

SPECIAL ALPINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Alpine City Hall, 20 North Main Alpine City, UT
October 7, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 pm by Mayor Hunt Willoughby. The following Council members were present and constituted a quorum:

Mayor Hunt Willoughby

Council Members: Jim Tracy, Bradley Reneer, Troy Stout, Kent Hastings, Kimberly Bryant

Staff: Jannicke Brewer, Annette Scott, Andrea Chapman, Ron Devey, Charmayne Warnock, David Church

Others: Jeff Chapman, Jannicke Brewer, Don Watkins, Lon Lott, Will Jones, Sherman Bennett, Breezy Anson, Sherry Boren, Gary Boren, Reg Garrett, Phil Barker, Tammy Hamilton, Jim Dalrymple, Curry Jones

Prayer: Kent Hastings

Pledge of Allegiance: Don Watkins

Mayor Willoughby announced that there would be a flag retirement ceremony on Monday evening October 11th at Burgess Park. Everyone was invited.

Mayor Willoughby said that with the retirement of Ted Stillman, they were there to appoint a new city administrator. An executive session was scheduled in the event the Council thought it was necessary.

MOTION: Bradley Reneer moved to go to executive session. Kimberly Bryant seconded. The motion was voted on at the end of the comments. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Bradley Reneer, Kimberly Bryant, Jim Tracy, Kent Hastings and Troy Stout voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Don Watkins said there were some in the audience who would like to comment and asked if the executive session could be deferred until after the comments were made.

Bradley Reneer said he had no problem with deferring the executive session and listening to the comments first.

Don Watkins said that when he was first elected to the City Council there was a lot of development going on in Alpine. In addition, the City was running its own police department and fire department. They didn't have a city administrator or a planner or full-time engineer, but they needed them. He said that when he ran for mayor, he realized he would be unsuccessful without a city administrator and an engineer and someone to manage public safety. It was part of his platform. He asked how the current management of public safety worked.

Mayor Willoughby said that it rotated through the city administrators of the three cities.

Don Watkins noted that with the cooperation of the three cities, the responsibility for public safety had been alleviated. Development had slowed down drastically. But the city still had a full-time city administrator and a full-time city engineer. He said when he was serving as mayor, he couldn't have been more tickled with Shane Sorensen as the city engineer. He added that Shane did far more for the city than just engineering, and he was very comfortable with his abilities. He was a proven. When they hired from outside, there was risk and they could be fooled by resume's. He suggested that since the administration load was really low right now, the City could save some money by having the same individual act as both the engineer and administrator. He concluded by saying that he was confident the Council would make the best decision.

Kimberly Bryant said she felt some of the information Don Watkins had was executive information. She said the Council had done extensive research on the other candidates. They were looking at more than resume's. They had interviewed people at great length and really researched the candidates.

Will Jones said that when they started working on a pressurized irrigation system for the City, they had used a city administrator as a board member and it hadn't gone well because he hadn't understood the demographics of the people on the irrigation board. The president of the board had walked out of the meeting and there was fighting among the board members. Then Shane Sorensen began working on the project. He was able to sit down and talk to them on a level they understood and respected, and it worked. Mr. Jones said he had worked with a lot of engineers but he'd never worked with one that took on as much as Shane Sorensen. He asked the Council if it was really worth the risk of possibly losing Shane.

Will Jones said his second point was that this was an opportunity for savings. By keeping Shane Sorensen and bringing on a junior engineer, they could save a lot of money. He asked why that was not a priority. What if they got someone who came in and alienated the staff? He said he had seen Shane Sorensen work with the crew on building the park. You didn't see that kind of ability to work with the public works crew in other cities, not to mention his ability in working with developers.

Lon Lott thanked the Council for taking the time to listen to their comments. He said he felt that listening to the citizens of Alpine was an important aspect of their job. There were some of the citizens who had worked with individuals that they knew were people of character and integrity. Integrity was a critical part of what made the economy work well, as well as how they got along as a community. He asked the Council to look at the individual for integrity. He felt it was important to have character witnesses for the person they hired because integrity was the deep down core of an individual. Mr. Lott said that as someone who had done a lot of hiring, he knew that a resume' could just be real nice. If you didn't ask those who had worked with the individual about their integrity, you could miss a lot. He said he appreciated the work of the Council and felt it was important they heard from the people.

Troy Stout said he appreciated people showing up who were emotionally invested in the process. He said he felt it was equally important that the public understood that there were members of the Council who had pushed for transparency in the process. Some felt there should be just one candidate. He said he had felt an extreme sense of responsibility to look at not only the resume' but to participate in an extensive interview process. They had debated the quality of the individuals behind closed doors. It had been a long process to look at all the facts. He said he had hired and managed a lot of people. He said he had probably checked more references in this process than he had in his career. Whatever the decision, it had been a fair and long process and they would be accountable.

Reg Garrett said he appreciated the opportunity to speak as a citizen of Alpine. He appreciated what they did to keep Alpine as it was. He said he had served on the irrigation board and had been involved with Ron Devey and Shane Sorensen and he had a lot of feelings about it. He said he had been very impressed with Shane Sorensen on different occasions. He was always willing to talk to them, always willing to explain the ordinances of the city. He said he trusted and respected Shane for what he had done and hoped the Council made the best decision for Alpine.

Breezy Anson said he'd had the experience of working with Shane Sorensen in the widening of Westfield Road. Shane had talked to the neighbors as well as his father and he did a terrific job. When he went to the public works department with a question, Shane Sorensen always knew the answer. He knew the city inside and out. He really did care about Alpine. Mr. Anson said he had a hundred times more confidence in someone who felt like he was a part of the City.

Bradley Reneer said they had been trying really hard to learn about the candidates. It was not an easy process. Regardless of who they chose, there was someone somewhere who would not be entirely happy, but they would try to show their full support for whoever was chosen. He said that some may have not liked the roundabout at first. It wasn't a perfect solution but it worked out. If it didn't work out, the City Council would correct it. They were eager to do what was best for Alpine. They felt they had a great staff and didn't want to put them in an awkward position. They wanted someone who would work well with the public and with the staff.

Phil Barker said that his basis for being there was experience. The administrator was the front line. It was where things started and what set the direction when something came into the City. The administrator saw it before the mayor or council ever got a chance to review it. There was a lot of power and decision-making in the position. He said he thought it was great that they had gone through the qualifications and references of the candidates. The real question was: who was the person that was prepared to represent the City. Someone coming from the outside had no knowledge of where they had been and where they were going. It was something to think about.

Kimberly Bryant said she was glad the roundabout had worked out.

The Council then voted on the motion to go to executive session and adjourned to executive session at 9:29 pm.

MOTION: Kent Hastings made a motion to go back to open meeting. Troy Stout seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Kent Hastings, Troy Stout, Kimberly Bryant, Bradley Reneer and Jim Tracy voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Bradley Reneer moved to appoint Richard Nelson as the City Administrator. Kent Hastings seconded. There was a roll call vote. The following voted aye: Troy Stout, Kimberly Bryant, Bradley Reneer, Hunt Willoughby, Kent Hastings, Jim Tracy. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Willoughby said he would move forward with the offer and see if he accepted.

Kent Hastings said that since they were having a PSD meeting Tuesday morning on October 12th, and they didn't know when Richard Nelson would join them, he felt it was appropriate to appoint an interim representative to the PSD Board. He had talked to April Naidu who would be attending the meeting. In order to have a full seat at the table with the other city administrators, he felt it was important to appoint her.

Jim Tracy noted that the Interlocal Agreement said the board should consist of city administrators and April Naidu was acting as the temporary city administrator.

MOTION: Jim Tracy moved to appoint April Naidu as temporary city administrator and to act as interim advisor to the Lone Peak PSD board. Kimberly Bryant seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Kent Hastings, Troy Stout, Kimberly Bryant, Bradley Reneer and Jim Tracy voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Jim Tracy moved to adjourn. Kent Hastings seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Kent Hastings, Troy Stout, Kimberly Bryant, Bradley Reneer and Jim Tracy voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 pm.