



ROY CITY
Roy City Council Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2022– 6:00 p.m.
Roy City Council
5051 S 1900 W Roy, UT 84067

Minutes of the Roy City Council Meeting held in person in the Roy City Council Chambers and streamed on YouTube on August 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the Utah Public Notice Website at least 24 hours in advance. A copy of the agenda was also posted on the Roy City website.

The following members were in attendance:

Mayor Dandoy
Councilmember Jackson
Councilmember Joe Paul
Councilmember Scadden
Councilmember Wilson
Councilmember Sophie Paul

City Manager, Matt Andrews
City Attorney, Andy Blackburn
City Recorder, Brittany Fowers

Excused:

Also present were: Police Chief, Matthew Gwynn; Fire Chief, Craig Golden; Parks and Recreation Director, Travis Flint; Management Services Director, Amber Fowles; Public Works Director, Ross Oliver;

Natalie Betten, Jeff Barnaby, Cindy Whinham, Glenda Moore, Kevin Homer, Cariie and Austin Clark, Doyle Harris, Eric Wilkinson, Willard Cragun, YL Shuleman, Sharon Sevy, Barry Sevy, Richard Jensen, Harold and Julie Meid, Mike and Joan Fullmer, Dennis Brown, Leon Wilson, Kat Redwine, Bill Mery, Janel, Cambria, and Henrik Hulbert, Chris Lewis, Shawna Blackburn, Danny Titensor, Mike and Molly Blackburn, Elizabeth Brown, Yvonne Sherbesman.

A. Welcome & Roll Call

Mayor Dandoy welcomed those in attendance and noted Councilmembers Jackson, Joe Paul, Scadden, Wilson, and Sophie Paul were present.

B. Moment of Silence

Councilmember Sophie Paul invited the audience to observe a moment of silence.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Sophie Paul lead the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Public Comments

Mayor Dandoy opened floor for public comments. Hearing none that didn't pertain to the public hearing, Mayor Dandoy closed the floor for public comments. Mayor Dandoy asked for a motion to enter the public hearing.

Management Services Director Amber Fowles explained they were there to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2023, and stated the budget proposed a property tax increase of up to 50% to fund public safety requests. She said they could not raise rates from the previous year without going through the Truth in Taxation process, and she recommended the Council hear public input and approve Resolution 22-16 and

the fiscal year 2023 budget.

Councilmember Wilson observed this was the largest increase in the last four years and that inflation was making things financially difficult for citizens. She commented the budget had been a difficult discussion for the Council, and said finances were especially tight in their budget. She thought the money that was being allocated to hire a full-time economic developer could go towards public safety, and she was concerned that this was not the time to add more of a tax burden to the citizens with the addition of a new full-time City staff member. Councilmember Wilson said there were many factors that needed to be considered when approving this budget.

Councilmember Joe Paul motioned to enter public hearing, Councilmember Scadden seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted "Aye". The motion carried.

Natalie Betten, 3903 W 6000 S, said she had been a Roy resident for five years and this meeting scared her. She said since she had been annexed into Roy city from Hooper, her taxes had increased 100%, and she was standing there on behalf of all Roy senior citizens who were feeling the strain of the increased rates. Ms. Betten recalled that when she tried to collect her unemployment, she had been denied and informed that if one's spouse passed away, only the higher of the two social security benefits were allowed to be collected, but not both. She complained all of her rates had increased and stated she was there that evening to ask how she was supposed to adjust her limited budget to these increased rates, and pointed out she and other senior citizens could not adjust their income to match the budget. She thought they could get through this if everyone did their part to help the City.

Jeff Barnaby, 5096 S 2975 W, said he had lived in Roy for twenty years and he was in public service. He said he was all in favor to raise the rates in order to pay public safety more, but he was not in favor of the terrible work that had been done to 1600. Mr. Barnaby suggested the City look into a way to raise his and others in his tax bracket taxes more, in order to cover for some of the senior citizens who would not be able to afford the raise.

Yvonne Sherbesman, 5505 S 2150 W, said she had a complaint about the taxes. She reported she had been on social security for ten years and had seen only three increases over those ten years, but Medicare had increased and the increase inhibited her from affording another tax increase. She said all of her rates had gone up, and asked where it stopped. She also suggested fundraisers to help out senior citizens. Ms. Sherbesman spoke about the complex as well, and voiced the opinion it was a dead horse. She thought the City should work something out with the high school regarding an exercise facility. Ms. Sherbesman commented on the raise on secondary water, and said she had filled in rock in her yard to conserve water. She wanted to reach a point where they could have their secondary water shut off, and wondered if they would still be charged for it.

Barry Sevy, 5493 S 3375 W, said he had been in Roy for 26 years and thought if they wanted to solve the water problem the City should put a pickleball court in all of the backyards of the senior citizens, because it took far less water to maintain a court than a regular yard. He felt at the rate they were going, in another ten years they would be paying almost \$1,000 per month in taxes. Mr. Sevy said he wanted the City to have money, but he also wanted to eat and that it cost him \$270 to fill up his diesel truck. He said pet projects needed to be set aside during difficult times in order to help the citizens.

Glenda Moore, 2088 W 3825 S, said it was easier for her to post on Facebook than to speak out loud, so she read a written comment she had prepared.

Dennis Brown, 2119 W 6000 S, said he had been a resident for 66 years and he was a landlord that owned properties in Roy and was speaking on behalf of eight families that lived on his properties. He tried to have

affordable housing on his properties, but the increased property tax rates have made it difficult and he could not absorb that cost without raising rent. He did not see the justification for such a large tax increase, and said there was a difference between City wants and City needs, and thought the City needed to be more attentive to the needs rather than the wants. He thought paying \$1 Million for a ladder truck was ridiculous because there was no need for the City to have one, and thought the City could save money by going back to billing for utilities and trash every two months, which would save on the cost of envelopes and postage. He also thought the economic development director position was an unnecessary cost.

Chris Lewis, 5126 S 3550 W, said she had agreed with everything that had been said so far and wanted to point out that the people needed to be heard. She asked Council to listen to Roy residents and not the non-residents who had shown up the night before to the meeting about funding for the Complex.

Bill Merx, 5705 S 2325 W, said he had lived in Roy for 46 years and had served as Chairman of Roy Days and a Planning Commissioner in the past. He said property tax was based on alleged property values, and pointed out by changing the property taxes he would be taxed on unrealized capital gains income. He asked what the basis for the increase to his property value was and thought they needed to find other places in the budget to cut out unnecessary expenses. Mr. Merx stated the residents needed to know that their money was being spent wisely and the City needed to increase services and decrease costs to residents.

Cindy Williams, 4562 S Tully Dr., said she had a husband who worked for the city for 29 years and opined the economic director position did not justify \$189,000 worth of revenue increase. She also commented Dr. Wilson was awesome. She felt the previous economic director had not fulfilled the financial cost to the City.

Sharon Sevy, 5493 S 3375 W, said she agreed with what everyone had said thus far but clarified she was not against police officers and firefighters getting a raise, the school district requesting more money for retired schoolteachers, or even the Complex. She did think it was not the time to raise taxes and that it needed to be delayed. She said she did not mind paying her fair share, but said she was on a limited income and barely made it to the end of the month as it was. She said her house had cost \$180,000 when she bought it, and now it was valued at around \$500,000. She complained she could not pay taxes on the new value, and thought the City needed to look into delaying the tax increase.

Janel Hulbert, 4178 Westlake Dr., said she thought that 15% was too much of an increase, but knew if they did not do something they would have this same discussion the following year. She said residents wanted as low of an increase as possible.

Shawna Blackburn, 5939 S 3500 W, asked how the City could change the zoning of properties from residential to agriculture and charge them \$1,000 more in taxes, even though nothing had changed in the properties in the last 20 years. She said her residence was being changed from residential to agricultural, and although the IRS defined as farming with a profit, not a single property on that stretch was farming more than to feed their own families. She questioned the legality of changing those zones. Mayor Dandoy said he was not familiar with any zoning change to that area, and said the City Council had not had a proposal in front of them regarding changing the zoning in that area.

Richard Jensen, 5464 S 2050 W, thanked Council for their service and said he realized taxes were taxes but thought they could get by with less than 15%. He realized the fire department and police department needed help, but did not think they needed an economic development director.

Danny, 2892 W 5600 S, asked if when property values increased the revenue would automatically go into the budget. City Manager Andrews replied it did not, and Management Services Director Fowles stated Roy City received the same amount of property tax revenue every year regardless of property value of the

home. Danny then asked where he could find these details. Mayor Dandoy replied that the tax document would show those figures, and explain it would be posted on the Roy City website as soon as the budget was approved.

Yvonne Sherbesman asked who determined the market value of the homes in Roy. Mayor Dandoy replied the County made those assessments, and that she would have until September 1st to appeal their decision. Ms. Sherbesman said she had done that before, but the appeal only lasted for a year. City Manager Andrews commented she would have to do it every year. Ms. Sherbesman said they set her payments based on income and her income was higher than Utah's average, but she was still making payments on the house and they were not getting an increase in salary. She said the Utah average salary was \$32,000, and since they made more than that she would not qualify, even though the payments she was making on the house were substantial. Mayor Dandoy said it was the County's responsibility to provide property value and recommended she call the County Assessor's Office and get details from them because Council was not in a position to assess property values.

Barry Sevy replied to Management Services Director Fowles earlier comment and claimed residents were actually being charged more as the value of their homes went up. Mayor Dandoy clarified Management Services Director Fowles statement was correct, and reiterated the City received a flat amount. He said the current year was tricky because there were so many entities having Truth in Taxation meetings. Mr. Sevy said that housing values were raising at large amounts, and this was a problem. Mayor Dandoy replied if housing values increased then rates would decrease to maintain that flat rate that Roy City received. Mr. Sevy said he appreciated public safety, but there were ways for them to make money aside from a tax increase and asked for Council to put off any tax increases.

Carrie Clark, 6018 S 4025 W, said she had lived in Roy for two years with her husband and they had come to the meeting after advice from their senior citizen neighbor. She empathized with the financial strains on senior citizens. She expressed while she wanted to be a long-term resident of Roy, she felt this meeting had been eye-opening and hoped Council would take into consideration the concerns that senior citizen residents had expressed.

Willard Cragun, 2568 W 5225 S, said they raised taxes 26% when he was Mayor of Roy City six years ago, and asked the Council for empathy towards the taxpayers of the City. He questioned the authority of the property value assessors and asked Council to look into their hearts to do the right thing because 15% was a heavy tax increase after only six years.

Sally Peterson, 2073 W 5950 S, said she had the biggest yard on her block, and she hated it because she could not keep up on the yardwork. She said she had a small pension and she needed to pay for help because she was handicapped. She complained that although taxes were going up but she did not see Roy improving, and she thought instead of raising property taxes they needed to get some more businesses into Roy to increase revenues. Ms. Peterson suggested bidding out to the universities for an architect student to design something that looked good right off the freeway and attract travelers into Roy. She also asked for volunteers to help in her yard.

Beth Delacruz, 2088 W 5950 S, said she was 93 years old and had lived in her house for 60 years, and she complained the taxes were killing her. She did not think Roy City did much for residents because they used to have dumpster pickup or fall and spring cleanups, but they did not have those anymore and they also did not have City inspectors. Ms. Delacruz felt like there should be another way for Roy to make revenue. She said residents were encouraged to shop in Roy but there were only places to eat and no shops, and she reiterated Roy should find another way to get revenue instead of taxing their citizens.

Natalie Betten, no address given, said she could remember in the 1980's that Roy had received the cleanest

small-town award in the State and said they work towards that goal again.

Kevin Homer, 5398 S 4000 W, said essential services included sewers and emergency services and that Resolution 22-16 had to do with emergency services. He supported they make the change to make sure they had enough of the budget to perform these emergency services. He said his concern was the non-essential services that were included in this resolution, particularly with the recreation center, to which the City lost \$400,000 per year.

Mayor Dandoy asked for a motion to exit public hearing. Councilmember Wilson motioned to exit public hearing; Councilmember Joe Paul seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted "Aye" The motion carried, and Mayor Dandoy closed the floor for public comments.

F. Action Items

1. Resolution 22-16 Approval of final FY23 Budget and setting the 2022 Certified Tax Rate

Councilmember Joe Paul stated he appreciated the comments from the Public Hearing and said this had been the toughest year for Council. He said even with a 15% increase the City could not fund half of what the emergency services had asked for, and said if he were going to approve any increase he would want 100% to go to the emergency services.

Councilmember Jackson said she was a senior citizen on the Council and had lived in Roy for 64 years and worked two jobs and could relate to the citizens not in favor of the increase. She said she had a lot of senior neighbors and knew it was a burden, but the fire department and the police department were understaffed and this was a critical need for the City. Councilmember Jackson commented on bringing more businesses to Roy and said that if they had an economic development director, they would be able to assist the City Manager in accomplishing this. She said Roy would look nice one day when UDOT was done tearing up south Roy, and assured residents they would focus on new businesses coming in to the City. She proposed the increase go entirely public safety because that was the City's most pressing need.

Councilmember Wilson thanked all the residents that had shared comments.

Mayor Dandoy stated the old ladder truck would be sold. Fire Chief Craig Golden stated it had already been sold and was headed to Las Vegas already. Mayor Dandoy said whatever revenue they received from the sale of the ladder truck would go back into the General Fund and redistributed.

Mayor Dandoy addressed concerns about failing gutters and sidewalks throughout the City, and told residents if they saw a problem to report it to Public Works as there was a list of concerns there which were in the process of being addressed. He addressed the concerns regarding 5600 and said once it was done, they were hoping to revitalize the area. Councilmember Joe Paul commented UDOT had announced they would push the 1800 project out two years from the 5600 project in hopes to get one done before tearing out another.

Mayor Dandoy said they had the opportunity to do the fall and spring cleanups and commented on the dumpster issue addressed in the public comments. He said the penalties they incurred from the EPA regarding contaminants getting into the water stream, particularly storm drains, had been very large and had forced them to disband the program.

Mayor Dandoy next addressed the Flip the Strips program and said it was a good program and encouraged residents to participate.

Mayor Dandoy commented on the hotel study that had been done in Roy and said it had gone well until the pandemic hit and effectively put a halt on the hotel industry. He reported the study that had been done had listed Roy as one of the best places to put a hotel. He thought putting a nice hotel in downtown Roy would bring in the businesses that residents were requesting.

Councilmember Wilson addressed the request for volunteers to help with yardwork and said they had a U-Serve Program, in which kids could volunteer for people and projects like yardwork. Councilmember Joe Paul commented he was a scout leader and his scouts were always looking for service projects.

Councilmember Wilson commented on the Complex and pointed out every pool in the area lost money. She said pools and recreation centers were not in the City to make money, they were in the City to provide services to their citizens and if they took away every program that did not make a profit they would lose most of the recreation programs provided in the City. She thought the Complex was valuable to youth and seniors alike and this was why they needed to get the Complex fixed and advertise more.

Councilmember Paul motioned to approve Resolution No. 22-16 Approval of final FY23 Budget and setting the 2022 Certified Tax Rate with the following amendments: setting the tax rate for a 10% increase and allocating the funds to approve 2 additional hires for the Police Department and 2 additional hires for the Fire Department.

Councilmember Wilson motioned a substitute amendment of the following: removing the Community Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager position, advancing \$200,000 from the fund balance for the complex so staff can begin securing bids, a 10% tax increase but dividing the funds equally between the Police Department and Fire Department to use as the individual departments saw fit.

Due to no second motion for Councilmember Wilsons substitute amendments, Mayor Dandoy went back to the original motion set by Councilmember Joe Paul. Councilmember Scadden seconded the original motion. A roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Wilson voted “Nay” and Councilmembers Jackson, Joe Paul, Scadden, and Sophie Paul voted “Aye”. The motion carried.

Mayor Dandoy advocated the Circuit Breaker Program to residents who expected hardship based on this decision and said City Recorder Britney Fowers had information regarding this program.

Natalie Betten discussed her son and grandson were both waiting for heart transplants and she had taken her information in to qualify for the Circuit Breaker Program, but they told her that her income was \$10,000 below the highest income, and she recalled she had had to list every asset that she owned. She explained Davis County only went by your income, whereas Weber County looked at all of your assets including camp trailers, ATVS, motorcycles, and cars, and based on that, she had been told she had too many assets and exceeded the requirement so she did not qualify. She pointed out those assets did not pay her taxes, so it did not make sense to include those things in determining eligibility. Ms. Betten asked for her paperwork back but was told that they would stay on record at the Treasurer’s Office for anybody to pull up as public record. Ms. Betten complained there was no salvation for seniors in that program. Mayor Dandoy suggested reaching out to elected officials and telling them it was not right. Ms. Betten asked where to start. Mayor Dandoy suggested she reach out to the County Commissioner and call Jim Harvey. Ms. Betten replied she was 77 years old and if she reached out tomorrow, she probably wouldn’t live long enough to see it change. Mayor Dandoy showed the application and Ms. Betten replied she was not blaming him personally, she was upset with the government system. She said it was not fair for each County to have different requirements, and commented it had taken a lot for her to reach out for help, and based on her experience, she would never ask for help again.

G. City Manager & Council Report

City Manager Andrews said this would be the last Council meeting before their August 27th day of service. He said that same morning they would have the Wounded Warrior Race as well, and reported they were set up with the aquatic area as they had discussed at the previous Council meeting. He said that Jackie Parsons was in the City and they would be starting to chip seal. City Manager Andrews said they had been waiting three years for 4800 South at the railroad crossing to be reconstructed, and the developers had finally told the City they would be starting that project very soon and they were planning on closing 4800 South to do that project. He noted the closure at the railroad crossing would affect the school quite heavily. He said the City had not scheduled the work for that time, but they had to go with the developer's availability and so they were anticipating the work to start very soon and go until mid October.

Councilmember Joe Paul asked if the turn on eastbound on 2675 would be opened back up because Union Pacific had determined that it was the third deadliest crossing in Utah. Mayor Dandoy commented it was the single most hazardous intersection in the state of Utah.

H. Adjournment

Robert Dandoy
Mayor

Attest:

Brittany Fowers
City Recorder

dc: