes that not  
169 everyone can afford to put in concrete or pavement. The Mayor stated that she is downhill from the  
170 people parking on their yards and the mess left by the grass is affecting her property. The Mayor stated  
171 that the Code Enforcement Officer is also frustrated with the enforcement of the ordinance. Mayor Allen  
172 stated that the residents are required to restore the landscape after the winter parking is over.

173

174 Hanson stated that the Allen family has done an amazing job with Rohmer Park and appreciates their  
175 work with the park. Hanson stated that the city would have to determine the level of need to have a  
176 “skinned” infield. He stated that he believes that they would do a great job of working on the field and  
177 maintain the field, however, the city would have to determine and balance the needs of the program with  
178 capacity to modify the fields with ongoing maintenance.

179 Hanson stated that the league is separate from the City programs. Hanson stated that our Recreation  
180 Department would be in charge of scheduling the field. Hanson stated that the league rents the facilities  
181 per year. Hanson stated that City programs would have priority for the field schedule.

182 Hanson stated that there would have to be conversations with Council as what the impacts are for the  
183 city, the needs for the fields, and how they would be run. Hanson stated that the topic will be brought  
184 back to Council in a future meeting. Council Member Brown stated that he thinks this is a great  
185 investment and would like to support the league and directed Hanson to look at the numbers.

186 Mayor Allen stated that the Lion’s Club may have some funds from their concession stands to help  
187 improve the park for the youth in the City.

188 Aubrey Allen stated that she appreciates the new scoreboards at the parks.

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**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 DISCUSSION/ACTION: APPLICATION FOR AMBULANCE LICENSE**

The discussion was a continuation of the work session concerning ambulance licensing. Hanson recapped the discussion by saying that the volunteer department runs as a full time department. The Mayor stated that some of the options offered were not realistic. He stated that a department cannot be run solely on grants. Hanson stated that grants are an opportunity to set the foundation to move forward and soften the landing. Mayor Allen asked what we do with the license once we have it. Bush stated that we would need to try to run an ambulance service, and if we cannot, we can then contract out. He stated that the bureau does not want us to hold the license. He stated that he has not heard back from the Bureau representative. Hanson stated that there is an advantage to having a license whether we go to a Consolidation District or not. He stated that he is hesitant to get the license if we cannot use it as a leverage tool. He stated that he doesn't want to be committed to having a license and setting up a service right now. Hanson stated that he was under the impression that we could use the license as a lever.

Chief Bush stated that we would get a license from Ogden. It may take longer if Ogden challenges the license application and we would have to go through mitigation. Council Member Brown asked if there is another step so we can determine risk verses reward.

Hanson stated that running an ambulance would bring in revenues that help support the operations of the service. Hanson stated that we are looking at a part time department to have the personnel onsite to run the ambulance.

Council Member Brown stated that he is against any more rate hikes. Hanson stated that the only option to pay for the ambulance would be a tax increase. He stated that to change the way we run the Fire operations, there would have to be a substantial property tax increase.

Mayor Allen stated that the ambulance may bring in more staff and also a little bit of revenue. Bush stated that the taxes will be raised whether we consolidate or get an ambulance. Hanson stated that we know we will have a problem down the road and the concern is that the department will not be sustainable with a volunteer department. Hanson stated that we do not have new growth to help fund this.

Mayor Allen requested the Ambulance Study be sent to Council for review.

Bush stated that the bureau would like to see the ambulance service set up within 6 months of receiving the license. He stated that the license can take as little as 6 months and up to a year.

Hanson stated that a new ambulance is qualified for CDBG grants.

Hanson stated that he wants Council to understand that this change comes with a big price tag. He stated that he wants to make sure that the City can maintain the service. Bush stated that our ISO rating is as good as Riverdale's and South Ogden.

Council Member Brown asked if raising pay is an option. Bush stated that he does not know how sustainable it would be as a volunteer. He stated that we spend a lot to train the firefighters and they leave to join part time or full time departments.

Hanson stated that he believes the consolidation study and discussions would be within 8 weeks.

Hanson stated that we will have to have an ambulance license and run an ambulance service if we consolidate into a district. Hanson stated that we would have to change our operations to meet their budgets.

Bush stated that if we get a license and we consolidate, we would then turn the license over to the district.

234 Hanson stated that he is not comfortable applying for a license until we are strategically set up to  
235 change the way we do business. Hanson stated that if Council decides to change the way we  
236 operate we will need to have more education on the topic.

237 Council Member Monsen stated that the ambulance is only a part of the overall strategy and we  
238 do not have enough information on what direction we would like to take. He stated we need the  
239 numbers on the other options before we do anything.

240 Council Member Brown stated he would vote no tonight until he sees all the information.

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242 **Motion by Council Member Barker**  
243 **Seconded by Council Member Weir**  
244 **To actively pursue obtaining ambulance license**  
245 **Amended Motion to pursue the ambulance license**  
246 **Until Council directs staff to make application**  
247 **Approved unanimously (5-0)**  
248 **Roll Call Vote requested and taken**  
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### 250 **8.2 PRESENTATION: QUARTERLY SHERIFF OFFICE REPORT**

251 Lt. Pledger presented to Council, highlighting the December 2017 report. He stated that we continue to  
252 see quality of life issues (domestic violence, public peace, suspicion calls). He stated that the officers  
253 have been very active with citations. Lt. Pledger noted that he is looking for the traffic trailer so that it  
254 can be used in the City. Harris stated that it might be stored in one of our facilities. Lt. Pledger noted that  
255 the traffic citations did seem low. Lt. Pledger stated that there are active gang members in the school,  
256 however he noted that there are school resource officers in both of the schools to mitigate the problems.  
257 He stated that he will speak to the gang unit to determine the level of gang members in the area.

258 Lt. Pledger stated that there have been concerns of packages being stolen from porches and reminds  
259 people to keep a look out for that. He stated that most of the burglaries are due to items being left  
260 unsecured. Lt. Pledger stated that the force has been enforcing tobacco sales and enforcement with the  
261 establishments in the City and are looking to start a similar program with alcohol. Lt. Pledger stated that  
262 a lock down drill was performed this quarter at the schools.

263 Lt. Pledger encouraged Council to go on a ride-a-long with an officer.

264 Lt. Pledger stated that there is a citizen police course that elected officials and residents can see what  
265 happens with the Department.

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### 268 **8.3 PRESENTATION: QUARTERLY ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT**

269 Stacey Nixon, from South Ogden Animal Control, stated that there were two animal attacks and 33 stray  
270 animal pick-ups within the last quarter. She stated that 13 citations were issued. She stated that once the  
271 weather warms up, the calls will increase. Mayor Allen stated that he sees the animal control trucks  
272 throughout the park.

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## 274 **9. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF**

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276 Council Member West asked if there are any off leash dog parks in the City. Hanson stated that there  
277 were not any in the City.

278 Mayor Allen stated that there is a problem at 5100 South and 300 West with the school light.

279 He stated that the barber shop at 4400 South and 300 West has vehicles for sale in the parking lot. Mayor  
280 Allen invited Council to attend the Wasatch Choice Vision Workshops.

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**10. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

- There will be an Open Meetings and Non-Discrimination Training to be held on January 30, 2018 at Marriott-Slaterville City Hall at 6:30 p.m. Council and Planning Commissioners to attend.
- Hanson reminded Council to respond to the Planning Commission Dinner. He noted that the event will be paid for with sky miles and not cash.
- Hanson stated that he is working with Rocky Mountain Power to change out our lights in City Hall to save on electricity. He stated that he is looking into opportunities to fund LED lights at the new public works shops. Hanson stated that Rocky Mountain Power will pay 70 percent of the cost for switching out the lighting.

**11. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- January 25<sup>th</sup>: Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Feb 6<sup>th</sup>: City Council Work Session 5:00 p.m.
- Feb 6<sup>th</sup>: City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup>: City offices closed for President’s day
- Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: City Council Work Session 5:00 p.m.
- Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**12. ADJOURN THE MEETING: MAYOR ALLEN**

Mayor Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

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**Date Approved**

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**City Recorder**