

**MINUTES**  
**THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Council Members Present: Mayor Duncan and Council Members: Gibson, Hill, Holland and O'Brien.

Absent: None

Others Present: Duncan Fuchise, Ron Drake, Colleen Thompson, John Groo, Ryan Anderson, Marie Hawkins, Russ Cooper and Carly Webster

Clerk: Jocelyn Buck

M Duncan called the Meeting Order at 6:30 PM and delivered the Electronic Meeting Determination Roll Call

**1. Open Public Comment:** None

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Public Hearings on the Tentative FY2022 Budget, Mayors Compensation Ordinance and Regular Town Council Meeting June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

CM Gibson motioned to approve the Minutes as corrected from June 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, CM O' Brien seconded motion passed unanimously

**3. Executive Reports:**

\* Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Land-Duncan Fuchise the Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator. Fuchise presented his area covers from Carbon County down to San Juan County. Castle Valley has a high potential for fire danger. FireSense is the Divisions current prevention campaign that they are using to educate residents on the importance of having defensible space in terms of reducing vegetation up against and around houses. Come Fall residents are encouraged to reduce fuels around their houses. A defensible space goal would be, could your house survive fire if a firetruck was not nearby and resources are all tied up. The Castle Valley Fire Department is working with the Division to offer fire wise lot assessments to residents. Appointments for assessments can be made through the CV Fire Department. Fuchise's Division also offers Chipper days to help residents reduce fuels, Leta Vaughn coordinates Chipper Days. Things learnt from the Pack Creek Fire was how fast embers can spread fire, he also showed a video of how high and intense the flames could be from burning Pinyon and junipers. Fuchise recommended <https://utahfiresense.org> as a good resource for fire wise information. Currently he is working on a grant proposal to fund fire mitigation work on private properties in Castle Valley. If they get this Catastrophic Fire Prevention funding it would not be available until next summer. Contact info for Fuchise 435-210-4328 dfuchise@utah.gov

\*Water Agent and Water Committee Report - CM O'Brien reported the Water Advisory Committee has been working on their strategy for their meeting August 18th with Marc Stilson and Teresa Wilhelmsen of the State Division of Water Rights. They will discuss what would be necessary in order to close our aquifer to further appropriations. He pointed out that we need the volume of water flowing through the Valley aquifer in order to maintain the aquifer's hydrostatic pressure that keeps down the bad/hard water. The Committee also discussed getting another monitor well, they are waiting to get pricing from Danny Pricket. Some of the funding could come from MAWP or maybe ARPA funds. Groo added that with the statewide drought the Committee would like to work on updating/amending the Watering Ordinance 2002-1 it needs some measure or trigger points to initiate water restrictions and a methods of enforcement.

\*Roads Committee- M Duncan-Minutes and Database Reports provided. CM Holland thanked CM Gibson for her work on the database reports.

\*Planning & Land Use Commission-Colleen Thompson- Minutes and reports provided. CM Holland asked if Storage containers count towards the total lot square footage. Thompson clarified we do include that square footage. Grand County does not require building permits for storage containers but the Town can require a zoning permit.

\* Community Renewable Energy Program CM Gibson reported the first in person official Board of Directors meeting was held last month to appoint the Chair and Secretary. The first members meeting was this past Tuesday and they scheduled monthly meetings for the first Tuesday of the month at 9 AM. Castle Valley is one of the seven anchor Communities. Next work will begin on how the program will operate.

\*Solid Waste District- Diana Ackerman- not present

\*EMS District- Ed Weeks- not present.

\*Fire District-Chief Drake reported the phones were out overnight last Wednesday and they set up a command post at the Town Building. The Fire District received a State grant for \$9000.00 that they will use to buy some equipment.

\*Housing Task Force- M Duncan- nothing to report

\*County Economic Advisory Board-M Duncan reported the Board is putting together the next grant application forms.

\* Dark Sky Team – Buck reported they have finished work on the Draft Lighting Ordinance and it has been sent on to the PLUC. There will be a public hearing on that Ordinance this Fall. CM Holland is still collecting letters of support. Tom Noce has provided a map of the monitoring sites and Buck is still getting monthly night sky readings. Tania Kincaid has a friend that studies the effects of dark night skies; she will be coming to the Valley to give a presentation in October. The Team will meet next week and plan out work on the other areas of the IDA application. CM Holland will write the letter of support on behalf of the Town Council.

4. Correspondence: None

5. Administrative Matters & Procedures: CM Hill updated Council on the Book Cliff's Highway; the Seven County Coalition has not applied for a new EIS from the BLM this has to happen before the project can be considered again. So the group that is against the highway will wait to meet with the BLM. They are working with Congressman De Fazio who is concerned it would be a misuse of infrastructure funds to finance this highway. CM O'Brien will send out the information on the Manti-LaSal National Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire project and the Council should send a letter of comment on the project. A draft letter will be sent around to the Council for approval by email.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

6. Discussion and Possible Action re: Road Manager (Administrative only) job description.

M Duncan explained this was approved by the Road Committee as an option to hire someone for the administrative part of the Supervisor position. Potentially someone that does not have the experience on the equipment required for the current Road Supervisor position. This position would be for only 4 hours per week and the Equipment Operators 1 and 2 positions would do the actual road work. CM Hill suggested removing #9 language "hiring and firing" responsibilities as those duties fall to the Mayor in the other job descriptions. Council agreed.

CM Hill motioned to approve the Road Manager (Administrative only) job description with that change; CM O'Brien seconded motion passed unanimously

7. Discussion and Possible Action re: Road Closure Ordinance. Utah Code: 72-5-105 (3) (4) (5)

M Duncan explained this situation came up when we wanted to close Castle Creek Lane because of the hazardous dead cottonwood tree. Apparently we need an official Ordinance in order to close a public road. It was agreed that more information was needed and an Ordinance will be written. Item dropped.

8. Discussion and Possible Action re: Tom Noce's garden shelf

Buck explained Tom Noce would like to build a small shelf/ shed out front by the bicycle rack for people to donate/trade fruit and vegetables. Council only concern was that the shed be monitored for produce going bad and compost removed off site. Council thought it was a great Community resource and gave their permission.

9. Discussion and Possible Action re: Update on Upper 80/BLM fire break project

CM Holland explained the fire break project is about 9 acres just southeast of the green gate beyond the Upper Eighty. Jason Kirks crew have done a 1 acre experimental plot, they took out some trees and limbed up a lot junipers. They mulched up the limbs with the chipper truck and will be offering to the

bigger limbs to the public for firewood. Kirks has the budget to work within 50 feet of the BLM fence line into private property (with property owner's permission). The planned fire break will be 50' to 100' out from the fence line and they will only cut junipers 4' in diameter or less. Work will continue as long as the crew is not called out to a fire. Council was encouraged to go look at the experimental acre.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**- None

**10.** Closed Meeting Utah Code 52-4-205 (a) Discussion of the character and professional competence of an Individual (not necessary).

**11.** Payment of the bills.

CM Hill commented that the Actual Budget for FY2021 was closed out and overall we did very well considering we did not know how COVID would affect revenue and expenses.

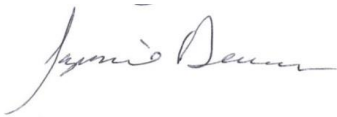
CM O'Brien motioned to pay the bills, CM Holland seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

CM Hill motioned to adjourn, CM O'Brien seconded, motion passed unanimously.

M Duncan adjourned the Meeting at 7:40 PM

**Approved:**



**Jazmine Duncan, Mayor**

**Date: 8.19.2021**

**Attested:**



**Jocelyn Buck, Town Clerk**

**Date: 8.19.2021**