

**Mendon City Council Meeting**  
**April 13, 2017**  
**Mendon City Hall & Library**  
**15 N Main**  
**Meeting began at 7:00 PM**

**In Attendance:**

**Mayor:** Ed Buist

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

**Clerk:** Teena Young

**Treasurer:** Daphne Carlson

**Public Works Director:** Kirk Taylor

**Recorder:** Paul Cressall

**Public Attendance:** Jill Pack, Becki Taylor, Lexie Myers, Kambree Myers, Sheriff Chad Jensen, Deputy Casey Sutherland, Fire Chief Ray Olsen, Mike Carlson, Leslie Wood, CJ Myers, Wayne Myers, Kevin Wright

Mayor Buist brought the meeting to order at 7:02PM. Bob Jepsen lead the Pledge of Allegiance with Teena Young giving the prayer.

Council approved minutes for the March City Council meeting and the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Work Meeting.

Council reviewed the March 2017 bills. Jon Hardman motioned to accept the bills, Greg seconded the motion, and the council approved of the bills unanimously.

**Youth Council Report**

Lexie Myers, Youth Council Pro-Tem Mayor, reported that the Youth Council will be setting up for the egg hunt on Saturday. They designed and printed the new age signs. Pizza Pie Café donated eggs again this year. They are asking for a \$1 per child donation. Teena will help with the donation table. Bob and Kelly will help with the setup.

**Sheriff Chad Jensen**

Sheriff Jensen addressed the council, giving some highlights and successes of the department and also discussing the 3.25 % increase in the contract price. Last year was the first year of the wages that were set. They absorbed those extra costs last year. The insurance costs are very large. Jensen has mitigated the costs with some revenue from contracts with the jail. Sheriff Jensen stated that his department has to do things regardless of whether a community has a law-enforcement contract and these items are covered by the county tax money. The tax dollars pay for buildings, the jail, investigations, employees, ect. The contracts are strictly for more patrol hours above and beyond what the tax dollars cover for a community. Because of increased costs, Mendon's contract is about \$250 more this year than last year. They have 170 employees, but all the costs can't be passed on to communities. The contract costs are only based on patrol costs for additional hours.

The Animal Control contract stayed the same. When they moved from having certified deputy animal control to civilian animal control, it was a decrease in cost but he stated that he thinks it is also a better service. Now they have two full-time animal control employees so service is better. They can do everything a deputy can do, except take someone into custody.

The total patrol hours are 553 hours, total between tax dollar and contract hours. Mendon is very consistent with type and number of calls. There was a little increase in calls but as he looks at reports, there is nothing alarming with these increases. He has seen an increase in citizen assist, which is helpful, because it means that the public is engaged with law enforcement in a positive way.

Sheriff Jensen has been in office 2 ½ years. He stated that in the past, the sheriff's department had many employees leave, an average of 10-12 per year. This made it hard to manage and training costs were higher because of the high turnover. Last year they only lost 5 officers and 3 of those were to retirement. The Sheriff's department continues to look at how they can be more efficient. The best things that have come out of his office have been ideas from those who are working in various area.

Bob Jepsen stated that with Mendon Road closed, the traffic on Hwy 23 has increased. Karole mentioned that the truck traffic is a big issue as vehicles are not slowing down to the speed limit when entering town. Sheriff Jensen stated that they will push their resources to watch this area. UHP are the experts as far as heavy loads or unsecured loads, but deputies watch for speeding infractions.

There are more concerns about flooding with warm weather and rain in the forecast. Runoff will increase levels in the Logan River and Blacksmith Fork River. Mayor Buist stated that we appreciate Deputy Sutherland and he does a great job.

Sheriff Jensen asked the council to let them know about any issues. They want to serve the community and to know about things they can do better or differently and asked that council not to hesitate to call. Mayor Buist stated that is one thing he really appreciates about Deputy Sutherland. Council thanked Sheriff Jensen for coming.

**Public Hearing – A proposal for a \$3 fire protection fee to be used for the purchase of a fire truck and other equipment**

*Mayor Buist closed the council meeting at 7:29pm and opened the public hearing.*

Fire Chief Ray Olsen stated that he is coming to council with a dilemma that we have in the fire department. Chief Olsen has served in the fire department for over 40 years, and he stated that the fire department has three vehicles that have served longer than he has. So we have old vehicles. The combined ages of the vehicles is 333 yrs old. The problem is simple mathematics, we cannot replace the vehicles. His proposal is to have a dedicated service fee for replacement of the vehicles. This is a long term situation. He has spoken with Councilman Barrett, and we still have a 30 yr turn around on replacement even with this fee schedule. He knows of no other way to accommodate the replacement of the vehicles. Chief Olsen stated that he is frugal and is unable to purchase vehicles with the budget that we have. He is proposing that we have a fund that is strictly for the replacement of vehicles. This would be a long term thing. The turn-around causes a difficult situation. He doesn't know any other way to replace aging vehicles.

Paul Cressall stated that we have emailed David Church, who is legal-council for Utah League of Cities and Towns, about this proposed fee. David Church stated that Herriman did a similar fee but that they did a fairly exhaustive fee study to try to justify the amount and benefit. Paul submitted that Mendon City cares more about its citizens than to slap another fee on its citizens. We should look at how we are spending citizen's money and make sure that we are making every dollar count. If the city raises the

taxes this year, the average increase per household would be \$52.35 per year, which is a 23.48% increase. If this \$36 per year fee is implemented, the figure jumps to about 40%.

Several years ago, Mayor Ross Shelton put \$500 into the capital projects fund per year. The fund allowed cities to pocket money to save for future projects. Mayor Doolittle suggested that departments set aside money for future equipment needs. Rather than follow that suggestion, many departments did not set aside money. Paul stated that he commends Mayor Buist and council for setting aside money which was dedicated for the new city building and library. It shows that money can be set aside and saved for future projects or needs.

Paul suggested that council review the budget and find ways we can save money in each department; we may just need to have new eyes. Now that the new city building is done we should reexamine our budgets and set aside money for other needs. We can work together to make it work.

Mayor Buist read a letter from Mike Morgan who is opposed to the monthly fee. Mike wrote that the city has recently paid for the building of the nice, needed city building. One of the concerns people had was that taxes would go up. This fee is just another form of a tax. The city has proven that it can save money for projects. This fee is just another tax, and he is not supportive of it. Instead, he writes, lets build our capital fund and save money for the fire department and public works equipment.

Mike Carlson stated that he served on city council and worked with Ray. He is opposed to the fee. We need to relook at how things are spent and budgeted to see where we can save. Mike stated that when he was on council that the fire department got a lot of good grants. At that time, he also suggested that we start saving money from the fire department budget for needed equipment. Mike added that it is hard to understand that Mendon City must absorb the cost of a department that serves not only the city but the county around us. Mike suggested that we petition the county for more help. Mike's concern is that we aren't spending our budgets wisely. He agreed with Paul that we have saved up for this building, and we can save for other needs.

Daphne Carlson asked Ray about how many of the total calls are to Mendon residents and how many are outside of the city. Ray stated that he would need to pull the numbers to give that breakdown, but that a majority of responses are in Mendon. Karole agreed that she would like to see those numbers also.

Chief Olsen addressed the concern that we are using Mendon resources for fighting fires in the county. Cache County puts way more into the fire department than the city does. He has a fire engine that was given to us from the county. Jon asked about any other resources the county is providing. Ray stated that they provided equipment to build the tender. Three of the vehicles are state owned vehicles. Thiokol has donated a total of 6 vehicles. Autoliv has also donated a vehicle. We wouldn't be where we are without these donations. Ray stated that he has brought in over \$250,000 in grants over the years to purchase equipment. The problem is that we get the grants to get supplies but how do we replace that equipment down the road. The grants help short term. We are in trouble trying to replace any of the equipment that we use to run on.

Jon asked Paul about where he sees areas that the city can save on the budget. Paul stated that he could find \$5,000 or more depending on the year. Paul mentioned that in 2011 there was an increase in pay intended to bring more volunteers, but what it did was give more money to those with more experience. Two years ago, the amount of money that was spent on wages and food totaled 49% of the fire

department budget. Last year it went down. Paul thinks that is too much. Wellsville has a \$1.5 mil budget and their fire department paid less than \$10,000 for drills. Everyone is paid the same for calls and drills. We have a half million-dollar budget and we spend about \$15,000. This pay schedule isn't retaining people. This is just one area that needs to be reevaluated. Wellsville city pays for one catered meal for the fire department per year and two other potluck meals where the city pays for the meat. Mendon has 3 catered meals per year. This is just one area that we can save. Paul signs every check, so he sees these areas; if we have more heads together looking at these things, we could spend the money efficiently. Paul doesn't think people will quit if we cut back on these areas. Maybe other people can come in and look at ways the city can save. Paul stated that other departments can also look into suggestions, such as celebrations. The food coupons need to be addressed, people should participate because they want to not because they get a food coupon. Karole asked for a list of Paul's suggestions on how to cut costs.

Ray stated that to clarify the pay schedule is used to reimburse for gas costs to get to the calls. This is what it breaks down to per the amount of calls. It simply reimburses them for what they put out to come.

Mayor Buist stated that he would like to let this go into next month to give council time to study and ponder this issue. Kelly added that the fire department rating saves the citizens money on fire insurances. Ray stated that Mendon has the best rating in the valley, next to Logan City, who is career, so it saves citizens money which is way beyond the \$36 per year. Mayor Buist thanked Ray for what he does stating that whether we agree or disagree about this fee, Ray has a passion for what he does.

*Mayor Buist closed the public hearing at 7:59PM*

### **Public Hearing – Dog Licensing and Ordinance Violation Citations**

*Mayor Buist opened the public hearing at 8:00PM*

Council would like to increase fines for ordinance violations. Since we use the Nibley Court, we can look to what they are doing. Nibley City citations amounts and classifications were reviewed. Teena Young stated that she has spoken with Nancee from Nibley Court. Nancee stated that increasing the fines is appropriate but that Mendon's classifications are appropriate. Some violations, such as when a dog attacks a person or pet, should have the more severe classification of Misdemeanor B.

Mayor Buist stated that in addition to problems with dog violations, he was contacted by a property owner whose neighbor has a chicken coop on the property line and the waste is flowing down into his property. Mayor Buist referred him to the animal control officer. Mike Carlson stated that if council addresses dogs we need to address cats and other animals. Lana Archibald stated that we have to be lenient about some of these animal related issues because of the rural atmosphere in which we live.

Ray asked that if he owns a dog and chooses not to license, is there something in place that says that he has to license that dog. Annual licensing is required by ordinance. Bob Jepsen stated that we have been far too lenient and we have had several incidents in the last few years. Some resulting in multiple surgeries. The nicest dogs can change in different situations. Jon asked if we could list Misdemeanor C and then increase the fine amount; it needs to be painful enough that people won't do it again.

Mayor Buist asked Teena to get with Nancee about these items and we will discuss at the next council meeting and put something in place. Deputy Sutherland suggested stepped enhancements such as 1<sup>st</sup> offense and 2<sup>nd</sup> offense with higher penalties for repeated offenders.

Mayor Buist stated that it would be good to coincide with Nibley as we use their court system. Mike Carlson asked about how we budget for increased costs to enforce these policies. Mayor Buist clarified that the best we can do is call animal control, which is already covered within our budget. Mayor Buist added that if it is a vicious animal and animal control officers are not available, the deputies will respond. The animal control contract is 120 hours per year. A portion of these fines comes back to the city which help to cover the costs of animal control. Bob stated that it isn't a perfect system, but it's what we have.

Wayne Myers stated that he doesn't have an animal but an overly inflated ticket infuriates him. There has got to be some reason to it. The fine money doesn't go to those that get injured. Mayor Buist agreed but stated that he doesn't want to see people get injured and then have no justice. Mike stated that council should think hard about barking, adding that they own a young dog and they are working with her. Jon stated that is why we have a court system to determine these types of things. Mayor Buist stated that he agrees with having warnings and stepped levels. Deputy Sutherland stated it depends on the owners; if they are working with the animal and are cooperative, there can be some understanding. Kevin Wright stated that a bark collar was successful for his animal.

*Mayor Buist closed the public hearing at 8:24pm and reopened council meeting.*

### **CJ Myers – Eagle Scout Project Proposal**

CJ will be using Aspect Software to map the fire hydrants for his Eagle Scout project. He will borrow the system from Juniper Systems and organize the efforts of other scouts. A few years ago, Preston Willie used the same software to map the water shutoff valves. He will print a map for city use. He said that this would benefit the city to know where all the fire hydrants are. Kirk stated that it would be good, the software license just needs to be renewed. Karole asked how many hydrants we have in town. Ray stated we have 106. Council approved of the Eagle Scout project.

### **Deputy Sutherland**

Deputy Sutherland stated that we have seen increased traffic flow on Hwy 23 since the road damage shut down Mendon Road. They are aware of these issues. Another issue is where main street and Hwy 23 intersect; people coming north are coming off Hwy 23 too fast.

In reference to Karole's question about semis on HWY 23, Deputy Sutherland stated that there is a designated highway patrolman that works specifically with UDOT. When they stop semi's, they check the loads, rolling log sheets, and hours. With semis being an issue, he will pass that concern along to highway patrol. Right now, he is working the graveyard, but when his schedule changes he will patrol during the busier time of day.

May Day is May 5 & 6. Mayor Buist stated that we have people in town Friday evening for the dance at the elementary school, so having a presence around is a good thing. Saturday morning, we will be gathering at the fire station and then closing down 100 N at 10 AM. There are festivities throughout the day. Deputy Sutherland will be there and he will find another deputy to be there also. Mayor Buist stated that ATVs are starting to be an issue with summer approaching. Mayor Buist will be issuing Deputy Sutherland a city master key.

### **Eric Dursteler, City Engineer - Excused**

### **Kirk Taylor, Public Works Director**

Kirk stated that he needs to get with Mayor Buist to change the cylinder on the door at the shop so that the city master key works on that lock. There is a pile of brush to burn at the cemetery. We have to get some dirt moved around up there too, but he doesn't know how to do that with our backhoe situation. It is too wet now, it needs to dry out.

Karole stated that we have someone to run the food stand for May Day. Kirk will call Pepsi to get that set up. We need to solve the commercial frig issue. There are a few used ones but he is more inclined to repair the one that is there; cost would be \$1200 to fix. A smaller frig won't work with the door swing. We do have the \$500 Rocky Mountain Power grant to go toward this cost or to replace the water heater.

They put more chips in the playground. The money came from the Cache County Population Grant. The other playground set needs chips as well as Taylor park.

There will be more pothole patching in the streets.

Kirk got the water use report to the division of drinking water, which they require every year. Quarterly water reports have been sent off also. Water samples are due this summer. Jon asked about what the static water level is. Kirk will have to look at that. Jon mentioned that a lot of the wells should be up.

Karole asked about landscaping for this building. Kirk stated that there just aren't any funds. Kirk's plan is to get the rocks raked out and lay a little bit of sod and put down some seed for now. We do have a landscape plan, but it is on hold for now.

### **Bob Jepsen**

Bob asked about whether we will be codifying the ordinances. Mayor Buist stated that it will be discussed in the July Council meeting and he is wanting to go ahead with it.

### **Greg Taylor**

We are still getting water in the station basement. He has talked with Eric Bowen about getting the cemetery expanded. Greg will hold a meeting to start these discussions. He would like to get Eric Dursteler involved with that. Bob suggested that we go outside council and get citizens involved. Karole and Ed would also like to be involved. Mike Carlson asked about directions. Plan would be to the west. Mosquito abatement meeting is next week.

### **Karole Sorensen**

The library board meeting was last night. They have several activities planned to let people know that this building is more than just a library. One thing that they need is an outside drop box. They are working to get the boxes of books that are stored upstairs processed. They will get those out by the end of May. Mayor Buist stated the sooner the better. Right now, they are not taking any book donations. Karole asked them about the cleaning, which they are appreciative of Amber and her work. They have over 7000 books in the library. They are looking for ways to get more teens involved. About 50 people per day come into the library.

### **Kelly Barrett**

Kelly stated that the street budget is tight even though we have only filled pot holes and snow removal. Other items have been discussed.

### **Jon Hardman**

The pump test on the well be take place at the end of April. The county is working on 5400 W and doing a good job to re-leave some of the water, putting in bigger culvert. Kirk stated that he has been down there and they have done a good job.

Jon stated that we are changing the use of the water shares to culinary. Today he put in paperwork for an extension on the water booster well. It was due at the end of March, but we need additional time to do measurements to know what water we will be pulling from each of our water sources.

**Mayor Ed Buist**

Mayor Buist asked that council come get mail weekly. Everything in the budget is tight, be as frugal as we can. Mayor Buist mentioned that despite budget efforts, we are hit with another issue. In the past we have leased the backhoe at \$892 per year. Kirk stated the average monthly cost over the years has been \$325. With changes to the state contract, we've either got to lease or buy and neither are cheap. Over all they are about \$95000, and we have to figure out a way. Whether it is buy, or lease, or get a used one or sub the work out, we are still talking a large amount of money. We have a real problem. We will be addressing that issue. Council works hard, and staff works hard. Mayor Buist thanked Council and Staff.

Jill stated that someone came to P&Z and a lady wanted to have a snow shack on her property, but it was determined that she would need a Conditional Use. She asked if she could do it on the square. Jill said she would ask council about this. We need to make sure everything is fair with the other vendors on the square. It was discussed in P&Z that the state doesn't require a business license for people under the age of 18. If she would like to do the issue on the square, she would need to come to council meeting to discuss.

Kelly stated that work was done on a fire department truck for \$1200, and we have a truck that we are decommissioning. The person who did the repair would be interested in a trade. Kelly asked about what the process is for surplus. In the past we have had to put vehicles out for bid. Mayor Buist suggested a minimum bid of \$1200, then get the cash and pay the bill.

Jon motioned to adjourn. Greg seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.