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8 **City of Washington Terrace**

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Minutes of a Regular City Council meeting
Held on August 6, 2019
City Hall, 5249 South 400 East, Washington Terrace City,
County of Weber, State of Utah

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

- 9 Mayor Mark C. Allen
10 Council Member Scott Monsen –Excused
11 Council Member Blair Brown
12 Council Member Larry Weir
13 Council Member Scott Barker
14 Council Member Jeff West - Excused
15 Finance Director Shari’ Garrett
16 Interim Fire Chief Clay Peterson
17 Public Works Director Steve Harris
18 Public Works Operations Manager Denzil Remington
19 City Recorder Amy Rodriguez
20 Weber County Sheriff Lt. Jeff Pledger
21 Interim Fire Chief Clay Peterson
22 City Manager Tom Hanson

- 26 **1. WORK SESSION: 5:00 P.M.**
27 Topics to include, but are not limited to: Public Safety issues regarding law enforcement,
28 Terrace Days, Code Enforcement, Fire operations, Public Works operations, and the VIP
29 Program

31 Remington explained a situation that occurred at Terrace Days concerning a crowd of young people who
32 surrounded him while he was taking down equipment. Hanson stated that there were several people that
33 were in an argument that ended with them being escorted out in handcuffs. Hanson spoke of another
34 incident where a teenager was underage drinking and urinating out in the open. Pledger stated that there
35 was a fight that started at the event, and ended up with someone being stabbed later on in the night.
36 Pledger stated that there were several incidents that he was aware that occurred during the event.

38 Lt. Pledger stated that there are many things at play. He stated that citizens are brazenly trying to incite
39 havoc directed at law enforcement and others. He stated that he was told that there were at least 35 fights
40 at Roy City Days this year. He stated that citizens there were also trying to incite a reaction from law
41 enforcement at that event. He stated that officers were being charged at the event and causing chaos. He
42 stated that the crowds were out of control and extra enforcement was called in to help. He stated that the
43 county has been asking for suggestions on how to handle these situations. Pledger stated that there are
44 issues. He stated that the events on public property are problematic because you cannot search bags or
45 restrict people from attending. He stated that there are several alternatives to working through these
46 issues. He stated that controlled access points could be established, but that is hard. He stated that it
47 would be an extra cost because of the controlled access points.

48 Lt. Pledger stated that Washington Terrace is 21 percent below incidents per resident compared to other

49 cities in the county. He stated that there should be a balance on how rare these type of events are versus
50 the type of event the Council would want to run. He stated that if you come in too heavy in the beginning,
51 you can incite these type of incidents.

52

53 Council Member Brown stated that historically we do not have an issue with our event. He stated that he
54 doesn't feel that we need to change anything unless the Lt. feels there is a concern. Council Member
55 Brown asked if the canine unit would be a deterrent. Lt. Pledger stated that he agrees that the dogs can be
56 a calming effect.

57

58 Mayor Allen stated that many of the young teenagers that come to the event are from South Ogden, and
59 are not all from Washington Terrace. Chief Peterson stated that he thinks the size of our event is perfect
60 for our community, but he stated that he feels it is just a matter of time before something happens here
61 and we should be prepared.

62

63 Lt. Pledger stated that he does not recommending cancelling the event. He stated that it has been isolated
64 events. He stated that the kids are always the biggest problem. He stated that there are things that we can
65 do, including bringing in extra bodies and SRO's who know the kids.

66

67 Remington stated that he believes it was a one-time thing and sees no reason to cancel the event. Council
68 Member Brown stated that the citizens deserve a small event. He stated that he doesn't think there is a
69 need to cancel the event, just to realize things happen and we would have to deal with it. Lt. Pledger
70 stated that there are several options, one including extra cameras.

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72 Mayor Allen stated that he did not see any of the fights, however, he was told from several staff and law
73 enforcement and he became concerned.

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MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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97 Mayor Mark C. Allen
98 Council Member Scott Monsen- arrived at 7:00 p.m.
99 Council Member Blair Brown
100 Council Member Larry Weir
101 Council Member Scott Barker
102 Council Member Jeff West- Excused
103 Finance Director Shari' Garrett
104 Public Works Director Steve Harris
105 Public Works Operations Manager Denzil Remington
106 City Recorder Amy Rodriguez
107 City Manager Tom Hanson

108
109 **Others Present**

110 Charles and Reba Allen, Amy Miller, Wally Reynolds, Bob Waltraumont, Gloria Perez-Jensen, Jake
111 Schneiter, Ruth Balmer, Mary Yacchum, Ulis Gardiner, Jimmie Allen, Mr & Mrs Max Koch, Sawna
112 Morris, Craig Morris, Dan Miller, Casey Sanders, Shawn McCrary, Calvin McCrary

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114

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

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117 **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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119 **4. WELCOME**

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121 **5. CONSENT ITEMS**

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123 **5.1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

124 **5.2 APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2019, MEETING MINUTES**

125 Items 5.1 and 5.2 approved by general consent.

126

127 **6. SPECIAL ORDER**

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129 **6.1 PUBLIC HEARING: TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE**
130 **PROPOSED TAX INCREASE**

131 Mayor Allen noted that the proposed tax increase would increase property tax budgeted revenue by
132 \$260,000 or 42.75% to improve Fire and EMS operations and sustainability.

133 The tax on a \$236,000 *residence* would increase from \$179.90 to \$256.87 or \$76.97 per year.

134 The tax on a \$236,000 *business* would increase from \$327.10 to \$467.04 or \$139.94 per year.

135 Mayor Allen stated that no decision will take place on the proposed tax increase, stating that a decision
136 will be made at the next Council meeting to be held on August 20, 2019.

137

138 City Manager Tom Hanson presented a slide show on the proposed tax increase to improve Fire
139 Operations.

140 Hanson stated that the City has considered other options besides a tax increase.

141 He stated that the Fire Department receives over a thousand calls a year. He stated that we have been
142 struggling over the last several years to recruit and retain firefighters. Hanson stated that most of our
143 firefighters have full time jobs at other cities. He stated that we are undermanned right now and are
144 struggling to fulfil our shifts. Hanson stated that the current stipend is \$120.00 for a 12 hour day shift.

145 Hanson stated that medical calls have now become 99 percent of everything the department does, while
146 dealing with fire issues. Hanson stated that a high percentage of the calls are for nursing homes. Fire
147 Chief Peterson stated that 36 percent of the medical calls are from nursing homes. Hanson stated that the
148 business license fees have a disproportionate rate for calls for service. Mayor Allen stated that he signed a
149 business license last week for a nursing home over \$8000. He stated that they may not be paying enough
150 to cover the calls for service, but they do pay a higher rate.

151
152 Hanson stated that staff and Council has looked at joining a Fire District, however, we realized that the
153 cost would be a higher premium. Hanson stated that the District buy new vehicles and the city may not be
154 able to afford a premium to join a district. Hanson stated that we are a volunteer fire department. Hanson
155 stated that once we make a change to full time/part time employee, we cannot go back to a volunteer
156 department.

157 Hanson stated that another option considered was joining a fire district with Riverdale and South Ogden.
158 Hanson stated that we went through a full study analysis of the cost and feasibility of joining together. He
159 stated that Riverdale is at 1.2 million a year to run, South Ogden is at 2.2 million. He stated that we are
160 budgeted at around \$265,000 a year. Hanson stated that we need to stay put and evaluate how we can best
161 serve the residents of Washington Terrace. He stated that we need to give it every effort to fix what we
162 have. Hanson stated that the Truth in Taxation hearing is to talk about how we pay for that.

163 Hanson stated that Ogden City performs our ambulance service through a contract where they pay to us
164 to lease our fire station to cover our calls for service. The money collected is put back into fire services.

165 Hanson stated that the door is open to join with South Ogden or Riverdale in the future if we cannot fix
166 our “own house”.

167
168 Hanson stated that we have a limited amount of firefighters that can cover all the shifts. He stated that we
169 would like to raise the current night shift of \$72 to \$155 and day shift of \$120.00 to \$178.00.

170 Hanson stated that we are trying to minimize the cost by staying a volunteer department. Hanson stated
171 that we would like to change our crews from a two person crew to a three person crew. He stated that if
172 we have a three person crew, the third would be able to step in when one becomes fatigued. Hanson
173 stated that our Fire Operations are the first responders on calls. If transportation is needed to a hospital,
174 Ogden City is called out at that time.

175 Chief Peterson stated that different types of calls are coded differently. Peterson stated that different calls
176 require first responders, ambulance calls, Weber County, and possibly a paramedic from Ogden Fire.
177 Hanson stated that we do have younger firefighters on shifts, however, we have many fully trained
178 firefighters who are certified with other departments.

179
180 Hanson stated that we do not bill people if we go to their house on a fire call. Nor do we charge for
181 medical calls. He stated that if they need a transport, the ambulance service will bill the insurance
182 company of the patient.

183
184 Hanson stated that if go to 3 person crews, we become fully functional and will be part of the automatic
185 aid according to national standards. Hanson stated that if we go to automatic aid we will have the
186 surrounding fire departments coming to our aid during a fire event. If it is assessed that we do not need
187 the aid, we can call them off. He stated that if we need help now, we have to ask.

188
189 Council Member Brown stated that our old truck was antiquated and we received a great deal on the
190 ladder truck for \$250,000, whereas Riverdale pays over a million dollars for their trucks. Peterson stated
191 that two people can drive the truck, however, three is needed on the hose line.

192

193 Hanson stated that we compared wages with benchmark cities so that we can stay competitive. Hanson
194 stated that we are trying to refine our processes. Hanson stated that this is something that will have to be
195 maintained year after year. Peterson stated that we get new firefighters and receive their training and
196 move on to full time jobs.

197 Hanson stated that the new hires work through certifications and testing processes before they are hired.
198 Hanson stated that General Fund expenses are regulated. We are mandated to use General Fund expenses
199 on Fire and Law Enforcement. Hanson stated that Parks and Recreation also go into General Funds.
200 Hanson stated that there is not a lot of money going into the General Fund because we are not a growth
201 city. Hanson stated that the state tax commission came to meet with Council and stated that we have been
202 kicking the can down the road. He stated that water, sewer, storm and garbage have to pay for themselves
203 through fees.

204 Hanson stated that we are asking for \$256,000 and increase to start, and moving forward it will cost
205 around \$16,000 for annual maintenance. Hanson stated that we are trying to improve fire services at the
206 most economical cost before we have to move to another option, such as the fire district, which will cost
207 considerably a lot more.

208
209 Hanson showed a fiscal impact comparison on taxes.

210 Hanson stated that we are building a community. It was suggested that Terrace Days or the Recreation
211 Program could be cut. Hanson stated that he would be hard pressed in getting the rest of the community
212 to agree to cut these programs. He stated that we do things as a community to build a community that we
213 can value.

214
215 A resident stated that you need to have support from the community to keep the Fire Department. He
216 stated that insurance rates will be raised much more if we do not have a fire department in the city.

217 Hanson stated that he would be happy to sit down with anyone to go over budget numbers.

218
219 Mayor Allen asked the Finance Director to explain how the tax rate works.

220 Garrett stated that the City collects the same amount of property taxes as the year before, plus new
221 growth. She stated that tax rates go up and down with valuation of properties in the city.

222 Mayor Allen stated that his Washington Terrace portion on property tax has only increase \$31 dollars
223 since 2000. He stated that we can only collect more taxes through Truth and Taxation.

224 Mayor Allen stated that everything that is passed by Council also effects Council's personal budgets.
225 Mayor Allen stated that Council understands that this is a need of the City for safety reasons. He stated
226 that this issue has been talked about for years and refined as much as possible.

227
228 **Mayor Allen opened the public hearing at 7:44 p.m.**

229
230 Resident Calvin McCreary- 4745 S 100 E- stated that he appreciates what Council is trying to do, but he
231 believes that this is going to be an ongoing problem. He suggested that we start looking forward to
232 different ways to handle this by merging with neighboring cities. He stated that we don't have the luxury
233 of staying Washington Terrace and need to think about practicalities. He stated that he believes it would
234 be beneficial for all three cities to join forces.

235
236 Resident Bob Warlaumont- 5537 S 350 E- stated that he supports the need for fire services. He stated that
237 what we need is commercial businesses and wants to know why the city is not promoting businesses. He
238 stated that the neighboring cities may not even want to merge because we do not have the income of the
239 residents that they would want.

240

241 Resident Robin Christensen- 173 W 5350 S- stated that people are upset about increasing taxes and
242 wanted to know why we don't address the future increases now instead of getting hammered every year
243 with taxes. She stated that we should address long term and not short term. She stated that if we are
244 already increasing taxes, why not join with Riverdale and South Ogden now.

245
246 Resident Wally Reynolds- 5200 S 300 E- stated that he understands the need for the Fire Department. He
247 stated that taxes continue to grow. He asked if we really go out and try to get businesses into the city that
248 could provide additional tax base. He wanted to know what we are doing to acquire businesses that have
249 continual tax base. Mr. Reynolds stated that he would like to give kudos to the public works department
250 for rescuing some ducks that were trapped in the storm drain. He stated that he appreciates what the City
251 Council does for the City. He stated that he enjoys the City but feels there are ways to improve our tax
252 base.

253
254 Resident Ullis Gardiner- 4608 S 450 W- asked if all the money being collected is going to the Fire
255 Department. He asked how do we trust where the money is going and what it will be used for.

256
257 **Mayor Allen closed the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.**

258
259 Mayor Allen stated that residents will have to trust Council and if they pass the tax raise for Fire reasons,
260 that is where the money will be spent. He stated that they are your neighbors and part of the community
261 and have been upfront and honest with residents. Hanson stated that if anyone wants to verify where the
262 tax money is going or has gone, they are welcomed to sit down with him. He noted that we are audited
263 every year. Mayor Allen stated that developments do bring good money into the city through property
264 tax. He stated that those funds are continuous. He stated that he hopes the promised properties will be
265 developed and built. He stated that the city encourages the owners to build their properties.

266 Mayor Allen stated that just because we do not have a building on a property does not mean we are not
267 collecting revenue on it. Mayor Allen stated that he spoke to the owner and developer of Costco to
268 develop in the City and was told it was location, location, location. He stated that it is very hard to get
269 large businesses into the city.

270
271 Council Member Brown stated that everyone on the Council will fight for the City and testifies that no
272 one has done more for this city than Mayor Allen and his family He stated that he puts in so much time
273 and effort into the city. He stated that we have a smart city manager who should be appreciated, as well
274 as the Mayor. Council Member Brown stated that Council is a bunch of "tightwads" and are working
275 very hard for the city. He stated that he agrees that pressure should be put on some of the property owners
276 to develop their property.

277
278 Hanson stated that a merger with Riverdale or South Ogden would have to start with the Mayors of the
279 Cities to see if it would be possible. We would have to work with Utah League of Cities and Towns to
280 work through the process.

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282 **7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
283 There were no citizen comments.

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286 **8. COUNCIL/STAFF RESPONSE AND CONSIDERATION TO CITIZEN**
287 **COMMENTS**

288 Due to lack of citizen comments in item 7, item 8 is unnecessary.

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9. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF

Mayor Allen stated that he appreciates the residents for coming out tonight. He stated that the final budget will be voted on at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Allen stated that our Public Works Director Steve Harris is retiring next week. He stated that we are sad to see him go, but we wish him luck. He stated that he has done a lot for the city and Steve has done a great job in leading the Public Works Department in the 13 plus years he has been in the city.

Mayor Allen stated that Steve has played a big part in grants. Mayor Allen stated that he appreciates Steve Harris.

Hanson read the newsletter article that spoke of Steve Harris and his retirement.

10. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

There were no administration reports.

11. UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20th: City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

August 29th: Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 p.m. (tentative)

September 2nd: City Offices closed for Labor Day

September 3rd: City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

September 11-13th: ULCT Conference in Salt Lake City

September 17th: City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURN THE MEETING: MAYOR ALLEN

Mayor Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Date Approved

City Recorder