

Mendon City Council Meeting
April 14th, 2016
Mendon Station – 95 North Main
Meeting began at 7:00pm

In Attendance:

Mayor: Ed Buist

Council Members: Greg Taylor, Kelly Barrett, Karole Sorensen, Jon Hardman, Bob Jepsen

Clerk: Teena Young

Recorder: Paul Cressall

Treasurer: Daphne Carlson

Public Works Director: Kirk Taylor

City Engineer: Eric Dursteler

In Attendance: Fire Chief Ray Olsen, Rae Leishman, Marsha Shelton, Justin and Doris Anderson, Karine Cressall, Rulan Ladle, Cassidy Buist, Becki Taylor, Shonee Oswald, Paul Willie, Jon White (Cache County Council), Bob Fotheringham (Cache County Water Manager), Lieutenant Mike Peterson (Sheriff's office), Deputy Tyler Monk

Mayor Buist called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Kelly Barrett led the Pledge of Allegiance with Daphne Carlson saying the prayer.

The March 2016 minutes were reviewed and approved.

March 2016 Bills were reviewed. Jon Hardman motioned to approve with Bob Jepsen seconding the motion. The council approved the bills unanimously.

Recognition of Community Members who contributed to the construction of Mendon Square Ballpark

Mayor Buist stated that he was approached by a member of the community who wanted to recognize the community members who contributed to the construction of the ball park. The park was built in 1970. Mayor Buist stated that the city has a nice facility, and we appreciate those who were involved. Mayor Buist recognized and welcomed Former Mayor Rulan Ladle and Rae Leishman, wife of former Council Member, Donald Leishman, who has since passed away. Justin Andersen stated that when he and his wife moved to Mendon he heard that the community would like a lighted ball diamond. A group was formed to discuss the possibility. The LDS church owned the property at the time. Justin approached Mayor Rulan Ladle, who thought it was a great idea, but the city didn't have the funds available. They went forward and obtained a community grant. The grant would match ½ of the amount raised for the project. The property appraised at \$22,000. Little by little they raised the money. Don Leishman was the council member who supervised the project. Through many contributions of money, supplies, and labor, the ball diamond was constructed.

Justin Andersen stated that he would like to recognize everyone that was involved in the ballpark's construction, Mayor Buist mentioned that there are plans to have a plaque hung to recognize the contributors. During the 24th celebration, they would like to recognize those community members during the ball tournament. Mayor Buist thanked Justin Anderson, Rulan Ladle, and Rae Leishman; and those in attendance applauded those involved.

Youth Council Report

Shawnie Oswald reported that the Youth Council hosted the Easter Egg Hunt. They had 170 people donate at the Easter Egg Hunt. The Youth Council is working on getting ready for the May Day festivities. The closing social will be June 16. They are looking for another adult advisor. Bob Jepsen suggested Amber Myers or Dana Myers to help with the Youth Council. Bob stated that we are all busy, but it is very rewarding and this a great group of kids. Mayor Buist stated that the Easter Egg Hunt was a great event. Becki Taylor stated that Pizza Pie Café donated 600 eggs and Sizzler donated 60 eggs, she added that we don't want to turn into an advertising event, so these types of donations will be limited.

Deputy Tyler Monk

Deputy Monk was present in place of Deputy Sutherland, who couldn't make it. He asked about the upcoming May Day events. Mayor Buist stated that May Day is May 7th, and the events begin at 9:30AM with the May Day dancers walking from the fire station to Mendon Square. We need the road closed off for the girls walking. Mayor Buist stated that we really appreciate Deputy Sutherland. Mayor Buist also asked that the Deputies enforce the ATV regulations as that season has begun.

2016 Law Enforcement Contract & 2016 Animal Control Contract– Lieutenant Mike Peterson

LT. Peterson expressed appreciation to Bob as they communicate often and work together on various issues. The council has the new contracts and Lt Peterson is available to answer questions. The rates are still the same as last year. The Sheriff's office has saved money in fuel costs this year, so costs have not gone up. Lt Peterson will forward a year-end report to council; calls and citations are up a little bit.

Changes were made with the animal control. There are now two full-time officers: Floyd Powell and Doug Toone. They split their shifts so they are out later in the evening.

The Sheriff's office is adding a canine presence and are hoping to get the dog out to some community events. They are also adding a dedicated swing shift car to some areas so for emergency situations. The high schools will have a full-time officer at the school. They will teach classes and interact with the students.

Bob asked that they provide a monthly report for animal control. Lt Peterson took the council's email addresses to send those reports. Kelly Barrett stated that we have had some hiccups with animal control and asked if that has been fixed. Bob stated that we are working through these issues and added that citizens need to call dispatch to report an animal control issue, not 911. If we need immediate action, the sheriff's office does have resources for afterhours. Bob thanked Lt Peterson.

Bob Jepsen motioned to accept both the law enforcement and animal control contracts. Karole seconded the motion, and the council approved unanimously. Paul Cressall will deliver the signed contracts to Craig Buttars.

Mendon City Fire – Chief Ray Olsen

Chief Olsen stated that in his years he has witnessed a lot of changes. Call volume when he joined was about 6 per year; last year the total calls were 142. Most are more complex and dangerous calls. The Fire Department has built a gold standard over the years, and he gives credit to the crew. However, Ray feels he has neglected to inform the council of the fire department's needs. They have adapted and done so much for so long with so little. We need to change the perception that a volunteer fire department denotes cheap or poor quality. Most don't understand that regulations and rules need to be met by both career and volunteer departments. A volunteer needs the same resources and equipment.

Ray stated that he has obtained grants and donations in the past, but neglected to look at how they would replace equipment in the future. Mendon City purchased a vehicle 35 years ago, and that is the only vehicle that was purchased for the Fire Department. Most of the equipment is county or state owned or donated to the city from outside corporations. Most of the equipment is aging. The dilemma is that there is no way to replace it. The rescue truck is a top priority to be replaced. The Fire Department has come to the conclusion that they are losing ground, and they do not have sufficient money in the budget to replace the trucks that need to be replaced. Repairs continue to be made, but at some point we have to replace the vehicle.

Fire Chief Olsen has discussed this issue with Kelly Barrett. Ray will also visit with the Cache County Fire Board; we have not had an increase in allocation for 18yrs, but they do contribute with other vehicles. Chief Olsen proposed some type of a fee added to the water bill to pay for a vehicle. Other communities have done this in the past with a \$3 fee. At that rate we would be able to replace a vehicle every 10 years. Chief Olsen hopes that council can help with this dilemma.

Mayor Buist thanked Ray for the suggestion. Bob asked what amount of calls come from outside city limits. Ray stated that is a good point, there are several, and that is why he is pushing the Fire Board to increase the allocation. Petersboro and surrounding areas are in our fire district. Bob stated that there is a 911 fee already added to the utility bills, and we could go that direction because everyone needs emergency services.

The cost to replace other equipment has increased also. The cost is \$15,000 to equip one fire fighter. Ray stated that it might be an option to contract with Wellsville, but he doesn't know how they could cover the city for an equivalent amount as what is budgeted to our Fire Department.

Ray stated that Thiokol has donated several trucks but they are now leasing their vehicles. There are 19 members on the fire department, most are EMS. The vehicle that needs to be replaced is for EMS services and carries the Jaws of Life.

The truck is still usable, but at some point it needs to be replaced. The cost would be \$80,000-\$120,00 for a replacement. Mayor Buist thanked Fire Chief Olsen for his service.

Cache County Fair – Cassidy Buist

Cassidy Buist addressed council on behalf of Jill Zollinger, Cache County Clerk. Cache County would like Mendon to participate in the Cache County Fair. Cassidy asked if Mendon wants to participate, if there is any money for a fair booth, and if council has a suggested name of someone who would be willing to run the booth. Mayor Buist stated that there was a budget for the booth of \$500 in the past. The problem is that it is a lot of work and there isn't a storage area, to keep the booth items. Karole stated that she was involved in the past, and it is a lot of work. Jill Zollinger had suggested Juliene Robbins, but she is not a Mendon resident. Mayor Buist stated that we are interested, and there is a budget. We will look for someone.

Water Conservancy District – Jon White and Bob Fotheringham

Mayor Buist stated that we need the conservancy district. Jon Hardman stated that Cache County Council passed the resolution on Tuesday night allowing cities to decide if it should go on the ballot in the fall. We are faced with the same concern as the settlers. We have got to have water. If we don't have a conservancy district, we can't guarantee that there is water in the future. Jon Hardman stated that Cache County gets 60,000 acre feet from the Bear River. Bear River County is getting ready to develop their water. Jon Hardman stated that it is important that we have someone at the table on Cache County's behalf.

Jon White stated that this district could be a valuable asset. Paul Cressall asked about the costs to citizens. The for the first four years the cost will be \$24 per year. The District will be a 11-member board, 1 agricultural appointee, the rest elected officials. Initially, members would be appointed, and then it would be an elected position. Bob Fotheringham stated that this is the best way to represent the county. Bob Fotheringham mentioned the role of a school board to managing education efficiently. The conservancy district board would manage in a similar way. There are only three counties in Utah that currently don't have a district.

Jon Hardman stated that in the past the Wasatch Front developed water from Duchesne County, leaving Duchesne County no way to make their needed improvements. Jon stated that is happening here, and we need a voice to protect our resources. We have an allocation and we have to use it or someone else can take it. The conservancy district gives us a vehicle to do multiple things to make decisions that will benefit the county. Bob Fotheringham added that we need a board to develop a plan that will ensure and secure our water future.

Paul stated that citizens need education and answers to concerns because it is a complicated issue. Jon White stated that the board is not a taxation without representation entity because the law has changed. Jon White stated that one of the issues that has prevented the forming of the district in the past was that the district would build big buildings and spend lots of money; there are provisions in place to prevent that. Jon White added that is the last source of water and we are losing shares and there should be a process to protect these shares. Mayor Buist stated that the Cache County Council passed a resolution this week allowing for cities to pass a resolution to add the formation of a water conservancy district on the fall ballot for voters to decide on. Jon Hardman motioned to adopt Resolution 2016-02. Kelly Barrett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Bob Fotheringham stated that there is a requirement that there be a hearing within 45 days. They will send some instructions on this process. The cost for the hearings will be paid for by the district or reimbursed for a year.

Walking Works in May – sponsored by Bear River Health Department

Bear River Health Department is promoting a "walk a mile with the Mayor" event in communities. Mayor Buist wants to involve the council, the library board, and the fire department. Mayor Buist asked if the council would join in the walk. The walk will be Thursday May 5 at 6:30 PM beginning at the Mendon Station.

Discussion on delinquent water accounts

Bob stated that we have needs and aging equipment that need attention and the FD cost money and it takes everybody to support that service. Bob understands these are our neighbors and friends. Some of the accounts are a year or more behind. Bob stated that we are responsible to pay for what has been provided for us whether it is gas, electricity, ect. Bob has asked other communities and talked to many city managers. As a citizen, he is looking at a fairness issue. Some are doing their share to pay for services provided, the city needs to be fair and empathic. We need to go to these people and

give them 90 days to pay in full. Bob stated as a business we have to pay bills too.

Jon stated that this money goes to the water fund and they can't go for equipment. Bob stated that we have water issues too, we have an aging tank and other needs. Karole asked when the last time the delinquency list was cleared. Daphne said that shut off notices haven't gone out since last fall. Daphne said that some people pay quarterly, some on the current list have paid.

Kelly stated that we have a policy in place that needs to be enforced. The policy states that an account 30 days delinquent will be given a 5 day payment period. There is a turn-on fee also. Jon stated that when someone is behind more fees don't help. Kelly stated that they will keep going down the same path; we are enabling them. Jon said that we need to place a face to the discussion; he is not arguing that we won't need to collect. Jon stated that when we do this, many will have no way to pay and the LDS church pays. Kelly said many will pay and we should follow the policy. Bob stated that there needs to be accountability. Kelly's concern is that some on the list have sold houses, and some have been given building permits to build new home; he added that we shouldn't allow other services if they are delinquent in the water payment.

Mayor Buist stated that Mendon City is a business. Karole asks what we are currently doing to enforce the policy. Jon stated that we put a shutoff notice on the door and the account holder needs to contact Daphne to pay or make arrangements. Paul said that most don't follow through in the payment arrangements. Jon added that shutoff notices aren't distributed in the winter because of snow. Chief Olsen asked if there is someone has forgotten to pay one month, would they get a notice. Jon stated that notices only go to accounts with \$150 delinquency which is about 3 months delinquency.

Jon stated that we give them 90 days to pay in full or the water will be shut-off. Jon stated that if they can't pay then they should come to council. Jon asked if Paul could put the notice in the water bills. If they are on the shut-off list they will have until July 1st to become current. Mayor Buist asked if the council is comfortable with the 30 days. Jon stated that we send it out in the water bills and then on June 25 put a 5 day shut off notice on the door.

Kirk Taylor, Public Works

Kirk repaired the closet door at the station. They put some sod down at the cemetery. They had a service line leak at the rest home; the line served the home and the rest home. They just eliminated the rest home from the line. Logan got the first cutting done with the cemetery mower. The transmission keeps slipping. If it breaks down, we won't have a mower. Kirk asked if there is any way we could pull money from somewhere. Kirk had a quote for a 25 hp diesel with a dual fork, mulching kit, Grasshopper with a hydraulic deck lift. The total is \$15,168. They could just switch the deck and then they can gang up on the parks and can get the parks mowed quicker. He would like to get the purchase of mowers on a 5-year rotation. Mayor Buist stated that we will figure it out and make some adjustments.

Eric Dursteler City Engineer

Eric brought the city a copy of the contract documents for the new city building. The ground water assessment will begin once it stops snowing. Jon asked Eric to provide a cost estimate on the development of the new spring. He is a little high on the numbers but wanted to be conservative. Cost for construction \$220,000 other costs for surveying, water right application. There is an unknown cost if the water quality needs to be treated. Total cost estimate \$274,000 for the project. Jon stated that we have \$160,000 from our original loan, but to use this money we would need to have a formal bidding process to use the loan. If we didn't bid, we would have to come up with the full cost of the project.

Council Break 9:18-9:22

City Building and Library

Paul Willie stated that the contract has been signed for the building. A fundraising committee has been formed. They will launch the fundraising efforts on May Day. Ron and Jean Campbell will be heading the committee. The contract is for 150-day construction time, and the contract is with the Raymond Constructions. Mayor Buist stated that Paul Willie has been really valuable and he has helped in several ways. The Council thanks Paul Willie for what he has done and continues to do in the community. Paul Willie stated that it is a compliment to the city that there will not be any raised taxes or need to go into debt for the project.

The fundraiser will be selling etched paver bricks with the intent is to honor the pioneers and community members. This will allow the community to be a part of the building.

Karole Sorensen

The Heart of Mendon is selling t-shirts as a fundraiser. Mayor Buist stated that we haven't had luck getting anyone to take the food stand. She has spoken with Gloria Gordon about it, but she is worried about the taxes. Mayor Buist stated that we look at the wards to do May Day and the celebrations. With the ward being non-profit won't have tax implications.

Kelly Barrett

Kelly said he and Kirk will talk about how to spend the end of the year money on the streets. Ray has talked about one of the biggest needs of the fire department. Average Fire Department calls are 1.9 calls per week. Kelly said that the Workman's Comp bills are variable. Paul said that they set the rates based on how much we pay the Fire Department, it is fluctuating because the pay fluctuating. Paul said that they are billed once a year at a rate. Youth Council reported and we are grateful for what they are doing.

Jon Hardman

Snow pack is doing well. We are over 300 at the spring, which is a positive. Jon met with Mendon North Irrigation. Jon stated that we will pursue an agreement with people who rent shares from the city. There will be a set volume per share. Jon stated that for the budget we will be paying Mendon Central for the assessment for the 112 shares we bought. Jon hasn't heard when water will be put in the canal, probably mid-May. The further we get into May the more likely we get water into September.

Bob Jepsen

Bob asked that an appreciation card for those who have served on P&Z of appreciation. Joni Endicott was voted as Co-Chair. They submitted Dave Koontz as a new member. Council approves of this name.

Greg Taylor

The refrigerator went out at the station and it was fixed. We need a mower at the cemetery. He didn't make it to the mosquito abatement meeting. The Zika virus is an issue; hopefully we won't have to deal with that.

Mayor Buist

Mayor Buist, Paul, and Teena met with a gentleman from Rocky Mountain Power. A franchise agreement has expired and needs to be renewed. The Rocky Mountain rep will be at the next council meeting.

Bob asked about lights at intersections that have burnt out. Kirk said he will call Rocky Mountain Power.

Bob motioned to adjourn at 9:49pm, and Kelly seconded the motioned. The meeting adjourned.