

**MINUTES
WEBER COUNTY COMMISSION**

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 – 5:33 p.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: James "Jim" H. Harvey, Gage Froerer, and Scott K. Jenkins.

STAFF PRESENT: Lynn Taylor, of the County Clerk/Auditor's Office; Christopher Crockett, Deputy County Attorney; and Craig Brandt, of the Clerk/Auditor's Office, who took minutes.

A. WELCOME: Chair Harvey

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Shelly Halacy

C. INVOCATION: Sean Wilkinson

D. THOUGHT OF THE DAY: Commissioner Jenkins discussed the opportunity afforded tonight for citizens to share their concerns and communicate with representatives. Tax increase was aimed to be small, incremental. (Sheriff has 52 vacancies unfilled.) Representative government is a wonderful thing.

E. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Warrants #4687-4731 and #463715-463979 in the amount of \$3,244,214.67.
2. Purchase orders in the amount of \$499,256.78.
3. Minutes for the Commission meetings held on July 27, August 3 and 10, and November 16, 2021
4. New business licenses.
5. Surplus nine vehicles/equipment from Weber County Fleet Department.
6. Weber County Human Resources Policy 2-100 Employment Status.

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

F. ACTION ITEMS:

1. **FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH UTAH BROADBAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING, OPERATING, AND MAINTAINING A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY OF WEBER COUNTY.**

Sean Wilkinson (Director – Community Development): agreement grants non-exclusive right to maintain subject system. If county enacts ordinance covering franchises, county has provision in the contract to apply those changes, including franchise fees.

Commissioner Froerer moved approve a franchise agreement with Utah Broadband for the purpose of installing, operating, and maintaining a communications system within the public rights of way of Weber County; Commissioner Jenkins seconded.

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

Commissioner Froerer moved to recess, 5:48 pm; Commissioner Jenkins seconded.

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

G. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Request for a motion to adjourn meeting and convene a public hearing.
Commissioner Froerer moved to adjourn the public meeting and convene a public hearing, 6:02 pm; Commissioner Jenkins seconded.
2. Public hearing to take input on the Weber County 2022 Tentative Operating and Capital Budgets and the proposed tax increase.

Scott Parke (County Comptroller) presented the following:

- How County government is funded and county revenue
- How County spends money
- General Fund revenue
- General Fund Expenditures by Function and Type
- Employee Compensation
- Capital Projects
- Five Year Forecasts for following funds:
 - General
 - Library
 - Paramedic

- Health
- Municipal Services
- Earlier proposed 46% Municipal Services tax increase is no longer needed thanks to higher than expected sales tax revenue.
- Proposed 4.5% county tax increase mainly for flood control and libraries.
 - Libraries
 - Flood Control
 - Matching Federal grants available in the past

3. Public Comments:

- a. Jim Bird, Huntsville, UT: Library increase amounts to about \$20 per person; this pales in comparison to the value that libraries bring to the community.
- b. Sandra Davies, Ogden, UT: our greatest county resource is our people. Investing in that resource is efficient through libraries.
- c. Shelby Joy, North Ogden, UT (young teenage girl): Importance and necessity of libraries.
- d. Dale Parkinson, Ogden City, UT: Ogden City doubled taxes in last five years, requiring more than what he paid for his mortgage.
- e. Ben Garrett, Ogden City, UT: You've given me little reason to trust you. This taxation is theft.
- f. Dylan Curl, Ogden Canyon, UT: Are there other options to tax increases? Related tax increases for multiple properties.
- g. David Joy, North Ogden, UT: Grateful for flood control needs being addressed and for ensuring libraries are supported.
- h. Sandy Crosland, Ogden: On library board. Explained libraries philosophy of 'Radical Civility'. Library is best invest in yourself.
- i. Saleh Tonga, 1051 30th St, Ogden, UT: Workers should get real credit for helping people; though buildings seem to get much of the focus.
- j. Dustin Harper, Unincorporated Weber County, UT: Proposed tax increases would be better spent on families' needs such as diapers.
- k. Rick Curl, Ogden Canyon, UT: Has the county kept in mind the huge windfall coming from increased home valuations?
- l. Mr. Parke: How being Revenue Neutral state in Utah works. Home value increases do not automatically trigger property tax increases. Tax commission sets tax rate. Only new tax revenue is from new growth.
- m. Commissioner Froerer: encourage everyone to look at their tax bill; largest piece goes to school district.
- n. Stuart Kayler, Ogden City, UT: taxes have increased year-after-year since moving to Ogden. Though proposed Library Tax would be \$20/yr, it's the principle.
- o. Doug Tripplett, Huntsville, UT: look at financial obligations in your positions. 11 line items on tax bill where rate went down but bill went up. How does that happen?
- p. Jayce Rineveld, Ogden, UT (Air Force Academy grad): Most of rental increases on his properties due to property tax increase.
- q. Glenn Donaldson, North Ogden, UT: tax increases hard on fixed income.
- r. Roland Miller, Ogden, UT: libraries strengthen lives in ways little else can.
- s. Clifton Jolly, Ogden, UT: Please raise my taxes, give me more library.
- t. Terry McCullough, Ogden, UT: Former educator. You can't ask a kid who lives in a car to do his homework in the car; they will do it in the library.
- u. Shannon Francis, Eden, UT: Increase in Short Term Rentals (STRs) in the valley. Over 50% are not primary residents. What is breakdown of flood control numbers between western Weber and Upper Valley?
- v. Reed Miller, North Ogden, UT: Lot of misunderstanding when home values go up and taxes follow, County gets blamed; school board source of increase. Also sees constitutional issue when money taken from us limits 'Life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.'
- w. Marcella Tabin, South Ogden, UT: Technology changes over time and that costs money. Changes happen over time and that can be good.
- x. Toby Muleskee, Pleasant View: opposed to tax increase; find another way within current budget.
- y. Jill Colvert, Ogden, UT: taxes are death by a thousand cuts. Issue with affordable housing in this county.

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

Commissioner Froerer moved to adjourn the public hearing and reconvene a public meeting, 7:39 pm;
 Commissioner Jenkins seconded.
 Commissioner Froerer – aye; Commissioner Jenkins – aye; Chair Harvey – aye

Commissioner Jenkins: Hardscape dependent on zoning within communities.

Commissioner Froerer: Gratitude to everyone who took time to participate tonight. 99% of tax code comes from state.

Mr. Parke:

- a. Does OECC produce enough income to support itself? No, it does not. Funded through tourism tax.
- b. Tax increase will not cover Paramedic Fund.
- c. The County needs to be competitive with other businesses competing for same potential employees. For example, 52 open Sheriff Deputy vacancies will be filled after competing against other law enforcement agencies looking for the same skill.

5. Action on public hearing:

Action on the public hearing will be taken on December 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. during the regularly scheduled commission meeting

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.


I. ADJOURN

Commissioner Froerer moved to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.; Commissioner Harvey seconded.
Commissioner Froerer – aye; Commissioner Jenkins – aye; Chair Harvey – aye



James H. Harvey, Chair
Weber County Commission

Attest:



Ricky D. Hatch, CPA
Weber County Clerk/Auditor