

COUNCIL WORK MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2021

The City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Maile Wilson Edwards; Councilmembers: Ron Adams; Terri Hartley; Craig Isom; W. Tyler Melling; Scott Phillips.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Paul Bittmenn; City Attorney Tyler Romeril; City Recorder Renon Savage; Finance Director Jason Norris; City Engineer Jonathan Stathis; Police Chief Darin Adams; Fire Marshal Mike Shurtz; Economic Development Director Danny Stewart; Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson, City Planner Don Boudreau.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dallas Buckner, Laura Henderson, Teri Kenney, Tom Jett, Mike Green, Joel Hansen, Brent Drew, Gerald Van Iwaarden, Garth Green, David Heaton, Jeff Richards, Bob Platt, Rich Buelte

CALL TO ORDER: Pastor Gerald Van Iwaarden gave the invocation; the pledge was led by City Manager Paul Bittmenn.

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

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS; STAFF

COMMENTS: ■Phillips – I neglected last week to thank Steve Decker and the Library for the Art that is here at this time. ■Paul – we were working with the Rural Community Consultants on the General Land Use Plan Update, we ask them for a short memo to share with you, (attached as Exhibit “A”). In addition to that the Transportation Master Plan is progressing, public hearings will be in March, one in Cedar and one in Enoch and then Rob and I will hit some of the local civic groups. Phillips – the transportation and the general plan will at some point compare notes and talk, and are in coordination. Paul – that is the assumption, we have asked them to coordinate with each other. Don Boudreau – yes, they have been coordinating, they had a meeting a week and a half ago.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ■Southwest Utah Public Health Department update on local vaccination efforts. Dave Heaton, Public Information Officer with Southwest Utah Public Health Department – this is an age of incredible access to information. Update, as reported earlier today, SW Utah is seeing a downward trend of positive tests, usually trending a few weeks behind are the hospitalizations and deaths. We represent Washington, Iron Kane Beaver and Garfield Counties. The issues we are seeing with vaccinations is in Washington County. Hospitalizations are down to 37 residents, most of those are in St. George Regional Hospital. We have lost 25 Iron County residents to COVID-19 as a contributor to their death. Compared to the annual flu season, COVID has outnumbered drastically the number of deaths and hospitalizations than any previous flu season. As far as pandemics go, it is equal

to and will probably surpass the influenza pandemics we had in the 1950's and 1970's, but will be dwarfed by the pandemic flu season in 1918 which took 50 million lives and the population was a lot lower then. A few interesting things that we are starting to see the beginning of the end of this pandemic, one is the infection rates, if you have had COVID-19 you have antibodies, we don't know how long they will last although some plasma collection centers that test, there are people that were affected over a year and still have antibodies. We have a natural life cycle of a pandemic, what goes up must come down. We are having precautions that people are getting used to, social distancing and wearing masks, staying home when sick, hand washing, and the newest part is the vaccination efforts taking place. There are several manufacturers, the ones we have are using are from Moderna and some from Pfizer, they were shipped to the hospitals. One of the biggest questions is I am trying to get vaccinated and I can't get on the website. We have trained every year, we have yet to max out the number of shots we can give in a day. Once you get a slot it is slick and quick, and people have been appreciative. It comes down to supply and demand, we get about 2,000 for the entire district. We put those online and we also have a separate phone line for people that don't have computer access. We got 2,000 Monday and they were taken within 6 minutes, and that leaves a lot of frustrated people, especially in our senior community where they have been quarantined and have taken precautions more than younger people because it affects their health, it is dangerous to them. If a younger person gets COVID-19 it is less than 1% chance it will be a fatality. If you are over 70 or 80 and have underlying health issues it goes to 15%-20% mortality rate. Dr. Blodgett, he is the Health Officer and the Director would like to get to the hospitals and then to the vulnerable age group above 80 to 85 and then 75 to 80. The State has opened to 70 and above, and it has been an absolute bottleneck. In our district, and especially Washington County, we have a higher population number of those groups in the State except in Salt Lake County. If there are vaccines left over, we will call people. Today we had one left. Iron County every week we get 250-500 doses of the 2,000, so you can see the supply and demand challenges. As a State, the Lt. Governor came down and toured the facility and asked what they can do, we said more vaccines, so we got more this week. That is where we are with vaccines. The second shot to be effective, it must be 28 days after the first dose, the CDC said no maximum time, there are several weeks to do this, and they don't have to compete. The vaccine is free of charge. It is limited to those in the County, you must provide proof of residency. Mayor – what forms of proof are you using? I had a lady call me who had heard different rumors. Dave – anything that connects the name with their Iron County address. Adams – when the vaccines come available, the 5 counties are accessing the same website, but you have a certain number per community, one cannot override the other? Correct. Adams – do you have a number of appointments per community. Dave – every dose is attached to an appointment, we get the number, it is divided up by community and that number of appointments are set for each community. Phillips – thank you for what you are doing. People I have talked to that have received the shot have been complimentary. When you get the doses do you divide them by population, or how do you determine? Dave – it is by population. Phillips – do you hear when the next roll out is and do you know the percentage vaccinated? Dave – we have 25% in that age group; everyone will need two. We are concerned about releasing a new demographic. There are new manufacturers being approved such as Johnson & Johnson and so we will have more supplies. We will continue to match as they increase. We don't know when we will see the curve. Phillips - how do you know in advance how many you will get in a week? Dave –