

**EPHRAIM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
EPHRAIM CITY BUILDING
5 S. MAIN
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2006
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Birrell, Mayor
Kim Cragun, Mayor Pro Tem
Jannette Anderson
Dave Warren
Penny Kittelsrud
Elaine Reid

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Anderson, City Mgr/Recorder
Bryan Kimball, City Planner
Ron Rasmussen, Police Chief
Barbara Davies, Secretary

Mayor Birrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Kittelsrud offered an opening prayer. Jacque Sorenson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC SESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council reviewed the minutes of the July 5, 2006 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Reid moved to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2006 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilmember Cragun. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER

The Council reviewed the Warrant Register of July 31, 2006.

Councilmember Kittelsrud moved to approve the warrant register of July 31, 2006. Seconded by Councilmember Anderson. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Councilmember Cragun expressed his appreciation to outgoing Councilmember Garth Sorenson. He thanked him for his candor and willingness to stick to what he believed was right and prudent for the City. Mayor Birrell also expressed his appreciation and told Councilmember Sorenson it was a pleasure to serve alongside him, and that Garth had been of great assistance to him; serving as Mayor pro-tem, and helping his get started in his term of office. Mayor Birrell expressed appreciation to Jacque Sorenson as well, and wished the Sorensens the very best in their future endeavors.

Mayor Birrell invited Mr. Ted Meikle, the new owner of the Willow Creek Hotel, to introduce himself to the Council. Mr. Meikle told the Council he was delighted with the reception he had received from the City. Everyone has been very friendly and helpful. He has also been impressed with the level of dedication and expertise given to promote the area. Mayor Birrell asked Mr. Meikle if he had a web page for his business, and if so, he was welcome to link it to the City's web site. Mr. Meikle thanked the Mayor, and told him they were working on one.

NEW COUNCILMEMBER APPOINTMENT

Councilmember Reid moved to appoint David Warren to fill the vacant seat on the Ephraim City Council. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

The new Councilmember was invited to take his seat next to the other Councilmembers.

City Manager/Recorder, Richard Anderson, administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Councilmember David Warren.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ECR 06-09; CULINARY WATER RATE STRUCTURE

City Manager Richard Anderson explained that over the past two years the City has received several requests from non-residents to purchase water in bulk. Up to this point a daily rate has not been established. The issue was taken before the Utilities Board and they have recommended that an Item D be added to the City's Culinary Water Rate Resolution establishing a daily bulk rate. The rate being proposed was calculated from the figures established for the monthly rate; thus giving a more fair price structure. Councilmember Warren asked how the City monitored the amount of bulk water taken. Mr. Anderson explained that either the water was taken from a hydrant where it could be metered, or it was measured by the amount of the load.

Councilmember Anderson moved to approve ECR 06-09 as presented. Councilmember Kim Cragun seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

POSSIBLE INCREASE FOR POWER CONNECTION RATE

Richard Anderson explained to the Council that all the materials associated with connecting a new residence, or other structure on to the City Power system have increased. The Utilities Board is recommending the City Council increase the Power connection rate to cover the cost of materials. The City's current connection fee is \$750; however, the actual cost (based on an average of 10 connections) is \$1167, which means the City is supplementing everyone who builds a new house. Mr. Anderson

told the Council the \$1167 covers the cost of materials only, and does not include City overhead costs, bringing the total to approximately \$1600. The Utilities Board would like to limit the cost to actual materials and labor. Councilmember Kittelsrud asked if their recommendation included an increase for commercial connections as well. Mr. Anderson told her commercial buildings were done on a case by case basis and could be charged the appropriate amount.

Councilmember Anderson moved to accept the recommendation of the Utilities Board to increase the Power Connection Rate fee to \$1150 for residential users. Seconded by Councilmember Kittelsrud. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Mayor Birrell told the Council resident Lyle Chamberlain had been contacted to see if he would accept the appointment to serve on the Planning Commission. He has accepted that invitation. Lyle has previously been serving as a member of the City's Board of Adjustments, and a new appointment will need to be made there.

Councilmember Cragun moved to appoint Lyle Chamberlain to the Ephraim City Planning and Zoning Board. Councilmember Reid seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Councilmember Kittelsrud moved to appoint Cheryl Bodrero and Jonathan Bodrero to serve as members of the Library Board. Seconded by Councilmember Anderson. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORT – POLICE CHIEF RASMUSSEN

Police Chief Ron Rasmussen presented the Council with an Activities Report from the Police Department. He explained the report numbers to the Council. Councilmember Warren asked if the figures listed took Snow College into account. Chief Rasmussen told him the stats included Snow College as well as some assists with the County. Councilmembers asked if the numbers could be broken down to reflect how many crimes were actually committed by College students living in the area. Ron will work on providing that information to the Council if it would be helpful.

Chief Rasmussen told the Council they used to hold a RAD class to assist the female population at Snow College to help empower themselves against aggressors; however, due to a lack of support for the program in both room and instructors, it was not held this past year. They are currently re-evaluating the program, and hope to be able to start it up again soon. Officer Bob Wright will be meeting with the students from off-

campus housing, along with the football team and other school clubs within the next couple of weeks to help educate them regarding safety awareness and safety issues on campus and around town.

Police officers are also continuing to work on keeping the streets safe, and the speed of traffic down. As a department, they have discussed bringing the tolerance level down as instructed by the Council and are stopping people sooner. A speed trailer has been put out, and is currently located on Canyon Road. Councilmember Cragun asked how effective that seemed to be. Chief Rasmussen told him it acts as a deterrent for the first couple of days, but thereafter people have a tendency to push the limit once again. Councilmember Anderson asked if they were anticipating problems with speeding on Canyon Road once the college students start to come in. The Chief told her they will be addressing the youth regarding those types of things at the "Start Smart" program to be held at Snow the latter part of August.

Councilmember Kittelsrud asked about the items listed as being "inactive" on the Activity Report, and if that was an indication the Police had gone as far as they could, and no more investigation would be conducted. Chief Rasmussen explained that those items could be activated again should more information be received. Richard Anderson asked if they had received any more information regarding the bank robbery. The Chief said the FBI told him they were working on an indictment.

Mayor Birrell asked how the Police Department's relationship with the courts was going in regards to how offenses were being handled or dismissed for lack of evidence, etc. Chief Rasmussen explained that the officers came in and made their best pitch to the judge; however, some of the cases were getting suspended and/or dismissed, which can be discouraging at times and is a concern to the staff.

Chief Rasmussen ended his report by stating to date this year, they have issued 763 citations and 1010 offenses. Mayor Birrell asked Chief Rasmussen to let his staff know the City appreciates all their efforts, hard work, activity and professionalism. The Mayor is also working on putting together an employee appreciation party.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Kittelsrud – The Library Board has been busy and the Youth Council has been involved in helping move items from the storage room in the basement to the vacant rooms upstairs in preparation for the library's move to the basement. A Home Garden Show Fund Raiser is being held for the Library and Canyon View Park on August 19. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 a piece. The architects are bringing in the final set of plans next Monday with a three week review period and are hoping

to go out to bid in mid-September. The anticipated construction date is October 1 of this year. Richard Anderson said they are hoping to pre-approve contractors who are familiar with historic renovation. The asbestos inspection for the Library also took place today, and they should receive the results within the next five days. It is likely some kind of removal will have to be done. The old underground petroleum storage tank will also need to be removed.

Councilmember Cragun – The baseball season is now over. The women's tournament, which originally started out with five teams, dropped down to two and one of those teams only showed up with seven players. They did play one game for fun, however.

Soccer sign-ups are scheduled for next week, along with Little League Football sign-ups, which are done by a separate organization. Councilmember Cragun would like to go into a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss applicants for the Recreation Director position. He told the Council the Mule recently purchased by the City is currently being housed at his home, and will be taken to Mt. Pleasant later in the week to have lights installed. He told the Council it has been a great asset to the Sports program.

Councilmember Anderson – The Ephraim City Housing Authority asked for bids to be submitted for the contracted house. Only one bid was received, which came in much too high. The Housing Authority decided not to go with that contractor at present, and plan to wait until winter is over to ask for bids again. The other house to be built by the students will be done under the direction of Matt Christensen, who is taking over the job previously held by Richard Duncan. Mr. Christensen is a former Ephraim resident, and comes with good credentials. He is very pleasant and informed. Jayci Madsen, the City Accountant, has arranged to meet with him and talk about how they will be handling the bills, etc. for the project.

Councilmember Anderson appreciates the good work that was headed up by City Manager Richard Anderson to take care of the sprinklers and other landscaping issues on the east and north side of the Hanson House. The home has also received a new roof. Margaret Riding and she have been spending time doing some deep cleaning in the home as well.

Councilmember Anderson asked Mayor Birrell if the names of committee members to serve on the Main Street Committee also needed to be cleared by the Council or if they could be asked to serve ad-hoc. The Mayor believes it can be ad-hoc. Richard Anderson would like the City to submit a top notch application to UDOT in order to receive money for Main Street Beautification and revitalization. Mayor Birrell asked the Council not only to think in terms of the Main Street project, but also in terms of a

City theme to carry over into the community. He would like to invite local artisans, such as Larry Nielson and Adam Bateman to help with a vision for the project. Councilmember Anderson would like to see some kind of building criteria for new businesses coming into the area incorporating the theme. Mayor Birrell would like to meet with her regarding expansion of the Main Street Committee. Planner Kimball told the Council the City Survey sent out to residents about a year and a half ago came back indicating a desire for the City to either have a pioneer or Scandinavian theme. He also said the previous planner addressed having a theme as part of the City's Master Plan.

Richard Anderson told the Council the application to UDOT was due at the end of January and was a fairly sophisticated one. He would like to have it prepared early enough for the Council to review and make comments on prior to sending it out, which means it would have to be done by the first of December.

Councilmember Reid – The Cemetery Board is close to coming to an agreement regarding rates for opening and closing of graves, etc., and will be presenting them to the Council soon. They are also looking to expand membership on the committee. The new gate has been installed at the Pioneer Cemetery and Councilmember Reid invited Councilmembers to go look at it.

Planner Bryan Kimball – There will be a public hearing on August 9 to take public comment regarding updating City ordinances. Phase II of Danish Fields Subdivision will also be forthcoming as well as an application for a possible new subdivision.

Richard Anderson - had the opportunity to watch Alma's crew yesterday while they were conducting a Power Department training meeting with other Sanpete County power departments. He was quite impressed with their professionalism and gained a better appreciation of what they do and the hazardous situations they deal with. He would like to express appreciation to all employees who serve in the Power Division along with other City departments.

Mayor Birrell – told the Council he and Richard Anderson have been talking about holding a party for the City employees, board members, volunteers, etc. to help build camaraderie as well as to express appreciation for their work. They are open to suggestions from the Council. Councilmembers suggested inviting spouses as well, and set a date for September 8, 2006 at 6:00 PM to hold the party. Secretary Barbara Davies and Councilmember Reid were asked to put together a committee to plan the party.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Kittelsrud moved to go into closed session at 9:20 PM. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

The Council went into closed session for the purpose of discussing Recreation Coordinator applicants.

Councilmember Reid moved to adjourn the closed meeting at 9:34 PM. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

Mayor Birrell opened the regular meeting back up at 9:35 PM.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Cragun moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Anderson. The vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Date