



Minutes of the Roy City Council Meeting held in person in the Roy City Council Chambers and streamed on YouTube on May 21, 2024, at 5:30 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 Saxton
Councilmember Sophie Paul

City Manager, Matt Andrews
City Attorney, Matt Wilson
City Recorder, Brittany Fowers

Excused:

Also present were: Assistant City Manager, Brody Flint; Police Chief, Matthew Gwynn; Fire Chief, Theron Williams; Public Works Director, Brandon Edwards; Kevin Homer, Glenda Moore, Margaret Rose, Nate Allen, and Austin & Cindy.

A. Welcome & Roll Call

Mayor Dandoy welcomed those in attendance and noted Councilmembers Jackson, Wilson, Sophie Paul, Scadden, and Joe 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 the floor for public comments.

Kevin Homer of 5398 S 4000 W Roy, spoke about discussion item number one. He emphasized that he was willing to consider new ways to vote, and urged the Councilmembers to take the discussion seriously and keep an open mind about new ways of voting. He said he wanted to see a focus group in which they compared plurality voting and approval voting, and said he would be curious to know the results of that focus group. Mr. Homer mentioned even the founding fathers knew it was important to constantly be reconsidering the way that voting was done, to ensure it was fair for all.

Mayor Dandoy closed the floor for public comments.

F. Presentation Items

1. Approval Voting – Nate Allen

Mr. Allen clarified they were in discussion with the State legislature to allow approval voting as an option for cities; they were not asking cities to switch over to just approval voting. He explained how approval voting worked, and said the system allowed people to vote “yes” or “no” for each candidate, rather than just voting “yes” for one candidate. Mr. Allen explained how approval voting differed from traditional plurality voting and said it allowed candidates who had a broad appeal to be elected. He elaborated how plurality voting tended to elevate candidates who had an overall small, yet passionate base. Mr. Allen said approval voting worked especially well for elections that had a large number of candidates, since it allowed the candidate with the largest appeal to win and made it less likely that someone would win with a small margin. Mr. Allen also mentioned this was a cost-efficient way of voting since it eliminated the need to hold a primary election. Lastly, he claimed it was easy to audit and allowed for transparency in voting.

Mr. Allen outlined a previous election that had been held with approval voting, and he showed how the winning candidate had won with a higher winning percentage. He explained a large margin of approval allowed voters to have a better sense of confidence in the winning candidate. Mr. Allen said approval voting also mitigated instances of candidates slandering one another, since approval voting did not require a voter to choose between two different candidates.

Mr. Allen next spoke about security and administration. He said with approval voting, they could still tabulate votes at local voting centers and then send those results into a central location. He said county clerks had reported that approval voting was the only voting alternative that they felt comfortable with from an auditing point of view, since other systems, like rank-choice voting, had weak points of security. Mr. Allen stated mail-in voting was still possible with approval voting, as ballot size remained the same. In fact, Mr. Allen said approval voting reduced printing costs since less material was needed for an approval-vote ballot. Lastly, Mr. Allen explained that since approval voting was a simple method, it did not take long to educate voters on how to fill out the ballot.

Mr. Allen discussed places that approval voting had already been used. He gave some international examples including Italy, and said the UN Secretary was also elected with this method. In the United States, Mr. Allen said approval voting had been adopted in North Dakota and St. Louis, Missouri. He shared some survey results from voters in St. Louis who had overall high opinions about approval voting.

Councilmember Joe Paul asked what happened if a voter only selected one person. Mr. Allen said if a voter only wanted to support one candidate, they could do so. Mayor Dandoy mentioned approval voting had been used in a couple locations already in Utah and asked if the State legislature had allowed it. Mr. Allen replied that was correct; there was a pilot program that cities could opt into if they wanted to try approval voting. Mayor Dandoy asked what the next steps were, and Mr. Allen explained Roy City would write a letter to the State stating that they were willing to consider approval voting and ask if they could adopt approval voting.

Mayor Dandoy recalled how Roy City had debated adopting rank-choice voting in the past, and said they had discussed many possible issues with rank-choice voting. Mayor Dandoy asked the Councilmembers what they thought. Councilmember Joe Paul thought it was intriguing that approval voting cut their administrative costs down by two thirds, though said they would have to get approval from the County since it was a stepped cost decrease and they would need all the cities in the County to sign on in order to get the cost benefit. Mr. Allen said they had actually spoke with the County, and they were willing to allow approval voting on an individual city basis, if not all the cities wanted to adopt approval voting.

Mr. Allen stated he would pass along more information to the Councilmembers as well as his presentation,

and expressed he was happy to answer any more questions. Mr. Allen said although the next elections were not for the next two years, he wanted to get indication from the cities before that time if they were interested in adopting approval voting for the next municipal elections.

2. YCC – Margaret Rose

Ms. Rose thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak that evening. She gave a short introduction about the YCC Family Crisis Center, located in Ogden Utah. She said they offered support, shelter, and other services for families in crisis throughout Weber County and gave a warning that she was going to touch on some sensitive topics that evening. She reported on some statistics about violent crimes in Weber County and said YCC supported victims of all violent crimes. Ms. Rose said their primary goal was to support victims.

Ms. Rose reported that in July of the previous year, the State legislature had passed a bill that required all law enforcement agencies to adopt the lethality assessment program, LAP. She commended Roy City for being an early adopter of this tool, which she said reduced assaults and homicides and ensured victims were connected to support services. She explained how it removed the subjectivity of domestic violence calls for law enforcement officials. Ms. Rose said the rate of LAP usage had skyrocketed after the bill had been passed, and she clarified that the rate of domestic violence had not increased; just the rate at which law enforcement used the LAP tool.

Ms. Rose read some statistics, and stated that many victims reported being threatened with a weapon or told that they, their children, and/or their pets were going to be killed. She said strangulation or threats of strangulation was another common method of abuse, although it was often invisible and so the LAP identified threats of strangulation as a risk of lethality.

E. Ms. Rose reported that out of Weber County, 289 individuals in total had come from Roy City. She clarified that when victims arrived at their center, they were not required to provide proof of address, since many of them did not arrive with ID documents. She also discussed they had seen an 86% increase in referrals to their center since last July when the legislation had passed.

Ms. Rose said 60% of their center was funded by federal dollars, and they needed to fundraise for the remaining 40% percent. She said it was overall a positive thing that more people were getting connected to services and said this reduced assault and homicide as well as effects on children. However, she expressed the strain that was on their center and their partners with the dramatic increase in referrals. She said YCC offered a 61-bed shelter, and also offered therapy, self-defense classes, transportation for children to get to and from school, among other services.

Ms. Rose asked for a partnership with all of the cities. She listed some organizations that she had already spoken with and said she wanted to create a stronger partnership with the cities so that their center could continue to provide assistance to the residents of the cities. Specifically, she asked for LAP training for law enforcement officers, which she noted Roy City was already doing. She explained she wanted their center to collaborate with Roy City law enforcement for repeat calls, which she noted were the most dangerous.

Ms. Rose said their goal was to add \$150,000 to their annual budget, and said they aimed to do this by having the cities that were served by the center enter into agreement with YCC. She clarified that this was not a donation; it was a contract to help offset the costs of some of the services that the center provided to city residents. Ms. Rose stated that Roy City residents represented 14.39% of the center's population, which amounted to about \$21,500 of their overall financial goal. She said they were asking for additional funds from the County as well.

Councilmember Joe Paul noted there were many individuals who used the services without identifying what city they came from and asked if there was a way to find out what cities they lived in. He said he was in favor of pay-per-use, and said if Roy City was using more of the center's services then they should pay for it. Ms. Rose acknowledged the importance of finding this information out, though explained that their federal funding stipulated that there were no barriers to care, which meant that they could not deny care to someone who did not want to disclose where they were coming from. Ms. Rose pointed out that many of the people using the center's services were very transient as well, so whatever address they had on file did not necessarily indicate where they currently lived or where they experienced assaults. Councilmember Joe Paul asked if people were brought by the police, as that would indicate where they came from, and Ms. Rose said they occasionally came with police but not always. Councilmember Joe Paul acknowledged the need to respect people's privacy, though pointed out they could collect data from the LAP to determine where people were coming from.

Councilmember Jackson asked how long people were allowed to remain at the center. Ms. Rose replied that some people denied services, but some people stayed for several months. She said they were a crisis center, and as such was intended to be a 30-day shelter. Ms. Rose said their populations ebbed and flowed, though said they were often at capacity and had to place people in hotels or other housing. Ms. Rose discussed that people often had a hard time leaving the center since they did not have options for housing or access to finances. Ms. Rose said they were opening a transitional housing center that summer, where people could remain for up to two years as long as they were a good candidate for self-sufficiency. She said the apartment building had 14 units, and noted they needed to be realistic about what they could afford to build.

Ms. Rose noted they did serve all genders, though their population was mostly female. She said last year, the center had served ten men.

Police Chief Gwynn offered some context on the LAP screening, and said it did not take place for all domestic violence cases. He said it only took place when there was an intimate relationship between the abuser and the victim, and the victim needed to be willing to take the LAP survey. Police Chief Gwynn said if the victim opted to take the survey and their results indicated they were at risk, the officer who responded to the call was required to notify them and then offer to take them to the YCC or another shelter.

Councilmember Sophie Paul asked if their federal funding was going to increase as well, or if they just wanted money from the cities. Ms. Rose replied their federal funds had actually decreased. She elaborated that the Victims of Crime Act was their main source of federal funding, and that funding had been decreasing annually for the last several years. Ms. Rose said the Act was an ongoing issue in Congress as there was less money being allocated for the fund. Ms. Rose reported their funds had been cut by 48% two years ago and it had been decreasing since then.

Councilmember Jackson asked how the center wanted the money, and Ms. Rose said she would be happy to do whatever Roy City wanted to do. Ms. Rose said her contract with other cities ran the gamut; in some cases she invoiced the City monthly, some gave a lump sum, and some gave funding more sporadically.

Mayor Dandoy thanked Ms. Rose and asked if she had a draft agreement that he and the City Manager could look over. He said they would not make a decision that evening, but assured her they would look over the draft agreement and consider her presentation. He lastly asked Ms. Rose to send him the specific dollar amount that the center was asking for. Ms. Rose indicated that City Recorder Fowers had a copy of her presentation and said she could circulate the presentation for the Councilmembers. Councilmember Joe Paul acknowledged the difficulty in discerning where the victims were coming from as well.

F. **City Manager & Council Report**

City Manager Andrews reminded the Council to let him know if they were interested in the Wasatch Warriors. He also announced that the splash pad and the Aquatic Center were going to open that weekend.

Councilmember Jackson reported on behalf of the Mosquito Abatement District and reminded everyone that with the rising temperatures, mosquitos were going to become more of an issue. She urged everyone to not leave standing water sitting out, and said if anyone had a large event upcoming they could call the district to come spray their lawn.

Mayor Dandoy announced Roy City's plans for commemorating Memorial Day and invited the Councilmembers to attend the events.

Councilmember Joe Paul shared that the Mayor of Sunset City, Howard Madsen, had recently passed away and stated he would be missed.

G. **Adjournment**

Robert Dandoy
Mayor

Attest:

Brittany Fowers
City Recorder

dc: