

MINUTES
WEBER COUNTY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 24th, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom meeting + at Weber Center, 2380 Washington Blvd., Ogden, UT

In accordance with the requirements of Utah Code Section 52-4-203, the County Clerk records in the minutes the names of all persons who 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 and Sharon Bolos; James "Jim" H. Harvey - excused
STAFF PRESENT: Jason Horne, of the County Clerk/Auditor's office; Chris Crockett, Deputy County Attorney; and Craig D. Brandt, of the County Clerk/Auditor's office, who took minutes.

A. WELCOME: Chair Froerer

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Kristy Bingham

C. INVOCATION: Craig Brandt

D. THOUGHT OF THE DAY: Commissioner Froerer: My thoughts go to the snow we are anticipating. It was pointed out that Weber County had Powder Mountain rated number one and Snow Basin rated number two respectively in the Ski Magazine publication's Top 30 Resorts in the West. I think the people realize that we have by far the best snow and best ski experience. It makes me both happy and sad. The lines are substantially longer than I remember in my high school days. It's a great thing for Weber County.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE.

F. RECOGNITIONS:

1. Recognition of Wendie Glass for creating a process to improve the experience at the Weber County Transfer Station for the My Hometown events:

Sean Wilkinson (Community Development Director): We are pleased to honor Wendie this morning. She has worked for Weber County for almost 28 years. She creates what she calls Garbage Pail Kids cards for each employee with a creative picture she draws of them with a name she gives them. Her favorite things working at the Transfer Station are the customers and fellow employees and the crazy things she has seen come through the garbage. The My Hometown Ogden project is a service project that Ogden City partners with other organizations to do service projects in inner city Ogden to help clean up some of the homes and neighborhoods. They happen on Saturdays which are the busiest days at the Transfer Station which led volunteers for the project waiting in line to drop off waste gathered during the project. She volunteered to come in on her days off to operate the commercial scale so the My Hometown people can get in and out. We just wanted to recognize Wendie for the great work she does and for the great employee she is for Weber County.

Wendie Glass (Transfer Station): I just like working here, it's been good to me. There are a lot of funny stories in garbage.

John Watson (My Hometown, Chair): There are so many great things in our county. Today we recognize Wendie as one of them. My Hometown is a joint effort in Ogden City to help some areas improve their homes and neighborhoods to make them safer. We go in to remedy code violations to save people the fines. We have a difficult time getting rid of some of the waste produced in some of those homes and often people would wait almost an hour to get rid of that waste. Wendie stepped up and said she would operate the commercial scale on her own time to speed up the process. There are not many of us willing to come in on our days off. She is a tremendous example of a Weber County employee who steps up and does her job with joy and excitement in her life. We are closing in on almost 1000 homes we have helped in Ogden City in the last two years. Thank you for the help you have given my hometown.

Commissioner Bolos: Thank you Wendie for your initiative and your generosity. It says something about a person that has willingness to come in on their day off to help this great effort.

2. Recognition of Cory Christensen for achieving his Electrical Journeyman License:

Bryce Taylor (Property Management): Cory started when he was 19 years old in Recreation and came over to our department and is coming up on 11 years with the County. Cory is great at interacting with all of the departments, he is a great asset. He has done almost everything in our department and has moved on to the electrical side. The apprentice program is a four year program working full time while attending two classes per week. There is a practical test, a code test, and a theoretical test. This all requires time away from family to accomplish. We are grateful for Cory and proud of his effort and what he has done.

Cory Christensen: I am grateful for all the bosses who have helped me and answered questions to help me get here.

Commissioner Froerer: Your journeyman designation allows us to not have to go out for bid on many projects which saves us money.

Commissioner Bolos: Congratulations Cory, I am proud of you. When I heard what it takes to get the license, it's pretty amazing. I appreciate your sacrifice for the County.

G. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Warrants #9227-9289, #479935-480042 and #298-301 in the amount of \$4,397,576.28.
2. Purchase orders in the amount of \$230,922.14.
3. Summary of Warrants and Purchase Orders.
4. New business licenses.
5. Easement Agreement with SMHG Landco, LLC for storm drainage improvements for the Powder Mountain Subdivision and Village Nests at Powder Mountain.
6. Contract with Inoel Chavez for the October 2023 Matched Races that were held at the Golden Spike Event Center.
7. Contract with Simple Treasures Boutique for the Simple Treasures Holiday Boutique to be held at the Golden Spike Event Center.
8. Contract with Magical Celebrations for strolling performances at the 2023 Weber County Fair.
9. Amendment to the professional services contract with VCBO Architecture for the Ogden Eccles Conference Center Remodel.

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

H. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OGDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ACTION NOW MODEL AS AN INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY MITIGATION STRATEGY.**

Carrie Maxson (Equity & Access Supervisor, Ogden School District): Ogden School District has a high number of intergenerational poverty families that experience trauma that becomes a barrier to students' success in school. To do that deep work with families, ICAN does that through their Resource Integration Coaches. Another thing we do is share data with ICAN to get students to resources they need. This leads to the students being better prepared to learn and feeling safer.

Bob Hunter (United Way of Northern Utah, Public Policy Advisor): I just want to say how much we appreciate working with the Ogden School District. I just wanted to add that our resource integration coaches are amazing. They go with them and offer a warm hand. They all have the heart that is required to do that kind of thing with those families. We have some great employees here. We appreciate the partnership and as a result families and their children will be much more successful.

Commissioner Bolos moved to approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Ogden School District to continue working with the Integrated Community Action Now model as an Intergenerational Poverty Mitigation Strategy; Commissioner Froerer seconded.
Commissioner Harvey – excused; Commissioner Bolos – aye; Chair Froerer – aye

2. **APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR WEBER COUNTY FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR AND TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 28, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. TO CONSIDER A WEBER COUNTY PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OF 7.25% OR \$3,943,146 (\$35.19 PER YEAR ON AN AVERAGE RESIDENCE) TO FUND THE INCREASED COST OF MAINTAINING EXISTING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY.**

Scott Parke (Comptroller): As you are aware the budget process started in August with the County requesting each department's proposed budget for the coming year. Through this process I can assure you Weber County's commitment to financial stability is unwavering. We have not had to raise the general operating tax rate since 2016. But currently we are having challenges retaining essential services and attracting and retaining qualified staff. For example 22% of our frontline Sheriff positions are open and vacant; we can't staff them. In addition we are experiencing inflationary pressures such as surge in materials and fuel prices, escalating utility costs, and three years in a row of double digit increases in our health insurance. All of these put a strain on our County budget. To address these issues, we first looked inward. We asked for our departments to look at where we could save money and they responded with nearly \$2.5M in savings. However, that is not enough to cover the increased costs for existing services. We are proposing a modest tax increase of 7.25%. This will help us bridge the financial gap. This is the first time since 2016 that we have had a general fund increase. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday November 28th at 6pm

where will take feedback on the proposed budget with adoption of the budget following in December. This includes a modest 3% cost of living increase for our employees and a 2% 'pay for performance' and some other targeted market adjustments for positions furthest behind the market. It also includes a reduction in 11 positions as some grant money runs out but also from departments have voluntarily given up positions to help fund these cost of living and pay for performance adjustments. Since 2016, we have seen inflation impacts of 5.7% and 8.7% the last two years alone in Social Security. We are asking for 7.25% which is less than the cost of inflation over one year even though it's our first increase in seven years.

Commissioner Bolos: I wanted to thank you for your and Steffani's time spent on these budget meetings and everything involved.

Commissioner Bolos moved to approval to adopt the tentative operating and capital budget for Weber County for the 2024 calendar year and to set a public hearing on November 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to consider a Weber County property tax increase of 7.25% or \$3,943,146 (\$35.19 per year on an average residence) to fund the increased cost of maintaining existing operations within the County; Commissioner Froerer seconded. Commissioner Harvey – excused; Commissioner Bolos – aye; Chair Froerer – aye

I. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Request for a motion to adjourn public meeting and convene public hearings.

Commissioner Bolos moved to adjourn the public meeting and convene public hearings, 10:35 a.m.; Commissioner Froerer seconded.

Commissioner Harvey – excused; Commissioner Bolos – aye; Chair Froerer – aye

3. Public hearing to discuss amendments to the operating and capital budget of Weber County for the 2023 calendar year.

Scott Parke (Comptroller): Now we are talking about our existing 2023 budget. We have received additional grants from the Forest Service and the State of Utah that we want to spend. This requires your approval even though it does not take a draw on the fund balance. We have about \$520,000 of additional revenue from Grants and settlements coming in of which we're asking to spend about \$372,000 of new dollars. The rest of that money will help offset some existing expenses that are already in our budget. In addition to that, we've been successful at our conference center, our Golden Spike, and our Ice Sheet. Our concessions departments and our sales are actually exceeded our forecasts so have the cost of sales. So we're asking to amend the budget up to use that additional Revenue to cover the additional costs of providing those concessions so there's no additional draw to the fund balance from that. Then our transfer station volume has increased, we've had more garbage come in than we had expected and so more revenue has been generated to cover the disposal costs. All those costs, the revenues and the expenses, are balanced so there's no draw from general fund. There are only two items that are actually being requested that will draw general fund dollars. The first one is public defender Capital defense and appeals. We've had more appeals than we had budgeted for originally. We don't really have control over the number of appeals and we have to fund them. We don't really have much of a choice; it's a state statute. We work well with the state to try to secure Grant funds to help cover those costs. But in this instance our appeals are just higher than we had. The second issue was some opportunities to do some improvements at the transfer station laying, some asphalt and some other various building improvements. As part of our capital projects plan, we had hoped to do these in the next few years but we were able to accelerate those and do them this year. Those are the two that are actually drawing funds that aren't covered with revenue but we have sufficient fund balance to cover both without any issues. With that, I present to you these changes for the 2023 operating and capital budgets.

3. Public Comments: None.

4. Request for a motion to adjourn public hearings and reconvene public meeting.

Commissioner Bolos moved to adjourn the public hearings and reconvene public meeting, 10:9 am; Commissioner Froerer seconded.

Commissioner Harvey – excused; Commissioner Bolos – aye; Chair Froerer – aye

5. Action on public hearing:

H2: Approval of Resolution 44-2023 amending the operating and capital budget of Weber County for the 2023 calendar year.

Commissioner Bolos moved to approve Resolution 44-2023 amending the operating and capital budget of Weber County for the 2023 calendar year; Commissioner Froerer seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Harvey – excused; Commissioner Bolos – aye; Chair Froerer – aye

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: NONE.

K. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Bolos moved to adjourn at 10:39 am.; Commissioner Froerer seconded.

Commissioner Harvey – excused; Commissioner Bolos – aye; Chair Froerer – aye

Attest:

Gage Froerer, Chair
Weber County Commission

Ricky D. Hatch, CPA
Weber County Clerk/Auditor