

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2024
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Blaine Porter, Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe, Chad Lyman, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.

Also present were Bill Weppner, DeAnn Brown, Fred Spencer, Lawrence Barnes, Julie Brugger and Victory Crawford.

Karly Ward, Brandon Ward and Loren Pena joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Lyman moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2024 MEETING

Council member Stowe moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024 meeting as written. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

KARLY AND BRANDON WARD – ONE MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING AND ONE SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING – C/R

Council member Stowe explained this project. Mrs. Ward said the single-family dwelling will be their home eventually but, in the meantime, they would like to use it as a long-term rental. City Recorder Steed explained the multi-family and said it is a permitted use in the Commercial/Residential (C/R) zone. Council member Lyman said the access is from highway 12 and asked if the property is wide enough for access. Mrs. Ward said it is. City Recorder Steed explained Mr. and Mrs. Ward have a permit from Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) for residential access but not commercial. Council member Stowe said this project meets all the requirements and Planning and Zoning has recommended it for approval. **Council member Wilson moved to approve the municipal project approval form for Mr. and Mrs. Ward. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members**

Wilson, Lyman, Porter, Orme and Stowe voting aye.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

DEANN BROWN – GARFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL UPDATES

Ms. Brown gave an update on the Garfield Memorial Hospital and asked if there is anything she can do for Escalante to let her know. Ms. Brown said Garfield Memorial Hospital and the Kazan Clinic have a good relationship.

KARLY AND BRANDON WARD – WATER METER

Council member Porter said he is not in favor of one meter for both dwellings. Council member Porter said each dwelling needs their own meter. Council member Porter said he contacted Rural Water and they advised to put a meter on each dwelling. Council member Lyman said in the past we have required a single parcel split for two meters. City Recorder Steed explained that is in the residential zone but this is in the Commercial/Residential zone and Multi Family is permitted. Mrs. Ward said they assumed they would have to have two meters and their engineer has advised them to get two meters. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Porter moved to approve two new water meters, one for each dwelling for Mr. and Mrs. Ward. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

KARLY AND BRANDON WARD – SEWER CONNECTION

Council member Porter said a sewer connection might be an issue due to this property being too low to connect to sewer from highway 12. Council member Lyman said if the sewer works, we can grant it but if not, they will have to look at other connections or a septic system. Mrs. Ward said their engineer told them it may be too low to connect from highway 12 but they may be able to connect from Main Street. Council member Lyman said if they want to connect from Main Street, they will have to get a right of way from the property owner and come back to the Council for approval. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Lyman moved to approve two Sewer Connection one for each dwelling if there is enough fall from highway 12 but if not, they would have to look at another approach or a septic system. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Porter, Lyman and Stowe voting aye.**

COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON – ADDITIONAL POWER IN THE PARK

Council member Wilson said in the last meeting the power on the Northeast side of the Park was discussed. Council member Wilson said the best way to separate the outdoor power and the Fire Station power is to put a new meter base with six new outlets and eliminate the outdoor outlets that are connected to the Fire Station. Council member Wilson said this project will be between \$1,220.00 and \$1,287.00. **Council member Porter moved to move forward with the additional power in the park. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Lyman, Stowe and Orme voting aye. Council member Wilson abstained due to his business will be doing the work.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Department had nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said since the last council meeting there have been no incidents.

Mr. Weppner said both fire trucks were pump tested and passed.

Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department would like to put signs on the doors that say authorized Personnel only and paint first responders parking only on the parking lot.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen said the Christmas party will be on December 3, 2024 right after the City Council meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman said he and Council member Porter met with Marty Cottam about widening Center Street. Council member Lyman said the idea would be to widen Center Street to 26 feet all the way out to the end of City Limits. Council member Lyman said he would like to approach Garfield County and ask them to help get a good base down and then in the spring chip seal all of it.

Council member Lyman said he will work with the office to get some street signs ordered. Mayor Torgersen said we have ordered more yield signs and she would like to have them on every intersection. Council member Lyman said we need to look at the placing of the yield signs due to one side of town yielding the opposite way than the other side.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson said there have been several places where rodents have been in the buildings and equipment at the airport.

Council member Wilson said the water tank road is in bad shape due to big rocks and flooding. Council member Wilson said he would ask that the City consider chip sealing the water tank road.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe asked when the signs will be put up at the City Park and the Multi-Purpose Center. Mayor Torgersen said she will talk to the Public Works employees and see when they can get it done.

Council member Stowe said the light switch in the old gym is at the back of the building and

asked Council member Wilson if he could put a switch at the front of the building. Council member Wilson said he can do it sometime this winter.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Stowe moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Lyman, Wilson and Porter voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member Lyman moved to go into executive session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual at 6:45 p.m. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe, Wilson, Porter and Lyman voting aye. Present at said executive session were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Porter, Orme, Wilson, Lyman, Stowe, City Attorney Huntington and City Recorder Steed.

Council member Porter moved to go out of executive session back into regular session at 7:10 p.m. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Porter, Stowe, Wilson and Orme voting aye.

Council member Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Stephanie Steed, MMC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 11/5/2024

