

MINUTES
WEBER COUNTY COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 - 4:05 p.m. - Electronic Meeting

In accordance with the requirements of Utah Code Annotated Section 52-4-203, the County Clerk records in the minutes the names of all persons who appear and speak at a County Commission meeting and the substance "in brief" of their comments. Such statements may include opinion or purported facts. The County does not verify the accuracy or truth of any statement but includes it as part of the record pursuant to State law.

WEBER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Gage Froerer, "Jim" H. Harvey, and Scott K. Jenkins.

STAFF PRESENT: Ricky D. Hatch, County Clerk/Auditor; Bryan Baron, Deputy County Attorney; and Fátima Fernelius, of the Clerk/Auditor's Office, who took minutes.

A. WELCOME - Chair Froerer

B. INVOCATION - Commissioner Harvey

C. THOUGHT OF THE DAY - Commissioner Jenkins

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Comments were to be emailed to the Commission Office and none were received.

E. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Ratify warrants #2556-2595 and #448255-448386 in the amount of \$2,513,592.11 dated March 24, 2020.
2. Warrants #2596-2614 and #448387-448623 in the amount of \$844,604.79.
3. Purchase orders in the amount \$199,240.22.
4. Minutes for the meeting held on March 17, 2020.
5. New business licenses.
6. Surplus two ice makers/water dispensers from Property Management.
7. Surplus cubicles from the Attorney's Office.
8. Amendment to grant with Utah State Department of Workforce Services for Intergenerational Poverty Plan Implementation Pilot Program.
9. Ratification of Weber County Human Resources Policy 4-200: Leave Practices.
10. Ratification of Weber County Human Resources Policy 7-200: Expanded FMLA & Paid Sick Leave.
11. Retirement Agreement with Eric Wadman.

Commissioner Jenkins moved to approve the consent items; Commissioner Harvey seconded.
Commissioner Harvey – aye; Commissioner Jenkins– aye; Chair Froerer – aye

F. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **GRANT MODIFICATION WITH THE INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION TO HIRE AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.**

Bryan Baron, Deputy County Attorney, said that the county has access to left over grant money through 6/30/2020 that would go unused and had requested \$10,000 of those funds to hire an administrative assistant to help gather and report data to the IDC and also \$10,500 for investigators. This was approved.

Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the grant modification with the Indigent Defense Commission to hire an administrative assistant; Commissioner Jenkins seconded.

Commissioner Harvey – aye; Commissioner Jenkins– aye; Chair Froerer – aye

2. **CONTRACT WITH DEBORAH DAVIS FOR CONSULTATIVE AND EXPERT WITNESS SERVICES.**

Bryan Baron, Deputy County Attorney, said that the county's indigent defense attorneys requested that Ms. Davis provide her opinion and testimony as a false confession expert.

Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the contract with Deborah Davis for consultative and expert witness services; Commissioner Jenkins seconded.

Commissioner Harvey – aye; Commissioner Jenkins– aye; Chair Froerer – aye

3. **CONTRACT WITH BONNEVILLE COLLECTIONS FOR BAD DEBT AND BAD CHECK RECOVERY SERVICES.**

Jennifer Graham, of County Culture, Parks & Recreation, stated that this contract went through the bid process. The collection fee was brought down to 18% from 30%. She responded to Commissioner Jenkins' question stating that it includes collecting from events that do not fulfill their payment requirements.

Commissioner Jenkins moved to approve the contract with Bonneville Collections for bad debt and bad check recovery services; Commissioner Harvey seconded.

Commissioner Harvey – aye; Commissioner Jenkins– aye; Chair Froerer – aye

4. CONTRACT WITH HUNDEN STRATEGIC PARTNERS (HSP), TO DETERMINE MARKET, FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE OGDEN ECCLES CONFERENCE CENTER.

Marty Smith, Culture Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated that as talks resumed last year concerning the need for more parking and possibly expanding the Conference Center, he and Kassi Bybee, Ogden Eccles Conference Center General Manager, attended a Convention, Sports & Entertainment Facility Conference’s workshops to familiarize themselves with undertaking an expansion of this magnitude. At the end of last year they issued an RFP for consulting firms to do a feasibility study and to walk the county through the next phases. There were four respondents and after about three months of vetting and working with various county staff, HSP was selected. If the feasibility indicates that expansion is needed, it will also indicate which type of space is needed. Commissioner Harvey thanked the selection team for the thoroughness and extra work on this item noting that each proposal was complex. Chair Froerer referred to the \$1.1 million that Ogden City is holding for the proposed future parking terrace. He stated that parking needs to be a very integral part of this study. Mr. Smith responded to his questions including that there are about 13 steps and tasks to the first phase of this item and will include all the key stakeholders (Visit Ogden, Ogden City), the downtown economic impact, etc.

Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the contract with Hundeen Strategic Partners to determine market, financial feasibility and economic impact of possible OECC expansion; Commissioner Jenkins seconded does not commit to long term .

Commissioner Harvey – aye; Commissioner Jenkins– aye; Chair Froerer – aye

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Commissioner Jenkins noted that these are trying times that we are working under with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and we have to keep up the good work to stop it from spreading in the community. Commissioner Harvey complimented the other two commissioners as he’s watched their work ethic throughout this pandemic. He knows that they are spending countless hours calling businesses and connecting them with resources, figuring out how to meet remotely with other elected officials, department heads, and trying to keep employees and the public safe while operating essential services. Chair Froerer also referred to this uncharted territory for all of us and the health impact, overlaid with economic impact to our small businesses due to the quarantine/closed businesses.

Commissioner Jenkins said that the county was notified a couple of days ago by Brad Blanch that he was aware of the county’s decision on the property on 3600 West and that he was pushing to include in this meeting that the county is ready to move forward with foreclosure on that property to make it a proper street. Chair Froerer said that it was clear and felt fairly secure based upon the last meeting and analysis with the County Surveyor and others to move ahead. Commissioner Jenkins would like to give the County Attorney’s Office the ok to start the process. He said that they informed Mr. Hipwell at that meeting that he was putting the county in a position where he forced the county to do this, and Mr. Hipwell had said he knew this. This is Chair Froerer’s understanding as well and he said for the county to do whatever is needed to move forward. Commissioner Harvey concurred and recalled that this process was to be reviewed by Courtlan Erickson, Deputy County Attorney, for the piece of property on the west side of 3600 West. Chair Froerer asked Commissioner Jenkins to talk with the Attorney’s Office, and he will start the process and report back.

H. ADJOURN

Commissioner Jenkins moved to adjourn at 4:38 p.m.; Commissioner Harvey seconded.

Commissioner Harvey – aye; Commissioner Jenkins – aye; Chair Froerer – aye

Attest:

Gage Froerer, Chair
Weber County Commission

Ricky D. Hatch, CPA
Weber County Clerk/Auditor