

## COUNCIL WORK MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2023

The City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Garth O. Green; Councilmembers: Terri Hartley; Craig Isom; W. Tyler Melling; R. Scott Phillips; Ronald Riddle.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Paul Bittmenn; City Recorder Renon Savage; Finance Director Jason Norris; City Engineer Jonathan Stathis; Police Chief Darin Adams; Fire Chief Mike Phillips; Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Jett, Josh Nowell, David Woods, Alysha Lundgren, David Clarke, Wendy Green, Dallas Buckner, Ann Clark, Laura Henderson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Green gave the invocation; the pledge was led by Councilmember Phillips.

**AGENDA ORDER APPROVAL:** Councilmember Phillips moved to approve the agenda order; second by Councilmember Hartley; vote unanimous.

### **ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS; STAFF**

**COMMENTS:** ■ **Mayor Green** – we have the celebration of the railroad coming to Cedar City 100 years ago on June 15, 2023, then President Harding came in one week later to see Zion. We have 3 people who I had lunch with today, Mr. Al Runte, his wife Christine, Jefferey Duban, and Mr. Runte will be giving a presentation tomorrow at SUU. **Phillips** – tomorrow at 11:30 at the Great Hall, it is free to the public, an interesting hour on the knowledge of railroads, discovery and the parks in the west. This helped put Cedar City on the map. **Al Runte** – it is a pleasure to be here, I had the pleasure of meeting Scott Phillips, it is an honor to speak in front of a political body. My wife and I have grown to love Cedar City. Utah was the leader in the national parks through Reed Smoot your late senator who introduced the National Park Service Act of 1916, he first introduced it to congress in 1911, and convinced President Gray of the Union Pacific Railroad that he needed to come to Cedar City with a special branch line and start to serve the new parks that were opening in the American Southwest, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce and Cedar Breaks. This is your history, and you are proud of it, and rightfully so, it's on our walls here in the council chambers and you are going to be celebrate it now in 2023. It need not just be your history, but also the future. Some 30 years back I was privileged to call for the restoration of the Grand Canyon Railway from a sleep little town called Williams, Arizona, which was languishing because it had been bypassed by Interstate 4. It was on old Route 66 when my mother, brother and I drove through it in 1959, and it was high and dry, but the Santa Fe Railway had dutifully kept the branch line, all 66 miles to the south rim and was awaiting a qualified buyer, and a buyer showed up in 1988, Max Speaker and his wife Thelma, and they plopped down \$18 million for the branch line, and service to the South Rim 225,000 passengers a year and the displacement of more than 100,000 motor vehicles and they also restored the lovely town of Williams. You are the gateway to these parks, nobody else can claim that, you are closest and you have the historical memory and you have the branch line. I am confident that if you work hard and work with the Union Pacific people, Scott Moore out of Omaha, the Senior Vice President Public Relations, I am confident if you work with them Union Pacific will allow you to do that, it is happening in Moab, you can do the same