

COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 24, 2023

The City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 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 Attorney Randall McUne; Executive Assistant Megan Lamb; Finance Director Jason Norris; Project Engineer Shane Johnson; Police Chief Darin Adams; Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson; Airport Director Tyler Galetka; Public Works Director Ryan Marshall; City Planner Don Boudreau

OTHERS PRESENT: Pastor Michael Radebaugh, Ann Clark, Kathy Long, Laura Henderson, Christian Simmons, Carter Wilkey, David Woods, Roger Thomas, Bob Platt, Tom Jett, Sadie Hinck, Jennie Hendricks

CALL TO ORDER: Pastor Michael Radebaugh of Mt. View Baptist Church gave the invocation; the pledge was led by Councilmember Melling.

AGENDA ORDER APPROVAL: Councilmember Isom moved to approve this meeting's agenda, the Municipal Building Authority meeting agenda and the Redevelopment Agency meeting agenda orders; second by Councilmember Hartley; vote unanimous.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS; STAFF

COMMENTS: ■ **Mayor** gave an update on the test wells. Last week was difficult in some ways and this week has been better. The Green Hollow well is being drilled with air. When they passed about 400 feet it started emitting some red goo. The person drilling didn't seem to be too concerned, but it was creating quite a lake. He attempted to keep it from running down the canyon and after about 940 feet deep he thought they would be able to punch through all of that but felt it was time to stop and cap it and wait for further direction. The hydrologist and the city engineer felt they would study it and decide where to go from here. The prognosis was, there was a lot of water in it, but the opinion was that a similar material would be along all of the hills. Part of the problem was that they were drilling with air and not water. It was determined after talking today they probably did hit a space with a lot of water in it and they should obtain a sample and have it tested, as well as evaluate the sand to see if they could create a screen to keep the sand out and allow the water through and create a solid area with the sand there to solidify around the pipe. **Phillips** asked if the same company that the original drilling with air, can do the water drilling as well and the mayor says they will have to find out. The second well is a better story. Jay Grimshaw drilled into a section in the canyon and the water was already starting to artesian. It was a running water well. The water from this has been sent to Salt Lake to be tested. This is very encouraging. Scott asks if the money remaining in this year's budget will be enough to cover the extra costs? Mayor says that it will cover it. His opinion is to not drill anymore test wells and to prove out our current prospects. He would like to try and make a play at purchasing Coal Creek water rights. Suggesting we get an appraisal done on surface water rights. **Melling** does not think we move forward on an appraisal as it may make the price go up on those rights. **Bittmenn** shared that the most recent costs to those water shares were about \$1100 for the surface rights. **Melling** says that depending on how those shares are used is how the cost may