

1 NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

2
3 November 13, 2012

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5 The North Ogden City Council convened in an open meeting on November 13, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the
6 North Ogden City Council Chambers at 505 East 2600 North. Notice of time, place and agenda of the
7 meeting was delivered to each member of the City Council, posted on the bulletin board at the municipal
8 office and posted to the Utah State Website on November 8, 2012. Notice of the annual meeting schedule
9 was published in the Standard-Examiner on January 16, 2012.

10
11 PRESENT: Richard G. Harris Mayor
12 Kent Bailey Council Member
13 Justin Fawson Council Member
14 Cheryl Stoker Council Member
15 Brent Taylor Council Member

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17 STAFF PRESENT: Ron Chandler City Manager
18 Annette Spendlove HR Director/City Recorder
19 Bryan Steele Finance Director
20 Jon Call City Attorney
21 Craig Barker Community Development Director
22 Gary Kerr Building Official
23 Mel Blanchard Public Works Director

24
25 EXCUSED: Wade Bigler Council Member

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27 VISITORS: Kevin Burns ReAnn Burns
28 Adam Hunsaker Cameron Hunsaker
29 Nate Hunsaker Jonathan Hunsaker
30 Drew Hunsaker Zack Johnson
31 Brian Russell Rachel Trotter
32 Tamara Briggs

33
34 Mayor Harris welcomed those in attendance.

35
36 Jon Call offered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

37
38 **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 39
40 **1. Consideration to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2012 City Council meeting.**
41 **2. Consideration to approve business licenses.**

42
43 **Council Member Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Fawson**
44 **seconded the motion.**

45
46 **Voting on the motion:**
47 **Council Member Bailey aye**
48 **Council Member Fawson aye**
49 **Council Member Stoker aye**
50 **Council Member Taylor aye**

51
52 **The motion passed unanimously.**

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55 **ACTIVE AGENDA**

56
57 Mayor Harris invited anyone who may have a comment to approach the podium to speak.

58
59 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

60
61 Mel Blanchard, Public Works Director, referred to the snow plow map. He explained City Staff met last
62 week to go over the snow plowing procedure. He explained during normal working hours, 8am to
63 4:30pm, he will make the decision as to whether they can just salt the road or if the roads need to be
64 plowed. After hours an on-duty police officer will make that decision and call the person on-call. He
65 said the on-call person will call Scott Felter and he will decide whether they need to plow or salt and sand
66 the roads. Their response time is 30 minutes. When they come in and start all the equipment so it is all
67 running and warm by the time the rest of the crew gets in. He said regardless of what time of day it is
68 they will clear the main routes first. He explained in the past they did not plow the roads until the snow
69 reached 3". He pointed out that there are some other cities that do not plow until the snow level reaches
70 4". He said they will be changing that policy slightly. He said they will have the police officers call them
71 quicker and they will begin applying salt quicker or begin plowing during the first inch of snow. He said
72 they will plow the school zones with the main routes except during holidays and weekends. He said if the
73 main routes are not done then it doesn't do any good to go into the subdivisions. Once the main routes are
74 cleared they branch out into the subdivisions into two route teams. He explained the process of clearing
75 the roads and cul-de-sacs.

76
77 Mel Blanchard explained that when they are plowing they cannot stop to help any residents because the
78 insurance will not cover them. He said they will call the officer on duty to assist them with getting help.
79 They do not allow staff to stop and talk to the citizens because it slows them down. He said they may get
80 complaints that the snow plow blade is in the air. The reason they do that is because every truck has a
81 designated area. If a truck leaves the shop and drops its blade to get to its designated area and that snow
82 doesn't get cleared complete it will freeze and it may be hours before the truck can clear it completely.

83
84 Mel Blanchard explained they are using a brown salt so citizens can see it on the road. He said they
85 stopped using sand on the road years ago. He said they found sand does give some abrasion, but the
86 down side is it ends up in the storm drains. He said they do not custom plow. They offer a basic service
87 to get it from the middle of the road to the curb and gutter.

88
89 Mayor Harris asked how many plows they have out during a snow storm. Mel Blanchard said they have
90 four 10-wheelers, six bobtails, five pick-ups. He said they have 17 employees. He said it takes all
91 employees to clear the roads within a 10 hour period. He said they try to hit every street in the City
92 before they leave. It is the driver responsibility to check the subdivision they are assigned and make sure
93 the roads are clear. He said if there is a street missed they will go back out. He explained they do not salt
94 every road. He said they will salt those that they know have caused problems in the past, such as
95 Fruitland Drive and Mountain Road. He said they try to clear the roads as fairly as possible so no one
96 gets left out.

97
98 Council Member Bailey asked if the procedures and policies are available to the citizens. Mel Blanchard
99 explained all the information is included in the newsletter. Council Member Bailey asked if the map is in
100 there as well. Mel Blanchard replied no, and explained it is too big to include, but people can call or see

101 it at the City Offices. Council Member Fawson asked if it is online. Council Member Bailey said it
102 would be good to refer residents to the procedures. Mel Blanchard said he can talk to the residents also.

103
104 Mayor Harris asked how many roads they have to plow. Mel Blanchard stated they have approximately
105 88 miles of paved roads to plow. A portion of those are double lanes in each direction and some are six
106 lane roads. He said some of the roads are just big enough you cannot clear them in a single pass. It takes
107 two trucks going in both directions to get the roads clear. He said 3100 North takes four trucks to clear
108 the snow. If it keeps snowing it will take them longer.

109
110 Mayor Harris clarified that a single storm that starts and stops is close to 1,000 lane miles. Mel Blanchard
111 replied that is correct. Mayor Harris commented that is a lot of work and it is amazing it all gets done.

112
113 Council Member Taylor thanks Mel Blanchard and his staff for all their hard work. He asked if there is a
114 problem with cars parked on the road in snow storms and what takes place if that happens. Mel
115 Blanchard explained the City has a parking ordinance during the winter months. He said they will call the
116 officer on duty and they will impound the cars and have them towed. He said in the past one of their
117 drivers hit a car that was parked on the road. He said the car was completely covered in snow and the
118 City had to pay for it. He said when they are plowing at night the snow piles blend in. He said he is
119 thankful they have an ordinance because they lose time if they have to go back once people move the
120 vehicles. He said another problem they have are the tractors that plow the snow into the road. The police
121 officers are good about talking to those people to inform them that is prohibited.

122
123

124 **1. CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2012 TO**
125 **RECEIVE COMMENTS FOR A SANITARY SEWER RATE INCREASE IN SILVER**
126 **SPRINGS SUBDIVISION FOR THOSE NORTH OGDEN RESIDENTS THAT ARE**
127 **CONNECTED TO OGDEN CITY SEWER, DUE TO THE INCREASE THAT OGDEN**
128 **CITY HAS APPROVED AND IS BEING PASSED ON TO THESE RESIDENTS.**

129

130 Bryan Steele, Finance Director, reviewed the 1998 interlocal agreement with Ogden City on the Storm
131 Water Sewer and Sanitary Sewer. He explained the agreement requires the City to pass along any rate
132 increase from Ogden City.

133

134 Council Member Taylor asked if those affected will be notified. Bryan Steele replied yes, they will send
135 a letter. Council Member Taylor asked if they received any type of explanation on the increase. Bryan
136 Steele replied no, it would be up to them to research. Council Member Bailey asked if they will be
137 notifying the residents the reason for the increase. Bryan Steele replied yes. Council Member Bailey
138 asked if these residents know they are connected to Ogden City sewer system. Ron Chandler explained
139 the City will be notifying residents that Ogden City has proposed a rate increase, which North Ogden City
140 will pass along. He said they will not speak for Ogden City as to the reason for the increase. Council
141 Member Taylor asked if the increase has already been approved by Ogden City or can they still go to
142 Ogden City's meetings to ask questions and voice their concern. Bryan Steele replied that he understands
143 the increase has already been implemented.

144

145 **Council Member Fawson motioned to set a public hearing for November 27, 2012 to receive**
146 **comments for a sanitary sewer rate increase in Silver Springs Subdivision for those North Ogden**
147 **residents that are connect to Ogden City sewer due to the increase that Ogden City has approved**
148 **and is being passed on to these residents. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.**

149

150

151

152 **Voting on the motion:**
153 **Council Member Bailey** aye
154 **Council Member Fawson** aye
155 **Council Member Stoker** aye
156 **Council Member Taylor** aye

157
158 **The motion passed unanimously.**
159

160 **2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER THE FINAL APPROVAL FOR THE**
161 **NORTH OAKS COVE PHASE XI.**
162

163 Gary Kerr reviewed the memo and said the Building Inspection Department will hold 10% of the funds
164 for some sidewalks. He said this item is similar to agenda item three. He explained staff has been
165 working with the developer for approximately a year to finalize this subdivision. He said with final
166 approval the City will take over all responsibilities for the improvements. He said the only exception is
167 there have been some sidewalks that have been installed recently and they will hold 10% of those funds.
168 He said the City will release the rest of the funds and the City will take over all the improvements. He
169 explained there was an issue with one street intersection that deteriorated and the developer fixed the
170 road. He said the subdivision is located in the north part of the City and a little south of The Cove
171 Subdivision.

172
173 Council Member Taylor asked why the roads deteriorate so quickly and is there a potential problem with
174 the rest of the road. Gary Kerr replied that this happens sometimes. He said he does not know if it is a
175 shift that happens. He said the asphalt had been installed for five years before it happened. Council
176 Member Taylor said it sounds as if it is more situational and does not have to do with the quality of the
177 road.

178
179 **Council Member Bailey motioned to give final approval of North Oaks Cove Phase XI. Council**
180 **Member Taylor seconded the motion.**
181

182 **Voting on the motion:**
183 **Council Member Bailey** aye
184 **Council Member Fawson** aye
185 **Council Member Stoker** aye
186 **Council Member Taylor** aye

187
188 **The motion passed unanimously.**
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191 **3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER THE FINAL APPROVAL FOR THE**
192 **NORTH OAKS COVE PHASE XII.**
193

194 **Council Member Fawson moved to give final approval for the North Oaks Cove Phase XII.**
195 **Council Member Stoker seconded the motion.**
196

197 **Voting on the motion:**
198 **Council Member Bailey** aye
199 **Council Member Fawson** aye
200 **Council Member Stoker** aye
201 **Council Member Taylor** aye

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The motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2012 TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON AN ANNEXATION PETITION FROM GEORGE HALL LOCATED APPROXIMATELY AT 1400 E 2900 N.

Annette Spendlove reviewed the annexation process. She stated the City Council has already accepted the petition. Setting a public hearing is the next step in the process. She said it has already been noticed in the paper for three consecutive weeks.

Council Member Bailey moved to set a public hearing for November 27, 2012 to receive comments on an annexation petition from George Hall located approximately at 1400 E. 2900 N. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

- Voting on the motion:**
Council Member Bailey aye
Council Member Fawson aye
Council Member Stoker aye
Council Member Taylor aye

The motion passed unanimously.

5. CONSIDERATION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2012 TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON AN ANNEXATION PETITION FROM WESTSIDE INVESTMENTS LOCATED BETWEEN 750 EAST AND 4325 NORTH.

Annette Spendlove explained this is the same process as agenda item four. She said City Council has accepted their application and this is the next step of the process. She explained this area is located above The Cove Subdivision. She said Westside Investments is the owner of the property and they are requesting to be annexed into the City.

Council Member Fawson moved to set a public hearing for November 27, 2012 to receive comments on an annexation petition from Westside Investments located between 750 E. 4325 N. Council Member Stoker seconded the motion.

- Voting on the motion:**
Council Member Bailey aye
Council Member Fawson aye
Council Member Stoker aye
Council Member Taylor aye

The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 11-22-3B OF THE NORTH OGDEN CITY ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING SIGN HEIGHT.

251 Craig Barker referred the City Council to the staff report included in the packet. He gave a brief
252 background of the proposed Ordinance. He said the Planning Commission received an application for a
253 commercial sign on a unique piece of property. The property had some sloping and there was a question
254 as to how to measure the sign height. He said the City Council requested the Planning Commission
255 review that and consider a remedial effort in how to measure sign height. He said the Planning
256 Commission held a public hearing approximately two weeks ago to receive input from the public and they
257 have provided a copy of those minutes in the packet. He said he has provided a more complex diagram
258 with how to measure the height of a sign. He explained they recently changed the sign ordinance to allow
259 more types of signs and larger signs. He said this proposal is a continuation of updated the sign
260 ordinance.

261
262 Craig Barker explained the proposal only refers to free-standing signs and read the amended ordinance.
263

264 Council Member Fawson said he did not see a response to Council Member Bigler's question regarding
265 whether the sign in question would be approved within the proposed amendments. Craig Barker replied
266 he would need to look at their diagram again.
267

268 Council Member Bailey asked the affect this proposal will have on current signs. Craig Barker replied
269 there would be no affect; they will all be grandfathered in.
270

271 Council Member Bailey said he likes what the Planning Commission has done and appreciates the
272 research. He said there was some discussion about utilizing some of the same verbiage with the signs that
273 are attached to buildings and using the building height as a guide. Craig Barker replied the Planning
274 Commission is discussing it now. He said they are discussing temporary signs and the total signage. He
275 said they plan on speaking with the businesses before they make any changes.
276

277 Council Member Bailey said he saw the email from Council Member Bigler and has the same question in
278 regards to whether this amendment will solve the issues for the sign in question. Craig Barker replied he
279 would need to review it.
280

281 Council Member Bailey asked once City Council votes how the petitioner will be notified. Craig Barker
282 replied the City Attorney will notify the petitioner.
283

284 **Council Member Fawson motioned to accept ordinance 2012-19. Council Member Bailey seconded**
285 **the motion.**
286

287 **Voting on the motion:**
288 **Council Member Bailey aye**
289 **Council Member Fawson aye**
290 **Council Member Stoker aye**
291 **Council Member Taylor aye**
292

293 **The motion passed unanimously.**
294

295 **7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 4-2012, RULE XV**
296 **PARAGRAPH 8 AND ADD A PARAGRAPH 9 OF THE COUNCIL RULES OF**
297 **PROCEDURE THAT DEAL WITH THE MEDIA POLICY.**
298

299 Jon Call stated the change in the media policy came from a discussion they had a few City
300 Council meetings ago. He said the original paragraph eight incorporated two thoughts. He went

301 over the proposed changes. He said in paragraph eight they removed “verbal” and “telephone”
302 requests. He said he is hoping the Council will have a discussion about the policy and they can
303 decide what to change.

304
305 Council Member Fawson said he is not opposed to the media contacting them however they
306 want, he just wants to make sure all elected officials are copied on the communication out. Jon
307 Call said that language came from the original paragraph eight. Council Member Fawson said
308 he is not sure they want to restrict the media on how they can contact us. He said he requests
309 that they respond in writing and that way everyone is copied on that. Jon Call said it might be
310 helpful to know how the request came in, much like a GRAMA request. Council Member
311 Fawson said the original intent was that if someone calls they would summarize the request in
312 writing and send that to the other elected officials.

313
314 Council Member Bailey proposed they strengthen some of the language in paragraph nine, so
315 they get some of the same coverage. He suggested changing “encouraged” to “should” in
316 reference to sharing the information with the City PIO as well as the elected officials. He said
317 there is nothing regarding the responses to the personal points of view and proposes they add a
318 sentence that mirrors what is in paragraph eight. He said they have something that deals with the
319 request as well as something that deals with the response to the request. He said he appreciates
320 all the work that has gone into this.

321
322 Council Member Taylor said the proposal in paragraph eight that Council Member Fawson
323 referenced will clarify that requests can come in every form. He said in regards to the language
324 in paragraph nine, his recommendation is to strike the “verbal” and “telephone” for the same
325 reasons as were previously discussed. He said in paragraph nine he asked for this language to
326 separate an official statement from an individual elected official’s expression or opinion on
327 something. He said he would rather they keep the word “encouraged” rather than “should”, so it
328 does not control them. He said he prefers they leave personal points of view between the
329 individual and the Council Member and remove the requirement that they provide a copy to all
330 elected officials.

331
332 Council Member Fawson said he supports Council Member Bailey’s changes to the paragraph.
333 He said he thinks it is important that the communication is public and that all other members of
334 the Council are informed. He said to him it comes down to the information that they need. He
335 said Council Member Bigler made a point about the interpretation of the law and even though it
336 is their opinion it can be misconstrued as fact or policy. He said if they make a mistake it is in
337 their best interest to include those who can provide clarification.

338
339 Council Member Taylor said the language written and proposed was an effort to protect the
340 rights of personal expression and if this were a good policy the Council would have seen other
341 levels of government using similar logic. He said Congress does not require copying other
342 members, or does any other governmental body he has heard of, if they were to speak to the
343 media. He said there is probably a reason why this requirement would be infringing on the
344 Council Members’ free speech. He said personal points of view are not under that control.

345

346 Council Member Stoker said she agrees with what is being said about how the media contacts
347 them, but she doesn't think there should be controls put on these communications. She said she
348 doesn't see it being a control on what is being said. She said she thinks the reason for this is to
349 allow others to know what is being said. She suggested using the word "courtesy". She said she
350 doesn't see that as infringing on anyone's rights.

351
352 Council Member Bailey said in the language he proposed he used the word should and he
353 doesn't have strong feelings about it, because obviously there are no words that are binding on
354 anyone in anyway. He said they are establishing City Council policy and this is how they would
355 like this communication to take place. He said whether it does or does not there is no penalty
356 associated with it. This is just what they would like to happen. He said they could use the word
357 "should" or "encouraged" because they mean the same to him. He said he thinks section nine,
358 that deals with responses should be separate from the section that deals with requests.

359
360 Council Member Fawson said we have rules that govern the way the Council has conducted
361 meetings. He said if he was out of order there would not be any punishment for him, he would
362 just be out-of-order. He said there is no restriction on the content of what Members are saying
363 and he sees this policy in the same way. He said he doesn't see it as an infringement on his free
364 speech rights. He is giving everyone else the courtesy of understanding his opinion or his view
365 point on a certain opinion.

366
367 Council Member Taylor asked if anyone would support using this same logic for every
368 discussion they have with constituents. He said a lot of information in this City goes out via
369 discussions with constituents over the phone, when they are out, or via email and those
370 conversations are not shared with everyone. He said everyone would probably agree the
371 expectation that they would have to share all that information would be inappropriate. He said it
372 doesn't make sense to him to apply regulations in the discussion with the media. He said there is
373 not penalty, but he does not want to ignore an ordinance regardless of there not being a penalty.
374 He said he would like to make a change so there is a compromise and move forward. He said in
375 regards to the content there is no direct restriction to the content but it can serve that purpose.
376 He said he received many emails from other Council Members when he did not follow the media
377 policy in regards to the content of what he said. He said there were also a lot of comments
378 stating the intentions of the policy were to create a more polite atmosphere between the Council.
379 He said whether that was the intent the end result was to control what people were saying and if
380 it has to be shown to everyone on the City Council then something different might be said than
381 what would otherwise be said.

382
383 Council Member Bailey added the reality is communications between elected officials and
384 individuals and communication with the media are different. He said the media has the power to
385 take whatever was said and broadcast it. He said there is a responsibility on part of the media to
386 ensure what is being reported is accurate and reflects the intent of the message that has been
387 shared with the media. He said his support for this policy comes from a number of situations
388 where the message has been inaccurate either intentionally or unintentionally. He said in some
389 cases this could have been forestalled if we had known in advanced what was said. He said that
390 gives other Council Members the opportunity to help clarify the response if it is not accurate and
391 that would help prevent the drama. He said the media requests can come in whatever way they

392 would like. He said when they come in they would like them shared with the other elected
393 officials and the PIO. He said they would like the responses shared in the same way through
394 common courtesy. He said he would really like for them to move forward on this. He said he
395 would accept using the word “encouraged” instead of “should”.

396
397 Mayor Harris said they are talking about the Council’s Rules and Procedures; in other words
398 how they deal with each other. He said they talked a lot about courtesy and how they deal with
399 one another. He said he thinks that is an important part of what they ought to be doing. He said
400 he personally would like to see the word “courtesy” in paragraph nine somewhere. He said he
401 would also like to see everyone abide by it.

402
403 Council Member Taylor said courtesy is very important. He said it is not a fair representation to
404 say sharing what you say to the media is a courtesy and not sharing is a lack of courtesy. He said
405 the things you say to the media are not a secret. He said anything said to the media is for public
406 consumption and will be used in that fashion. He said to cast it as a courtesy is not a fair
407 situation to set up. He said there is a good reason why two newspapers with different viewpoints
408 have criticized this policy. He said it is not that he is trying to be difficult to work with, but there
409 is a problem with this policy and he would support the language proposed by Council Member
410 Bailey to include the term “courtesy”.

411
412 Ron Chandler said he recommends on the last sentence they include the wording “PIO or
413 designee.” He said that way he or anyone designated can respond by email or in writing.

414
415 Jon Call clarified that stated requests do not need to be made in writing. He said the first
416 sentence becomes problematic because they cannot contact elected officials and the PIO at the
417 same time. Ron Chandler clarified in number eight they were going to eliminate “verbal” and
418 “telephone”. He said anything that comes to him asking for the City’s official policy will be in
419 writing and it will be responded to in writing.

420
421 Council Member Fawson said they can change that statement to say the request can be
422 summarized in writing. He said they can also incorporate Ron Chandler’s changes and he would
423 like to see Council Member Bailey’s changes in paragraph nine.

424
425 Council Member Fawson said he likes the courtesy specification and would like to include that.

426
427 **Council Member Fawson moved to approve Resolution 11-2012. Council Member Bailey**
428 **seconded the motion.**

429
430 Council Member Taylor commented that the language looks great, except the word courtesy. He
431 disagrees with including the word courtesy and said he thinks that word makes it a morale or
432 courtesy issue. He said the problem with this policy is ensuring the right to express personal
433 opinions and the freedom of speech.

434
435 **Council Member Taylor moved to amend the motion to remove the word “courtesy” from**
436 **Resolution 11-2012. Council Member Stoker seconded the motion.**

437

438 Council Member Stoker agrees with the language in paragraph eight and nine and believes it all
439 stems from individual rights. She said she thinks courtesy needs to be removed to protect
440 everyone’s rights. Council Member Fawson said it is more about clarification than anything and
441 he said he is fine with the change.

442
443 Council Member Bailey recommended removing the word “verbal telephone”. Council Member
444 Taylor accepted those changes to the amended motion.

445
446 Council Member Fawson referred to the portion that refers to the designee for the PIO. He said he
447 does think it is clear who the designee would be. Ron Chandler said if someone else is the designee
448 they would need to follow the same rules and that is why he wanted that word included.

449
450 **Voting on the motion:**

451 **Council Member Bailey aye**
452 **Council Member Fawson aye**
453 **Council Member Stoker aye**
454 **Council Member Taylor aye**

455
456 **The motion passed unanimously.**

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459 **8. DISCUSSION AND OR/ACTION TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE**
460 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**

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462
463 Mayor Harris gave a brief background on the Economic Development Committee and stated they
464 have been in operation for at least 18 months. He said they have had a number of businesses,
465 community members, Council Members, and Planning Commission on the committee. He said
466 they have done a lot of work in the past; amendments to the sign ordinance, Economic
467 Development Plan, along with a number of items that are critical in moving the City’s economic
468 development forward. He said the City appreciates the work that has been done. He pointed out
469 they have gone on to the next level by hiring a professional to take over some of the economic
470 development tasks. He said it is appropriate the size of the committee be increased by including
471 all Council Members as members of the Economic Development Committee. Mayor Harris
472 proposed they add Council Member Kent Bailey, Council Member Wade Bigler, Council
473 Member Justin Fawson, and Council Member Cheryl Stoker to the Economic Development
474 Committee. This is in addition to the existing committee members, which already includes
475 Council Member Brent Taylor.

476
477 **Council Member Bailey moved to accept the appointments to the Economic Development**
478 **Committee. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.**

479
480 Council Member Taylor commented that it is great to have all the Council Members on the
481 Committee. He said the Committee has done so much including making suggestions to amend
482 ordinances to make a healthier business environment.

483

484 Council Member Fawson applauded the Economic Development Committee as well and said the
485 hiring choice made for the Economic Development Director was great and he is happy to be on the
486 Committee.

487

488 **Voting on the motion:**

489 **Council Member Bailey aye**

490 **Council Member Fawson aye**

491 **Council Member Stoker aye**

492 **Council Member Taylor aye**

493

494 **The motion passed unanimously.**

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496

497 **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

498

499 Brian Russell, 1151 E. 3400 N., said he was here the night they passed the original media policy.
500 He said he is glad it has been softened, but still sees it as restrictive in the flow of information.
501 He said it appears that there is something to hide or there is some desire to have a “group think”
502 happen with the Council. He said he does think this is harmful and would rather have an
503 effective Council rather than a courtesy one. He said he does believe they can have both. He
504 said courtesy should not be mandated it is just something they do. He said the restrictive policy
505 is wrong because the purpose he sees for the press is to be a watchdog of the government. He
506 said the feeling he has is that you don’t believe you need to be watched. He said that is one of
507 the reasons he comes to the meetings to see what is going on and that is one of the reasons he
508 reads the paper. He said he thinks you are restricting that and it is a wrong thing to do. He said
509 he agrees with what Council Member Taylor said earlier in response to the entire thing; that he
510 has compromised to have something that is a little more workable. He said he fears the “group
511 think” thing and thinks it is harmful in the restriction of being able to say the things they would
512 want to say openly. He said he is saddened that they haven’t scrapped this part of the policy. He
513 said he still believes it is important to earn the respect rather than mandate it. He said he is
514 referring to the respect of the media.

515

516 **10. CITY COUNCIL, MAYOR, AND STAFF COMMENTS.**

517

518 Council Member Bailey said he had no comments and thanked Mel Blanchard for the plowing update.

519

520 Council Member Fawson said he appreciates the process of open discussion and he feels the media policy
521 has extended that somewhat into their discussions with the media. He asked Ron Chandler about the pole
522 transfers and said it looks like they have started on them. Ron Chandler stated they are about halfway
523 done transferring them. Council Member Fawson asked if he had a timeframe. Ron Chandler said it
524 takes about two days when there is clear weather. Council Member Fawson asked when he will be
525 providing a presentation on the changes to the website. Ron Chandler replied at the next City Council
526 meeting. Council Member Fawson echoed the Mayor’s comments and his appreciation for the veterans in
527 the community. He said he hopes next year they can publicize the veteran’s event better.

528

529 Council Member Stoker said she is happy they have softened up the media policy and she feels like they
530 obviously have nothing to hide and they all say what they feel. She said everyone has the right to say
531 what they think and feel. She said she is grateful for all the hard work the Mayor and staff have put in
532 and the timely responses. She said she did go to the veteran’s reception. She said it was in the newspaper

533 and discussed in the City meetings. Mayor Harris said they did not have as many veterans as they would
534 have liked.

535
536 Council Member Taylor said he appreciates the second look at the media policy and they made a good
537 compromise. He said he read an article this week about the Johnson Administration and “group think”.
538 He said there were claims that the group was too friendly; that they were unwilling to disagree with each
539 other. He said there are times they disagree and it can be challenging on a personal level. He said he
540 respects everyone and will always be courtesy. They need to be able to disagree.

541
542 Council Member Bailey said as a final comment to the media he would appreciate it if when it shows up
543 in the paper that it finally is reported that there were no prior restraints on communication. He said every
544 media report that has come up about the media policy has included somehow we are censoring or that
545 before anyone can respond they have to copy other Council Members. He said there was never any prior
546 restraint in the media policy. It was a matter of letting one another know so they do not have to read
547 about it in the newspaper.

548
549 **11. ADJOURNMENT.**

550
551 **Council Member Fawson moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bigler seconded the**
552 **motion.**

553
554 **Voting on the motion:**
555 **Council Member Bailey aye**
556 **Council Member Fawson aye**
557 **Council Member Stoker aye**
558 **Council Member Taylor aye**

559
560 **The motion passed unanimously.**

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562 **The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.**

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567 _____
Richard G. Harris, Mayor

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S. Annette Spendlove, MMC
572 City Recorder

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575 _____
Date Approved