

**IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**

**August 8, 2016**

Minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. August 8, 2016 in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Alma L. Adams	Commission Chair
Dale Brinkerhoff	Commissioner
Casey Anderson	Commissioner
G. Michael Edwards	Deputy County Attorney
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

H. Eugene Adams	County Auditor
Deborah B. Johnson	County Recorder
Betsy Cummings	County HR Assistant

**SYNOPSIS**

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those assembled were led in the pledge of allegiance by Mike Edwards.

**INVOCATION**

An invocation was offered by William Pressgrove.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**Mike Edwards, Iron County Deputy Attorney**, reported that the Attorney’s Office budget was on track at 43%. Mike stated that there were 233 felony cases as of August 1, 2016 and he anticipated that that number would continue to be well under the average due to Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) which reduces penalties for certain drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

**Lori Starr, Iron County Justice Court Manager**, reported the overall budget was at 44% in the Justice Court. Lori stated that the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) audit required updates in the Justice Court and she had preapproval to make those changes. She reported that the Public Defender budget was on track at 53.9%, and was high in the District Court at around 85%. She explained that she does not have much control of that budget and could only estimate from the past years, and that there were costs that resulted from 2015 cases that were not tried until 2016.

Lori Starr presented the commissioners with information gleaned from a new tracking system for Public Defender cases. Alma Adams complemented Lori on getting the tracking system implemented and noted that it would be very helpful to see details of Public Defender expenditures. Lori noted that the AOC Entrance Exam audit was a result of what had happened before her tenure, but that the audit had been helpful, and with a mostly new staff, the changes were resulting in more individual time between her and the staff. Lori reported that the new full and part time workers were working out very well.

**Jared Wilson, Iron, Iron County Information Technology (IT) Director,** reported that the budget was on track, and that the software maintenance line item was high, but that most software maintenance was paid early in the year. Jared reported that the camera system was in place for live streaming of the Iron County Commission meetings and the IT Department was trying to improve the audio. He noted that a couple of cameras had been installed at the Iron County Landfill over the scale house and the yard to be able to have a wider view of the landfill. Jared reported that there had been a quick turn over with recent part time hires. He explained that part time duties included call desk, help with work tickets, and assembling computers. Jared reported that software was in place which screens Iron County emails. He noted that the numbers for work orders for June was 411, and July was 480, and most of those were from everyday tasks. Casey questioned what the final cost of the streaming system was. Jared reported that it was around \$1,500, and that they were able to obtain a lower priced camera which saved Iron County around \$900.

**Danny Stewart, Economic Development Director,** reported that Decorworx and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) announced that the grocery store decor company, a part of Rainbow Sign & Banner, was considering expanding its operations in Cedar City. Danny stated that Iron County Office of Economic Development was working on local incentives for the company to expand in Cedar City. He noted that Decorworx was planning on investing \$11.5 million in refurbishing a historic building in Cedar City and adding up to 164 jobs, with the majority of the wages being at least 25% higher than the average Iron County wage. Danny reported that the company was moving forward "in good faith" that they would expand in Cedar City, and that a feasibility study was in moving forward.

Danny Stewart reported that a study showed that existing businesses create as many as 80% of all new jobs in a community. Danny expressed that Iron County needed to pay close attention to keeping local businesses, to encourage them to expand locally, and to buy locally whenever possible. Danny reported that he had been working with Craig Isom from the Business Resource Center in securing grants to be able to help local companies.

Danny Stewart reported that the current recruitment projects included 100 acres of commercial property immediately west of the airport. Danny noted that he had responded to around a dozen requests for information from Economic Development Cooperation of Utah (EDC Utah), and that there was a site visit from a manufacturing company that was interested in property in the Port 15 development, west of Cedar City. He noted that there were two companies interested in locating to Port 15, and two additional companies that might be interested in expanding into Cedar City. Danny reported that the Cerro Copper Building was vacant and a company was interested in it. Danny explained that there was still interest in the retail projects on 53 acres near the North Interchange in Cedar City, across from the Loves truck stop. He reported that Roger Brooks and his team had been working with Maria Twitchell on a "destination assessment" of Cedar City. Danny stated that the Roger Brooks Team "secret-shopped" Cedar City taking nearly 200 photos. He noted that his team would present their findings at a meeting on August 19, 2016 at 8:30 p.m. at the Cedar City Festival Hall and everyone was welcome to attend. Danny reported that he had met with Jon Whittaker about standardizing a process concerning reviewing incentive payments for each of the solar CDA areas. Danny reported that the Quichapa solar project would be moving forward and he had received a copy of a cost

reimbursement agreement to cover the costs of the legal fees for the project. He noted that he was involved with the “Much Ado About Business,” summit. Danny reported that the Tour of Utah was held last week and was a success due to all of the great volunteers.

**Dale Brinkerhoff, Iron County Commissioner**, reported on the Wildland Fire position with Ron Wilson, and that there was a discussion regarding the Resource Management Plan. Dale noted that Alma Adams would be attending the Community Impact Board (CIB) meeting on August 18, 2016 to request emergency funding for courthouse renovations and repairs.

**Casey Anderson, Iron County Commissioner**, reported that before he was a commissioner, and before Chris McCormick was the CEO of the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce, there was an agreement between the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce and Dave Miller, former Iron County Commissioner. Casey explained that Iron County had been participating with the Chamber through the Tourism Office in the amount of \$5,000. He noted that a decision had been made to share travel efforts and expenses between Economic Development and Tourism. Under that agreement, the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce had submitted an invoice for roughly \$2,500 in travel expenses. Alma Adams requested that Jon Whittaker research the past minutes to collect more information on whether there was a policy in place regarding the invoice.

**Alma Adams, Iron County Commissioner**, reported that there would be a meeting later that day with Mike Worthen, Natural Resource Specialist, regarding the County Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Alma noted that the state of Utah gave each county \$50,000, and the Five County Association of Government (AOG) also received \$50,000 to use toward the CRMP.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

William Pressgrove, a citizen of Iron County, expressed that he had come to the conclusion that farmers and ranchers had been “double dipped,” because they could not control the cost of what they sell and they had to pay property taxes. William noted that retailers could incorporate their property tax into those prices and consumers were the ones who ended up paying taxes for them but not farmers and ranchers. He stated that Iron County should move towards a consumption tax rather than property tax.

Casey Anderson explained that to make that change, a change in state law would be required.

#### **REVIEW OF THE 2016 BUDGET**

Gene Adams, Iron County Auditor, reported that expenses in 26 departments were over by 50% at the end of June 2016, and all but 9 were typical cost expenses. Gene stated that the Public Defender budget was about 54%, which included the Indigent Defense that was paid up front 100%. He stated that the Appeals were at 52%, and the District Court was at 84%. Gene noted that the Non-departmental was at 83%, and he had made an adjustment on the insurance, which would bring the budget to 54%. He reported that Natural Resource was at 51% mainly from fuel; Welfare Services was at 52%; Council on Aging was at 52%; Transient Room Tax (TRT) was at 52%; Emergency 911 was at 52%; Restaurant Food Tax was at 66%, and the Sewer Services was at 75% due to new growth. Gene stated that he did not foresee any surprises in October.

Gene noted that Revenue percentages shown were a comparative increase from the 2015 budget, and the General Budget had a total of a 10% increase; Municipal Services a 26.23% increase; Assessing & Collecting a -1.48% decrease; Class B Road Fund a -30.02% decrease; Aging of Council a 18.26% increase; Library a 15.54% increase; TRT a 9.62% increase; Public Health a 15.62% increase; Emergency 911 a -2.28 decrease; Fair a -1.53% decrease; Restaurant Food Tax a 6.05% increase; Western Freedom Festival a -13.36% decrease; Sewer Service a 23.21% increase; Solid Waste Landfill a 12.51% increase, and Solid Waste collection a 4.68% increase.

**PERSONNEL**

Betsy Cummings, Iron County Human Resources (HR) Assistant, reported that the item to be discussed was the Long Term Benefit Protection contract with the Utah Retirement Systems (URS) for long term disability. Betsy stated that when the carrier change was made in 2014, URS had not provided a contract. She noted that the contract was sent and approved, and was returned to be signed by the Iron County Commissioners. Betsy stated that there was not a budget consequence.

Dale Brinkerhoff made a motion to approve the new Long Term Benefit Protection contract contingent there being no budget consequence. Second by Casey Anderson. Voting: Alma Adams, Aye; Casey Anderson, Aye; Dale Brinkerhoff, Aye.

**NON-DELEGATED ITEMS**

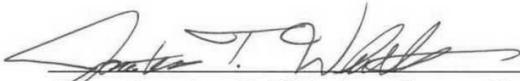
Casey Anderson made a motion to pay the amount of \$99,730 which was 2.91% of the contract budget for the new Public Safety Building to Carter Enterprises, Inc. Second by Dale Brinkerhoff. Voting: Alma Adams, Aye; Casey Anderson, Aye; Dale Brinkerhoff, Aye.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Casey Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dale Brinkerhoff. Voting: Alma Adams, Aye; Casey Anderson, Aye; Dale Brinkerhoff, Aye.



Signed: Alma Adams, Chairman



Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk