

**MINUTES OF A WORK AND REGULAR SESSION
OF THE VINEYARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
Vineyard City Hall, 125 South Main Street, Vineyard, Utah
January 23, 2019 at 6:02 PM

Present

Mayor Julie Fullmer
Councilmember John Earnest
Councilmember Tyce Flake
Councilmember Chris Judd
Councilmember Nate Riley

Absent

Staff Present: City Manager/Finance Director Jacob McHargue, Public Works Director/City Engineer Don Overson, Assistant City Engineer Chris Wilson, Sergeant Holden Rockwell with the Utah County Sheriff's Office, Planning Commission Chair Cristy Welsh, City Planner Elizabeth Hart, City Recorder Pamela Spencer, Building Official George Reid, Water/Parks Manager Sullivan Love

Others Speaking: Amelia Powers and Josh Daniels with the Utah County Clerk's Office

6:01 PM WORK SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fullmer opened the meeting at 6:02 PM. Councilmember Riley lead the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

PRESENTATION – Ranked Choice Voting

The Utah County Clerk's Office will do a presentation on ranked choice voting.

Mayor Fullmer turned the time over to Utah County Clerk/Auditor Amelia Powers and Utah County Deputy Clerk Josh Daniels.

Ms. Powers mentioned the changes in staffing in the clerk's office particular to the Elections Office. She said that they recognized that the resources were in adequate to service the population. Changes:

1. Elections Director hired by the end of February
2. Elections Coordinator hired as full-time staff.
3. Cancelled the contract with the existing the equipment provider.
4. Purchasing new equipment.
5. Qualified for about \$1 million in grants and looking at getting more funds through the legislature.
6. Utah County Commission allocated funds specific to election equipment which will have the ability to count ballots three times faster.
7. Continuing to improve the vote by mail process.
8. Adding secure curbside drop boxes in cities and throughout the county.
9. Already reaching out to the city recorders for their expertise.
10. Contract with the cities and have them help with the election process.
11. ZIP Code updates. The county was able to process those changes by last Friday.

12. On an admirative level the county will have more seasoned staff, access to grants, updated equipment, and will redo the elections process with the help of industry experts.

Ms. Powers stated that this would happen before the municipal elections. She said that the county would know before the May 1 deadline if they would have the ability to run a ranked choice voting election. She felt 90 percent confident that ranked choice voting would not be a problem.

Ms. Powers turned the time over to Josh Daniels, her Chief Deputy Clerk.

Mr. Daniels stated that he was enamored by ranked choice voting and had a lot of experience with it. He said that he was a delegate when the Republican Party used ranked choice voting during the 2004 Gubernatorial Convention Election.

Mr. Daniels explained how ranked choice voting worked and gave an interactive demonstration. He mentioned that the counting process would be completely automated. He explained how an exhausted ballot (meaning the voter chose not to rank all of the candidates) would change the majority threshold. Ms. Powers explained that exhausted ballots or “undervoted” ballots happened in every election.

Resident Cristy Welsh asked what would happen if someone bubbled twice in the same column. Mr. Daniels explained that it would invalidate those preferences.

Councilmember Riley asked about the pros and cons of the two forms of voting. Mr. Daniels explained that one of the main pros of ranked choice voting was that if there were many candidates, you would prefer for the winner to be selected by a majority vote. A plurality winner is the one who gets the most votes but not necessarily a majority of the votes. He explained that if a plurality winner only received 49 percent of the votes it would mean he was opposed by 51 percent of the voters. He said that ranked choice voting eliminated the plurality victory (meaning that there was a winner with the most votes not a majority of the votes). He said that other advantages were that you could get majority winners even when you had multiple candidates. Another pro was that with ranked choice voting you could eliminate the need for a primary election.

Mr. Daniels said that it improved the civic dialog. It focused the dialog on issues and not necessarily on other candidates. He felt that it could improve the quality of policy discussions.

Ms. Powers felt that it better served the citizens. She explained that it gave voters the ability to vote for their favorite candidate and rank the rest. She felt that it gave increased voter engagement. She gave an example of a minority government (meaning no one political party had a majority of seats). She said that with ranked choice voting there would not be the problem of a split vote (the existence of two or more similar candidates, which reduces the votes received by each of them and can lead to a victory for a minority candidate) or a minority government.

Councilmember Riley asked if the data in cities and counties that had been running elections by ranked choice showed that there was greater voter participation. Mr. Daniels replied that he did not have the data on that. Ms. Powers replied that they tended to have a higher voter turnout in underrepresented populations. Mr. Daniels felt that they were evaluating two different ideas, the method of voting and people willing to vote.

Mr. Daniels said that a common criticism with ranked choice voting was that there was a flaw where candidates would try to get the second-place votes because the second-place wins. He said

that this ignored the second-place controversy where the majority of the population did not want the first-place candidate. He explained that the first-place person could still win if they got more second place votes.

Councilmember Earnest asked if ranked choice voting would make the voting worse for those voters who were already guessing on their ballots. Mr. Daniels replied that he did not know if it would make the guessing worse but it would make the election cheaper by eliminating the primary election. He felt that they would never solve the issue of an uninformed vote.

Councilmember Judd asked why no cities in Weber and Davis Counties had elected to participate in the ranked choice voting pilot program. Ms. Powers replied that in county government they always opted to do what was easiest. She said that those counties did not want to run ranked choice voting elections for some cities and not for others. Mr. Daniels explained that municipalities made their decisions based on their level of confidence that the counties would support the municipalities. Ms. Powers said that the cities were told that they would have to find someone else to help run their elections and the cities did not want to do that.

Councilmember Riley asked if the days of getting results the night of the elections were gone. Ms. Powers replied that because of mail-in ballots they could not certify the election until two weeks after the election. She said that with ranked choice voting they could give preliminary results with the rankings but until they received all of the ballots in the mail, they could not certify the election. Mr. Daniels said that it was true statewide for any election. With vote by mail, the era of election night results was over.

Mayor Fullmer explained that in past elections, Utah County did not have the equipment to sort the ballots so they were doing it manually. Ms. Powers explained that with the new equipment, if they had a race that was not close, they would be able to count enough ballots to give preliminary results faster than in the past. She stated that for the last election the county had one-third of the equipment they needed.

Councilmember Judd asked how much this type of election would cost the city. Mr. Daniels replied that the basic cost for service would not change. He said that there would be an apportioned cost for the equipment, prorated by voters. There would be an additional charge for postage, return mail, and printing. He said that eliminating the primary election would cut the costs for postage, printing, and return postage in half.

Councilmember Judd asked if the county would be providing the education and resources. Mr. Daniels asked if this was education for the public. Councilmember Judd felt that there would have to be an increased outreach to educate the public. He hoped that there were funds available for Vineyard if they were electing to participate in the pilot program. Ms. Powers explained that she had asked for a representative from each participating city to sit on a ranked choice voting committee. She said that in the upcoming legislative session there were going to be several appropriations bills, one of which would be in part to fund the administration of the ranked choice voting and part would be for education costs. Mr. Daniels felt that Councilmember Judd was asking a marketing question. He felt that the county had underutilized using email addresses and digital media. Councilmember Judd said that they could figure out what they had spent in the past but needed to know what the dollar amount was that the legislature might be willing to give the city. Ms. Powers replied that there were only four cities, maybe five, running a ranked choice voting election in Utah County. She added that Utah County might also be running the ranked choice voting election for the two cities in Salt Lake County. She said that she wanted the committee so that the cities were not having to come up with their own campaigns. She mentioned that her office had hired a graphic arts intern to work on voter education. The county

would create the marking material and the city recorder would determine how best to disseminate the materials to the population. Mayor Fullmer mentioned that the city had received documentation stating that one of the downfalls of running a ranked choice election was the cost of education. She said that not all of the cities in the documentation had used a centralized county to run that funding. She felt that it was important to determine what options were available. She said that Vineyard had the option do everything online through the city newsletter and notification system, etc. Ms. Spencer suggested that they could use the social media and email system. She mentioned that when they had first decided to do elections through vote by mail, she had mailed a letter to every address in Vineyard. She felt that with the increased population that would not be feasible. Ms. Powers said that the cost for the city to create and market a video would be high, but if the county created a video that the city could push out to the citizens then it would be feasible.

Councilmember Judd asked which case study the county had looked at that made them comfortable with doing ranked choice voting. Mr. Daniels replied that he had personally seen it used in a variety of contexts and it made sense to him. He said that he had read about Minneapolis, which had been doing it for years. He felt that there were no logistical problems, and it would be the same as any other ballot, just with a mindset change on the part of voters.

Ms. Powers replied that her biggest exposure was when she went to a ranked choice voting convention in Denver. She said that she had spoken with county clerks who had administered them in the past and looked at their statistics. She said that she had also looked at Minneapolis.

Mayor Fullmer called for further comments.

Ms. Welsh felt that this would require the citizens to know about all of the candidates. She said that she liked the ability to run a cleaner campaign and talk about the issues. She said that this would require more effort on the part of the voter. She mentioned that for elections in Oregon the ballot came with a writeup of each of the candidates. She asked why this was not done in Utah. Ms. Powers replied that the reason why they did not send out a booklet with every ballot was the cost. She said that they had a third of the resources they needed to service the population. She said that for almost no cost they could deliver candidates' bios digitally. Ms. Spencer explained that voters could review the candidates' information on the city's website as well as the State's. Mr. Daniels felt that the problem already existed in the present election system.

Mayor Fullmer felt that ranked choice voting was similar to traditional voting, but was not sure how she felt about using it. She said that they needed to put the responsibility for education onto the person running their campaign to have people know who they were. She felt that her in-person meetings were more tangible than her online bio.

Councilmember Riley asked what the chances were of electing a candidate that was clearly the minority through multiple rounds of counting but won in the end and would not have been elected in a plurality vote. Mr. Daniels replied that mathematically no one earlier on had a majority. He gave an example of how the rounds worked. He said because the lowest vote getter was eliminated in each round, the only candidate that could win in the end was someone who was not the least vote getter in the early rounds. You had to survive the first couple of cuts. He continued his example. He said that whoever had the largest plurality in the first rounds would most likely win.

Councilmember Judd asked if the definition of majority was a majority of votes less exhausted ballots, then there would not be a majority of votes cast. Mr. Daniels replied that it was a majority of votes cast in each round. Councilmember Judd stated that he did not like the use of the term “exhausted ballots” and suggested that they use a different term.

Mayor Fullmer called for further questions. Hearing none, she opened the regular session.

7:16 PM REGULAR SESSION

OPEN SESSION – Citizens’ Comments

Mayor Fullmer called for public comments. Hearing none, she closed the open session.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS/DISCLOSURES/RECUSALS

There were no council reports given.

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Water/Parks Manager Sullivan Love – Mr. Love reported that the new manager for the Timpanogos Special Service District (TSSD) would like to do presentation to the council about TSSD.

City Manager/Finance Director – Jacob McHargue – Mr. McHargue had no new items to report.

Public Works Director/Engineer – Don Overson – Mr. Overson had no new items to report.

City Attorney – David Church – Mr. Church was excused.

Community Development Director – Morgan Brim & Planning Commission Chair – Cristy Welsh – Mr. Brim was excused and Chair Welsh had no new items to report.

City Recorder – Pamela Spencer – Ms. Spencer had no new items to report.

Building Official – George Reid – Mr. Reid presented his year-end report. He mentioned that it was the third highest year for permitting in Vineyard’s history. Highlights of the report were:

Revenue

- \$1,312,230 Total Residential Permit Revenue
- \$ 351,958 Total Commercial Permit Revenue

14 percent growth over the past 5 years. Still experiencing great growth in the city.

Building Permits Issued

- 645 Permits issued – majority were single-family dwellings
- 89 Townhomes
- 15 Multi-family dwellings

Commercial Projects

- 186,360 Square feet of new commercial space

Dwelling Units

- 337 Certificates of Occupancy for Single Family Units
- 89 Certificates of Occupancy for Townhome Units
- 294 Certificates of Occupancy for Multi-family Units
- 720 Total Units

Population growth

- 1,571 Single Family Dwellings
- 667 Town Homes
- 838 Multi-family Dwellings
- 3,076 Total estimate of population growth
- 13,029 Total estimated population

Mr. Reid explained that the reports for total estimated population were higher in the past because they were generating the figure off of the permitting system, which was pulling incorrectly. He said that they had based their figures off of the build-out analysis, which he felt would be a more accurate figure. He added that this figure did not include the Lakefront development or the Clegg farm.

- 1,016 Units still to be built

Mr. Reid reviewed the Utah Valley Home Builders Association ranked Vineyard #4 in their Residential Build-out Audit. He mentioned that Vineyard had exceeded every city in condominiums and duplexes. He felt that Vineyard was still a major contender for increased population in Utah Valley.

Utah County Sheriff’s Office – Sergeant Holden Rockwell – Sergeant Rockwell presented his year-end report. He mentioned that the 2018 year-end report included the fourth quarter statistics.

Highlights of the report were:

Year	Total Cad Calls	Officer Generated Calls (2 nd -4 th quarters)	Public Generated Calls (2 nd -4 th quarters)	Case Numbers	Arrests	Traffic Stops	Citations
2017	4882	1950	1810	1245	164	1284	439
2018	7206	2687	2903	1332	175	2202	721

Response Times 2017:

Priority 1-2 7:21
 Priority 1-2 calls 720

Response Times 2018:

Priority 1-2 5:17
 Priority 1-2 call 912

Nature of incidents 2017:

Burglary/Theft 104
 Assault/Domestic Violence 84
 Drugs/Alcohol 65

Nature of incidents 2018:

Burglary/Theft 83
 Assault/Domestic Violence 96
 Drugs/Alcohol 102

2018 accomplishments:

- NOVA program at Vineyard Elementary
- Started a Facebook page
- 24-hour service with additional deputies
- Started school safety walks – every school should see a deputy every day

Councilmember Earnest asked Sergeant Rockwell to keep the council apprised as to the department's needs so that the department would be able to keep on top of what Vineyard needed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

No items were submitted.

CONSENT ITEMS

7.1 Approval of the January 9, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

7.2 Approval of an Interlocal Agreement for Utah County Library Services

Mayor Fullmer called for a motion to approve the consent items.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER JUDD MOVED TO APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS 7.1 AND 7.2. COUNCILMEMBER EARNEST SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS EARNEST, FLAKE, JUDD, AND RILEY VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

No names were submitted.

BUSINESS ITEMS

No business items were submitted.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Fullmer called for a motion to go into a closed session.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER JUDD MOVED TO GO INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSSION OF THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL. COUNCILMEMBER EARNEST SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL WENT AS FOLLOWS: MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS EARNEST, FLAKE, JUDD, AND RILEY VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The closed session took place immediately following this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fullmer called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER FLAKE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:28 PM. COUNCILMEMBER EARNEST SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS EARNEST, FLAKE, JUDD, AND RILEY VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 13, 2019.

MINUTES APPROVED ON: February 13, 2019

CERTIFIED CORRECT BY: /s/ Pamela Spencer
PAMELA SPENCER, CITY RECORDER