

**Murray City Municipal Council
Chambers
Murray City, Utah**

**Murray City Council Chair Determination
Open and Public Meeting Act
Utah State Code 52-4-207(4)
November 2, 2020**

The Murray City Municipal Council met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. for a meeting held electronically. In accordance with, Utah Code 52-4-207(4), due to infectious disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus, I have determined that meeting in an anchor location presents substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location because physical distancing measures may be difficult to maintain in the Murray City Council Chambers.

Federal, state and local leaders have all acknowledged the global pandemic. Salt Lake County Public Health Order 2020-13 dated August 19, 2020, recognizes that COVID-19 is a contagion that spreads from person to person and poses a continuing and immediate threat to the public health of Salt Lake County residents.

It is my intent to safeguard the lives of Murray residents, business owners, employees and elected officials by meeting remotely through electronic means without an anchor location.

The public may view the meeting via the live stream at www.murraycitylive.com or <https://www.facebook.com/Murraycityutah/> .

Citizen comments or public hearing comments may be made live through the Zoom meeting process or read into the record by sending an email to city.council@murray.utah.gov .



Rosalba Dominguez
Murray City Council Chair

Council Members in Attendance:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Kat Martinez | District #1 |
| Dale Cox | District #2 |
| Rosalba Dominguez | District #3 – Council Chair |
| Diane Turner | District #4 – Council Vice-Chair |
| Brett Hales | District #5 |

Others in Attendance:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Blair Camp | Mayor | Jan Lopez | Council Director |
| G.L. Critchfield | City Attorney | Jennifer Kennedy | City Recorder |
| Doug Hill | Chief Administrative Officer | Jennifer Heaps | Chief Communications Officer |
| Jon Harris | Fire Chief | Brenda Moore | Finance Director |
| Jeff Griffith | Firefighter/Paramedic | Kim Sorensen | Parks & Recreation Director |
| Pattie Johnson | City Council Office | Katie Lindquist | Cultural Arts Assistant |
| | | Lore Edmunds | Cultural Arts Director |
| | | | |
| Citizens | | | |

Opening Ceremonies

Call to Order – Councilmember Hales called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Avie, Girl Scout Troop 494.

Approval of Minutes

Council Meeting – October 20, 2020

MOTION: Councilmember Martinez moved to approve the minutes. The motion was **SECONDED** by Councilmember Dominguez. Voice vote taken, all “ayes.”

Special Recognition

1. Recognition of City Council Employee of the Month, Katie Lindquist, Cultural Arts.

Staff Presentation: Brett Hales, Councilmember and Kim Sorensen, Parks and Recreation Director
 Councilmember Hales said the Council started the Employee of the Month Program because they felt it was important to recognize the City’s employees. He stated that Ms. Lindquist would receive a certificate, a \$50 gift card and her name would appear on the plaque located in the Council Chambers. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Lindquist for all she does for the City.

Mr. Sorensen spoke about the work that Ms. Lindquist has done for the City. Lori Edmunds, Cultural Arts Director, also spoke about the great work that Ms. Lindquist does. Ms. Lindquist thanked the Council for recognizing her.

2. Recognition of City Council Employee of the Month, Jeff Griffith, Firefighter/Paramedic.

Staff Presentation: Brett Hales, Councilmember and Jon Harris, Fire Chief

Councilmember Hales said the Council started the Employee of the Month Program because they felt it was important to recognize the City's employees. He stated that Mr. Griffith would receive a certificate, a \$50 gift card and told him that his name would appear on the plaque located in the Council Chambers. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Griffith for all he does for the City.

Chief Harris spoke about the work Mr. Griffith has done in the 28 years he has been with the City. Mr. Griffith thanked the Council and spoke about the pallet wall that is located at the new Fire Station. Mayor Camp congratulated Mr. Griffith.

3. Resolutions Recognizing and Supporting Workers during COVID-19

- 3.1 Consider a resolution recognizing and supporting Healthcare Workers who provide vital medical services to the patients in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Presentation: Rosalba Dominguez, Councilmember
Councilmember Dominguez read the resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Turner moved to approve the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Dominguez.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez
Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

- 3.2 Consider a resolution recognizing the efforts of First Responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Presentation: Dale Cox, Councilmember
Councilmember Cox read the resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Dominguez moved to approve the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Turner.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez
Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

- 3.3 Consider a resolution acknowledging and supporting Frontline and Essential Workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Presentation: Brett Hales, Councilmember

Councilmember Hales read the resolution.

MOTION: Councilmember Martinez moved to approve the resolution. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Cox.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez
Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

Citizen Comments – Comments are limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Council.

Janet Lopez, Council Director, read the following comment.

Karen Edwards – Murray City, Utah

A Plea to Murray City regarding Utility Bills. Hello everyone, my name is Karen Edwards. The home has been our family home for 73 years. I have personally owned the home since 2004. This home has been my permanent address for my entire life, I did live briefly in California and Arizona. To say the least, I love it here and I love Murray just as much. Murray has been a safe haven for me and for my family. We have lived and grown up here for 4 generations.

Things change as time goes on and I have tried to support productive change. It also becomes necessary to make business plan adjustments so the City can remain viable. I am here today because I have concerns about remaining viable myself with the new changes in my utility payment.

After a careful examination of my bills and usage over the last year my conclusions are:

1. The extremely high usage of water in September and October was due to a leak in the sprinkling system which we were unaware of. The water was draining off underground into the meter hole.
2. The use of the Tier/Step program (designed to encourage individuals to use less water) makes it extremely expensive to use water that gets into the Step 5. I support being frugal with our water. Some of us who have older homes have larger lawns and I would say that accounts for a big piece of this. There are only two of us who live here. We take fast showers, wash clothes once a week and only run the dishwasher when full.

Therefore, when the change in the Step program came about and so much of my consumption is in Step 5, I have a much higher bill now. The jump in rate from Step 4 to Step 5 is pretty hefty. I had been paying \$239 on my equal payment plan, it has now been increased to \$345. Now the \$239 just about busted the budget, this new jump causes me great concern.

These are difficult times to say the least. Those of us who live on fixed incomes have no room for such raises like this in expenses. I don't have a lot of faith that this meeting and people's pleas will make any

change to ease this hardship. But I definitely wanted to make it known it is a hardship. I love Murray and have faith in its government. I am just asking that you look carefully and see if such a hike is really necessary because it affects some of us a whole lot.

Councilmember Cox recommended forwarding Ms. Edward's letter to the State Representatives for Murray City. The Step system was mandated by the State and Murray City had no control over it.

New Business

1. Consider a resolution adopting the regular meeting schedule of the Murray City Municipal Council for calendar year 2021.

Staff Presentation: Jan Lopez, Council Director

Ms. Lopez said the normal City Council meeting days are the first and third Tuesdays of each month. She noted a few date adjustments. In August 2021, the dates have been adjusted to accommodate a Power Conference that most of the City Council attends. Elections are the first Tuesday in November 2021 so the City Council meetings will be on the second and third Tuesdays of that month. The dates have been adjusted in December 2021 to the first and second Tuesday to free up Councilmembers schedules for the holidays.

MOTION: Councilmember Turner moved to adopt the ordinance. The motion was SECONDED by Councilmember Martinez.

Council roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Martinez, Councilmember Cox, Councilmember Dominguez
Councilmember Turner, Councilmember Hales

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passed 5-0

Mayor's Report and Questions

Mayor Camp reported on the following items:

- The City is up to date on the orders that were issued this week by the Governor and Health Department. Each Department Head is assessing their departments to ensure they are following the mandates. These mandates impacted the recreation programs the most because some programs had to be canceled for a couple of weeks.
- The bonds for the construction of the New City Hall have been sold. The interest rate is 2.895%.
- The City has received a number of calls from utility customers about increases in their bills. October is when the equal pay cycle resets. That has caused some issues because there are some customers that don't understand how that works. The utility billing customer service agents are happy to go over bills with any utility customer. Murray City's power rate has not gone up since October of 2011. The City is in the third year of the metered water rates. Those rates went into effect in April of 2018. There was an increase in March of 2019 and again in March of 2020. There are water increases set for March of 2021 and March of 2022. These rates were set after rate studies were done. Annual sewer increases were implemented in 2017 with rate increases

scheduled through November of 2021. Storm Water fees are also on a five year increase plan, with the first increase occurring in July of 2020. All rates can be found in the City Code. Unfortunately, the timing of the equal pay reset comes at the same time as the change in the utility billing software.

- The City offices will be closed tomorrow, November 11, 2020, to observe Veterans Day. Mayor Camp expressed his appreciation for all those who have served.

Councilmember Martinez asked if the Mayor's office could include some of this utility information in his monthly newsletter. Mayor Camp said they could do that.

Councilmember Martinez asked if there was a plan to send out something to residents about the executive orders from the Governor as far as changes the City is making or how the City supports the mask mandate. Mayor Camp said the website has been updated with that information. The newsletter will reference that link on the website so citizens can access that information.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Jennifer Kennedy, City Recorder