

**MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

JANUARY 14, 2021; 7:38 A.M.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT:**

**MAYOR JOY PETRO, ZACH BLOXHAM, TOM
DAY, DAWN FITZPATRICK, CLINT MORRIS,
AND DAVE THOMAS**

STAFF PRESENT:

**ALEX JENSEN, GARY CRANE, STEVE GARSIDE,
CHAD WILKINSON, LON CROWELL, TRACY
PROBERT, TERRY COBURN, STEPHEN
JACKSON, DAVID PRICE, ALLEN SWANSON,
KEVIN WARD, AND KIM READ**

LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

**SENATOR STUART ADAMS, SENATOR JERRY
STEVENSON, REPRESENTATIVE BRAD
WILSON, REPRESENTATIVE STEVE HANDY,
REPRESENTATIVE STEWART BARLOW**

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Layton City Center.

Mayor Petro opened the meeting and turned the time over to Staff. Gary Crane, City Attorney, expressed appreciation to the legislative delegation for their attendance to discuss issues important to Layton City.

Mr. Crane thanked the legislative delegation for their help in past years with issues important to the City:

- Highway 89
- Gordon Avenue
- West Davis Corridor
- Quick action on Cares Act and handling of the Pandemic
- Holding Center in Farmington for minor offenses

He asked if there were any issues any of the Legislators would like to discuss with the City.

Representative Steve Handy expressed concern and requested clarification regarding proposed legislation specific to the allowances and/or restrictions associated with protesting public officials. Mr. Crane responded he wasn't aware of the bill and believed there were first amendment issues to consider.

President Stuart Adams reported of the 1,400 fatalities Utah experienced due to COVID, approximately 1,200 of those were people over age 65, and shared information which he believed illustrated the need for that demographic to be vaccinated and a discussion followed.

Alex Jensen, City Manager, asked if there were challenges at the state level which the City could offer its assistance in getting the word out to get that age group vaccinated. President Adams stated he wanted to get the word out to encourage vaccinations.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick mentioned her husband was a practicing pharmacist who was also vaccine certified, however he wasn't allowed to even volunteer to administer vaccinations under state protocol. Mr. Crane clarified the county was the designated agency to administer the vaccinations and a discussion followed. President Adams concluded he would ask about that and indicated a learning curve regarding vaccinations had definitely been experienced.

Speaker Brad Wilson informed the Council he became aware of a major bill that would change the structure and reward system for economic development incentives in the state; focusing on work force development needs and less focused on post performance incentives. He suggested the City pay attention to that specific bill, as he believed it could result in effecting terms of economic development strategies moving forward. He mentioned there would be a continued effort to go through state code attempting to eliminate as much regulation as possible, making it easier for businesses to do business. He suggested cities could be proactive in looking for ways to make it easier for business to prosper in the state.

He also mentioned the recent disruption schools experienced and believed it was likely to continue and reported a fragmented mental health framework for youth in different groups had been identified. He indicated although this issue was recognized, it lacked coordination across the state. He expressed a desire for the City to be aware of the issue and believed cities were in a position to provide support and work together to support the youth of the community.

Mayor Petro responded she and Councilmember Fitzpatrick had reinvigorated the Communities that Cares committee which specifically targeted the City's youth and reported they had received support from the community. Speaker Wilson added this issue had been challenging for schools and mentioned few organizations/groups were communicating with each other.

Mayor Petro stated Layton had reached out and was working with Kaysville and Clearfield cities to provide an overlap of coverage. Councilmember Fitzpatrick mentioned the following were involved: school principals, school PTA's, and Davis Behavioral Health, which she believed brought most of the individuals involved with the community youth to the table. Speaker Wilson responded that based on that information Layton City was ahead of most communities in that many providers were not at the same table. He congratulated the City on leading out with this issue and suggested the model should cascade throughout the state.

Speaker Wilson mentioned the state had experienced extra one-time monies and suggested discussions and conversations would be directed toward investments in infrastructure projects.

President Adams added the one-time monies and funds would disappear quickly if appropriated for highway projects. He believed there was need to augment the gas tax and suggested this would be politically difficult.

Senator Stevenson pointed out that due to the leadership of Speaker Wilson and President Adams the state had navigated the COVID crisis very well and suggested there were 49 other states envious of Utah with how it had addressed the Pandemic, and shared some examples. He mentioned how they had been instrumental in keeping the State open and mentioned their influence with Governor Herbert and expressed appreciation to them for their representation and work. A discussion followed during which Senator Stevenson expressed appreciation for the City's leadership.

Mr. Crane announced the following subjects which had been identified as issues of concern on behalf of the City:

- Data caps specific to technology and shared specifics to Morgan City. He shared some examples regarding municipalities in Weber County and pointed out the fact that connectivity was necessary for business. He also shared an example of connectivity in southern Utah. He reported government could efficiently and effectively provide data and stated data capacity in rural areas was critical and all that would be needed was government backing. He emphasized fiber was an important piece of infrastructure, every bit as important as roads, and a discussion followed. Mr. Crane emphasized cities were capable of getting fiber into homes better than companies that desire to profit from the product and expressed concern with the amount of funds appropriated for getting fiber throughout the state.

Mr. Crane asked if the Council had any questions to ask the elected delegation and there were none.

He continued to review the following issues of concern on behalf of the City with discussions taking place:

- Affordability of housing
- Independent plan review and building inspections – Mr. Crane expressed concern legislation was being proposed based on a few minority of cities' actions.
- Auxiliary housing bill – Mr. Crane pointed out some of the drawbacks such as parking issues
- Design standards – Alex Jensen, City Manager, expressed concern with sweeping legislation to address problems experienced by a select few and suggested a one size fits all solution wasn't justified by Representative Ray's bill.
- Numerous bills specific to Police. He suggested any questions should be directed to either to Police Chief Allen Swanson or himself, Gary Crane, and suggested the delegation use the City as a resource.
- Municipal fees and building permit fees – Mr. Crane shared an example of unintended consequences. He suggested legislation pertaining to fees continue as was already in place.

President Adams acknowledged Mr. Crane's and Layton City's credibility at the Capitol.

Speaker Wilson indicated he noticed the City's sign which stated "We Support Safe Harbor" and recollected the State would need to readdress funding appropriation for this purpose.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick asked how the Council should attempt to contact any of the elected officials during the session since restrictions due to COVID prohibit the public from actively participating. President Adams explained what could be expected during the Legislative Session specific to electronic participation and a discussion followed with each identifying their respective preferred contact method. The delegation expressed a desire to make themselves each available for City representatives.

Speaker Wilson announced there would be many law enforcement bills and believed the challenge for the legislature was to be reactive in an appropriate way; while at the same time to not over react.

Mr. Crane expressed appreciation to the delegation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Kimberly S Read, City Recorder