

CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

August 09, 2005

The Cache County Council convened in a regular session on August 09, 2005, in the Cache County Council Chamber at 179 North Main, Logan, Utah.

ATTENDANCE:

Chairman: H. Craig Petersen

Vice Chairman: Cory Yeates

Council Members: Brian Chambers, Darrel Gibbons, John Hansen, Kathy Robison, Gordon Zilles.

County Executive: M. Lynn Lemon

County Clerk: Jill N. Zollinger

The following individuals were also in attendance: Brock Allen, Janeen Allen, Mikelshan Bartschi, Dave Bennett, Matt Bilodeau, Larry Brunson, Captain Kim Cheshire, Attorney George Daines, Joan Degiorgio, Jay Downs, Darrell Ericksen, Clyde Evans, Dennis Gardner, Kim Gardner, Connie Gunnell, Roger Haderlie, Bob Hoffman, Sharon L. Hoth, Andrea Israelsen, C. Earl Israelsen, Vicky Jo Jensen, Karen Jeppesen, Dennis C. Johnsen, Pat Kent, Sam Kent, Reed Langford, Lt. Brian Locke, Chief Mark Meaker, Mistie Moore, Nick Moore, Arlin P. Murray, Sheriff David Nielsen, Pat Parker, Curtis Parkinson, LeRoy Parkinson, Paul Parkinson, Brett Randall, Diane Reese, Roxanne Saxton, Ted Seeholzer, Bret Selman, Fred Selman, Laura Selman, Michelle Selman, Jeff Simmons, Amanda Smith, Jim Smith, Auditor Tamra Stones, Dave Tarbet, Glenn Thornley, Bruce Thunell, Preston Ward, Karen Wolters, **Media:** Adam Benson (Herald Journal), Jennie Christensen (KVNU), Erin Brunson (Salt Lake Tribune).

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Petersen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

The opening remarks were given by Cory Yeates.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Petersen lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 26, 2005, Council meeting were approved as written.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE: M. LYNN LEMON

APPOINTMENTS: Lynn Zollinger
Richard Stehmeier
Kenneth E. Wilson
Blake Hansen

Cache County Board of Adjustments
Airport Development Director/Manager
Deputy County Sheriff
Reserve Deputy County Sheriff

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ACTION; Motion by Council member Zilles to approve the recommended appointments. Robison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 7-0.

WARRANTS: The warrants for the periods 05-20-2005 to 05-26-2005, 05-27-2005 to 06-02-2005, 07-08-2005 to 07-14-2005, 07-15-2005 to 07-21-2005 and 07-22-2005 to 07-28-2005 were given to the clerk for filing.

OTHER ITEMS

- **Murray Farm Announcement - Senator Robert Bennett, Governor Jon Huntsman – August 31, 2005 – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Cinnamon Creek Campground Visit** - Gerald Miller has asked the Council to visit the site. The Council will meet at noon at the County Administration Building on August 30, 2005, to car pool to the campground. August 30, 2005, was scheduled as a Joint Councils Meeting with Logan City, but neither Cache County nor Logan City has items for the agenda, so there will be no joint meeting.
- **UDOT Jurisdictional Transfer of Roads** - Lemon distributed a sheet indicating UDOT's costs to operate, maintain and preserve particular roads in Cache County. Lemon said UDOT will probably provide Cache County about \$5,000 per mile annually. Lemon said this amount would fall short of what UDOT has been spending. Lemon reminded the Council that Representative Buttars is on the Task Force and encouraged them to contact him.

(Attachment 1)

- **Utah State Association of County Councils and Commissions Annual Conference - September 22 & 23, 2005** - Thursday, September 22, 2005, is designed specifically as a break-out day for Councils.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ★ **USU Extension - Diane Reese, Director for Northern Region** explained to the Council changes in guidelines for County Directors that rotate the Directors' positions on a regular basis, approximately every three years. Because of the change, Adrie Roberts is proposed to replace Clark Israelsen as the County Director for Cache County. Council members expressed concerns about the change, the disruption it creates in an office, and the lack of input allowed the Council.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- ▶ **Employee of the Month Award** was presented by Jim Smith to Kim Gardner of the Cache County Clerk's Office.
- ▶ **Nature Conservancy Presentation - Amanda Smith** and Joan Degiorgio reported the Conservancy is working on a project for which they have applied for LeRay McAllister

funds. The Conservancy needs the Council's approval of the project as part of their application process. The project involves a conservation easement on the Fred and Laura Selman property benefitting an existing sharp-tailed Grouse population on the South fork of the Little Bear River. Gibbons asked if this proposal had used the LESA evaluation. Degiorgio said it had not. Petersen asked Smith and Degiorgio to contact Cindy Hall with the AG Advisory Board before returning to the Council for approval.

(Attachment 2)

BUDGETARY MATTERS

◆ **Intra-Departmental Transfers**

Surveyor

Transfer \$2,000 from Computer Software Packages to Telephone for cell phone purchase and fees; GPS Communications and Direct Talk.

Support Services

Transfer \$5,288 from Misc Services and Capitalized Equipment to Non-Capitalized Equipment to cover expense in creating data links between County Admin, County Jail & First District Court buildings AND to upgrade firewall for computer system.

Jail

Transfer \$70,000 from Employee Benefits to Overtime Pay, Travel and Education & Training to cover expenses.

(Attachment 3)

ACTION: Motion by Council member Gibbons to approve the Intra-Departmental transfers of \$2,000.00, \$5,288.00 and \$70,00.00. Yeates seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 7-0.

PENDING ACTION

- **Update - Cache County Block Projects** - Executive Lemon reported the county is ready to close with Workforce Services and that should take place shortly. The county has received a grant to replace the Administration Building doors with electronic doors and the county will provide matching funds.

INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACTION

- **Final Plat Approval - West Bend Minor Subdivision** - a 4-lot minor subdivision on

16.27 acres in the Agricultural Zone at approximately 7700 North Highway 23, northeast of Newton.

(Attachment 4)

ACTION: Motion by Council member Yeates to waive the rules and approve the final plat for the West Bend Minor Subdivision. Robison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 7-0.

- **Discussion - Road Opening/Maintenance** - Gibbons said Robert Hoffman has expressed concern to him about the condition of RS 2477 roads on Forest Service land. Hoffman took Gibbons on a four-wheeler to inspect the condition of one of the roads. Gibbons distributed pictures to the Council of the poor condition of the road and asked how the county can ensure the Forest Service maintains these roads in better condition. Mr. Hoffman indicated the Rich County side is maintained very well. Executive Lemon will invite Rob Cruz and Chip Sibbersen from the Forest Service to attend the August 23, 2005, Council Meeting to listen and respond to the Council's concerns about road maintenance.

Hansen said a Mr. Curtis had called him about the road from Paradise to Hwy 89/91 that is heavily used, and asked about an upgrade or maintenance for the road to control the dust. Lemon said the road is on the capital improvements plan, but there is a disagreement between property owners in the area – some want the road upgraded, others do not. Until property owners can come to an agreement the road is not a priority.

Zilles reported there is water drainage problems in Petersboro because of property owners putting gravel in the barrow pits. Surveyor Ward said people seldom request an encroachment permit when building driveways. If they did, the county could warn them about blocking or diverting drainage areas. Lemon asked Zilles to give him the address of where the drainage problem is.

COUNTY INITIATIVES

- **Employee Salaries** - Gibbons suggested that the Council should discuss employee salaries/recommendations prior to Executive Lemon submitting the budget proposal. Gibbons recommended requesting salary information from Jim Smith and then invite the elected officials to join in a discussion/workshop about this topic. The Council will discuss this issue during travel time to and from the Cinnamon Creek Campground on August 30, 2005, with a follow-up salary workshop with the elected officials at 4:30 p.m. that same day.

INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACTION

- **Discussion - Methamphetamine Usage/Prevention in Cache County** - Members of the Logan/Cache Strike Force answered questions and gave information to the Council about this problem in Cache County. Methamphetamine use is rapidly increasing in the

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county. Ninety-three percent of first-time users become addicted. The following websites - www.streetdrugs.org and www.loganpolice.com have an abundance of valuable public information on them. Members of the Strike Force are available for public presentations to church, civic and government groups.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, APPEALS AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MATTERS

PUBLIC HEARING: PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE, AUGUST 09, 2005, AT 7:30 P.M. - Chairman Petersen asked Executive Lemon to review the increase. Lemon said this is the second public hearing on this matter. State law required the county hold a Public Hearing in November of 2004 where the Council approved the proposed tax rate increase. The law requires a second Public Hearing be held in August, but the county is now eight months into the property tax year. Eighty percent of the increase is for the Countywide Ambulance Service that started January 1, 2005. The County had stated that if the sales tax revenue was up, then there would be no tax increase; however, sales tax revenue did not increase sufficiently.

Chairman Petersen opened the Public Hearing and invited public comment.

Dennis Jensen opposed the increase as a citizen on a fixed income. Jensen also asked what the approximate \$474,000 over and above the cost of the ambulance system was being used for and asked about revenue from new growth. Stones said the level of new growth revenue is between \$130,000 and \$160,000. Lemon and Stones said they would have to review the figures to give him a more complete breakdown of the remainder of the \$474,000..

Ted Seeholzer said that when county property is annexed by municipalities, Cache County loses sales tax revenue. Seeholzer asked if the county could reduce services to those municipalities as the county loses sales tax revenue to alleviate pressure on the budget.

Curtis Parkinson opposed the increase as a citizen on a fixed income and questioned why the county sends multiple engines/vehicles with the ambulance.

LeRoy Parkinson opposed the increase as a citizen on a fixed income and asked if the county can use part of the State's projected surplus?

Lemon responded that the county does not have very many large business establishments in the unincorporated area so most of the sales tax goes to the cities and the state. Most of the largest employers in Cache County are tax exempt. Without large industry paying property tax, much of the burden falls to small businesses and residents. Lemon indicted that railroads, utilities, etc. that are centrally assessed by the State Tax Commission are paying a smaller and smaller percent of the property tax and small businesses are being hit hard because of this. Lemon said those who qualify can apply for property tax abatement and the money for the abatement program comes out of state monies rather than county.

Arlin Murray expressed the concern that small businesses in Cache County are being crushed with taxes, etc.

Reed Langford said that according to his research, the tax rate in Cache County is increasing

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more rapidly than elsewhere in the nation and urged the Council to do more with less.

Jay Downs, EMS Coordinator for Cache County, spoke in defense of the countywide ambulance service as being well worth the cost.

Karen Wolters said they have recently experienced a Logan City tax increase, Logan School tax increase, Cache County property tax is increasing, an increase in sewer rates, an increase in water rates and a storm water fee. Wolters has met with Auditor Stones and reviewed the county's budget. Wolters asked the county to do long-term planning for big budget items so a large tax increase does not occur all at once. Concern was also expressed over the county's policy of borrowing to meet the financial needs of the county until property tax revenues are received. Wolters asked if it is possible for the county to be on a fiscal year rather than a calendar year and thereby remove the need for borrowing and paying approximately \$60,000 a year in interest.

Chief Mark Meaker said that large engines, etc. are sent on some ambulance calls as a result of the call triage system that is used to determine the response level.

Gibbons said that cost of the countywide ambulance system was difficult to anticipate. Previous to the current system, Cache County paid the deficit that Logan City Ambulance experienced and Cache County had a difficult time identifying what the true deficit was which began a long process of negotiating for the county to have a 50% interest in the service. This is the first year of the service and there is a likelihood that there will be a revenue shortfall. Expenditures are holding very close to estimates, but it is difficult to predict the number of calls that will be received and; thereby, project accurate revenue figures.

Petersen asked if there was any other public comment. There was none.

ACTION: Motion by Council member Yeates to close the Public Hearing. Robison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 7-0.

Petersen deferred approval of the rate increase until a more detailed breakdown of the increase is provided the Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

- ✓ **Meeting with Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert - August 19, 2005 - 2:00 p.m.** in the Multi-purpose Room of the Cache County Administration Building. This will be a joint meeting with Rich County in reference to the voting machines and the pending contract with Diebold.
- ✓ **River Heights City Parade - August 27, 2005 - 12:00 noon**

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Brian Chambers reported that ten applications have been received for the position of Cache County Fire Chief and a decision should be reached by September 1, 2005.

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Kathy Robison said she had met with the Homeless Task Force which identified that it has about 16% of chronic Social Services users who are taking 65% of the resources available. A test program will be run assigning a case manager who will work with individuals to facilitate their being mainstreamed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

ATTEST: Jill N. Zollinger
County Clerk

APPROVAL: H. Craig Petersen
Council Chairman