

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 16, 2024
REGULAR MEETIN/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
WORK MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Blaine Porter, Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe, Chad Lyman and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. City Attorney Barry Huntington was excused.

Also present were Leslie Venuti, Fred Spencer, Bill Weppner, Callie Ward, Stephen Seymour, Jeanne Seymour, Elaine Lott, Lawrence Barnes, Terence Tontlewicz, Marvin Porter, Page Witzdam, Victory Crawford, Jayleen Shakespear, Khysen Shakespear, Julie Brugger, Robbin Peterson, Abel Peterson, Bob Hartman, Christopher Mee, Kolbi Frandsen, George Winsley, Sondra Jones, Chad Jones, Tasha Jackson, Carl Jackson and 4-H kids.

Ashley Coombs joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Wilson moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2024 MEETING

Council member Orme moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting as written. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

STATE PARK RANGER CHAD JONES

Mr. Jones said on May 23, 2024 there will be a grand opening for the new campground at the Escalante Petrified Forest State Park. Mr. Jones said there will be some speeches and a ribbon cutting and invited the Council to attend.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

Council member Stowe said there are no updates at this time.

STEPHEN SEYMOUR / LESLIE VENUTI – PROTEST ZONE CHANGE ON PARCEL 4.22.277 TO RR-1-20.

Mr. Seymour said he would like his property to be zoned Commercial/Residential (C/R) not Rural Residential (RR-1-20) as recommended by the County Planner. Mr. Seymour explained his property has 246 feet of Highway 12 frontage. Mr. Seymour said the triangle part has a sixteen-foot entrance to the rest of the parcel. Ms. Venuti explained this property has an agriculture entrance and if someone wants to use the parcel for commercial, they will have to work with UDOT to do a traffic study. City Recorder Steed explained the reason the County Planner Kaden Figgins recommended to the Planning Commission to have it zoned RR-1-20 was due to the agriculture entrance. Mayor Torgersen said Mr. Seymour would like to see his property zoned Commercial and she agrees with him as long as he understands the process to receive commercial access. Council member Lyman said we do not want to infringe on property rights. Council member Wilson said he agrees and he feels it would be odd to have one small piece of property residential that is surrounded by commercial property.

ZONE CHANGE ON HIGHWAY 12 COMMERCIAL PARCELS THAT ARE CURRENTLY ZONED C/R, R-M-7 AND/OR RR-1-20 TO C/R.

City Recorder Steed explained the proposed zone change as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

2 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) PARCELS

Planning and Zoning recommendation for the purpose of the map is to zone these parcels commercial and recognize that Escalante City does not have jurisdiction over Federal land.

PARCEL 4-22-325 – JET UTAH HOLDING LLC (RV PARK)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.310 – GARFIELD COUNTY (ROAD SHED)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.309- GRAND STARICASE-ESCALANTE PARTINERS

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.76 - ESCALANTE CITY PARK

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.461- GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.277 – SEYMOUR PROPERTIES LLC

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel residential (RR-1-20).

PARCEL 4.22.657 – REED AND KAREN MUNSON TRUSTEE (HARDWARE STORE)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.663 – MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUTHORITY OF ESCALANTE CITY (CLINIC)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.532 – ED SHAKESAPEAR

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.534 GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.533 – CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (SEMINARY BUILDING)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.633 – GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.661 – ESCALANTE CITY (CEMETERY)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.670 – GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.669 VADA W MARTIN TRUSTEE

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.543 AND 4.22.544 - LARRY THORNE & ET'AL

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.502 – ESCALANTE CITY PARK

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.448 – VICKIE MERCER

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.503 – GARKANE ENERGY

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.660 – MARK SAUNTO AND VICKI WREN TRUSTEE

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel Multi-Family Residential (R-M-7).

PARCEL 4.22.391 – JOSH MICHELS

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.273 – RR ESCALANTE LLC

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.276 – ERRIN SOLIS

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.504 – JANEEN DUNCAN & RAYLENE WHITEFIELD

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.272 RAY L ALVEY

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel Residential (RR-1-20).

PARCEL 4.22.269 - PINE TREE LLC

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.320 BRUCE MARTIN

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone this parcel commercial (C/R).

PARCEL 4.22.536, 4.22.537 AND 4.22.538 – COTTAM HOLDING LLC (CANYON COUNTY LODGE)

Planning and Zoning recommendation is to zone these parcels commercial (C/R).

Council member Wilson moved to adopt the new zoning map as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission above with the exception of Parcel 4.22.277 (Seymour Properties LLC) to be zoned commercial/residential (C/R). Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Lyman, Wilson, Stowe and Orme voting aye.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – WAIVER OF FALSE ALARM FEES

CHRISTOPHER MEE

Mr. Mee said the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had three false fire alarms in eight days. Mr. Mee explained the fire alarms were determined by AAA not to be the fault of the BLM staff but they came from a non-site alarm. Mr. Mee said he had the company come down and work on the fire panel and block the equipment from offsite triggers. Mr. Mee said due to the incidents not being the fault of the BLM staff but the company they use he is asking for a waiver. Council member Lyman asked who is responsible for overseeing the BLM fire alarm system. Mr. Mee said he is. Mayor Torgersen asked if anyone from the Fire Department would like to come up and briefly explain what happened during the false fire alarms.

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said the BLM had three false alarms in eight days. Mr. Weppner explained the Fire Department responded to the false alarms with two engines and six to seven volunteers. Mr. Weppner said Gene Quilter, an employee that was present during the false alarms, said he went through the building and did not know why the alarms were going off. Mr. Weppner said Fire

Chief Don Porter explained the False Fire Alarm Ordinance to Mr. Quilter. Council member Lyman asked how long the Fire Department was out on the incident. Mr. Weppner said around forty-five minutes on each incident. Mr. Weppner said this is why we put the False Fire Alarm Ordinance in place. Mr. Weppner referenced the United States Code 15 Chapter 49, Fire Prevention and Control. Mr. Weppner said with respect to the Fire Department we ask that the Council keep the fine in place with no exception.

Council member Lyman said he feels the City has a responsibility to make sure people's property and life is protected and uphold the Ordinance. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Lyman moved to deny the Bureau of Land Management's request to wave the fine. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

BILL WEPPNER – FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS

Mr. Weppner presented the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Chapter 49 statute (attached).

CALLIE WARD – USU EXTENSION 4-H AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Ms. Ward explained she works for the USU extension serving Garfield County. Ms. Ward said four years ago she was looking for a place to hold the 4-H after school program when the City stepped up and let them use the old Community Center. Ms. Ward explained what the program offers and thanked the City for their support.

KHYSON SHAKESPEAR

Khyson said 4-H is lots of fun and friends can get together. Khyson said the adventures are fun. Khyson explained the dinner for their family where they were presented money to help with his dad's accident and thanked the 4-H program and the City for their support.

ABEL PETERSON

Abel said 4-H is like all day recess. Abel thanked the City for letting them use the old Community Center.

TASHA JACKSON

Ms. Jackson said her kids have been in the 4-H program and it has helped them and their family. Ms. Jackson thanked the City for the use of the old Community Center and supporting the 4-H program.

SONDRA JONES

Ms. Jones thanked the City for the use of the building and for supporting the 4-H program. Ms. Jones said with the 4-H program moving to the High School they are hoping to get more students involved due to it being closer to the Elementary School.

FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT

City Recorder Steed explained the Fraud Risk Assessment and said it is required by the State annually. The Council reviewed and completed the Fraud Risk Assessment. **Council member Orme moved to approve the Fraud Risk Assessment as completed. Council member Stowe**

seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Lyman, Wilson, Stowe and Orme voting aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed said the budget and financial statements are available for review.

City Recorder Steed reported on the Recorders Institute and Academy at Southern Utah University and thanked the Council for sending her.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department has had one call since the last Council meeting. Mr. Weppner explained the incident was a brushfire at the West end of Town.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen asked the Council if they would like to do a town clean up in May this year. This item was discussed and there will be a town clean up on May 17, 2024 starting at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Torgersen said the Annual Splashpad Day will be June 7, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman reported on the road conference in Richfield he attended. Council member Lyman said there were breakout sessions and he learned what other communities are doing with roads. Council member Lyman said he talked to individuals about asphalt protection, chip seal and bridge repairs. Council member Lyman said he also sat in on a supervisor round table that was beneficial.

Council member Lyman said he is working with Daryl Griffin and Garkane Energy on the new powerlines on 500 West.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson said at the end of last summer the control panel on the Splashpad went out so he and Terry Olsen will be replacing it this year.

Council member Wilson said he has installed the new panels and meter at the City Road Shed. Council member Wilson said the power is off until Garkane Energy can switch the new panel over.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Wilson stated a conflict of interest due to having an invoice on the unpaid bills list. **Council member Porter moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Lyman and Porter voting aye. Council member Wilson abstained.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session needed at this time.

**Council member Lyman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.
Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.**

Mayor Torgersen called the work meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said work meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Stowe, Orme, Lyman, Porter and City Recorder Steed. Council member Wilson and City Attorney Huntington were excused. Council member Orme was excused at 7:35 p.m.

There was no one else present.

The work meeting was to work on the 2024-2025 Budget.

The work meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Stephanie Steed, MMC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 05/07/2024.