

Minutes of the Special meeting of the Syracuse City Council held on January 14, 2014, at 7:08 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 1979 West 1900 South, Syracuse City, Davis County, Utah.

Present: Councilmembers: Brian Duncan
Mike Gailey
Craig A. Johnson
Karianne Lisonbee
Douglas Peterson

Mayor Terry Palmer
Acting City Manager/Finance Director Steve Marshall
City Recorder Cassie Z. Brown

City Employees Present:

Public Works Director Robert Whiteley
City Attorney Clint Drake
Fire Chief Eric Froerer
Police Chief Garret Atkin
Parks and Recreation Director Kresta Robinson
Community Development Director Sherrie Christensen

1. Meeting Called to Order/Adopt Agenda

Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. as a regularly scheduled meeting, with notice of time, place, and agenda provided 24 hours in advance to the newspaper and each Councilmember. He asked all visitors present if any wished to provide an invocation or thought; Councilmember Duncan offered an invocation. Councilmember Johnson then led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

7:08:19 PM

COUNCILMEMBER LISONBEE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. COUNCILMEMBER DUNCAN SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

7:08:46 PM

2. Presentation of the Syracuse City and Wendy's "Award for Excellence" to Mallory Borchert and Jared Davenport.

The City wishes to recognize citizens who strive for excellence in athletics, academics, arts and/or community service. To that end, in an effort to recognize students and individuals residing in the City, the Community and Economic Development, in conjunction with Jeff Gibson, present the recipients for the "Syracuse City & Wendy's Award for Excellence". This monthly award recognizes the outstanding performance of a male and female who excel in athletics, academics, arts, and/or community service. The monthly award recipients will each receive a certificate and be recognized at a City Council meeting; have their photograph placed at City Hall and the Community Center; be written about in the City Newsletter, City's Facebook and Twitter Feed, and City's website; be featured on the Wendy's product television; and receive a \$10 gift certificate to Wendy's.

Mayor Palmer noted both students receiving the award for December 2013 are from Syracuse Elementary School and she read the award nomination provided by each of their respective teachers.

Mallory Borchert

Mallory Borchert has shown the personal qualities that our community hopes to foster in the future. Daily, Mallory displays a positive attitude towards her teachers and peers. In the past three years I can truly say I've never seen her without a smile on her face. Her attitude causes the people around her to perform at the highest level in every situation. For example, Mallory was not the best volleyball player on the SAA volleyball team, but showed a highest quality of sportsmanship and team support as she encouraged her teammates to play at their highest level.

This style of leadership is often hard to find in our very competitive world. Her smile brings out the best in her teammates and the result has been top performances at the state level. Mallory is a leader by example! Her classroom performance equals her athletic performance. Again, Mallory excels in the classroom by maintaining a near perfect grade point average while attending Syracuse Arts Academy. As a 7th grader she maintained a 3.94, a 3.98 as an 8th grader and a 4.0 both terms of her 9th grade year. She plays on the SAA Girls Basketball Team and

Mallory currently serves as the Vice President of the Student Body Officers. If this award recognizes students that place "extra effort" into their lives and the lives of others then I feel there is no better candidate than Mallory Borchert. Mallory has all the qualities of an excellent citizen in all walks of her life. She displays the values that will move this country into a productive chapter of history.

- Nominated by Mr. Keith Donaldson, Health/PE Instructor

Jared Davenport

Jared is an amazing young man. He is a dedicated student who thoroughly enjoys learning. Jared often goes the extra mile on assignments because he is interested in what he is studying. Jared is also on the school basketball team and works hard for the team. Jared has a quick smile and is always willing to lend a hand whether someone needs help on an assignment or someone to carry their books. Jared's Basketball coach says, "Jared is the type of player most coaches would love to have. He's always at practice, wants to be the first one to do any sort of drills, works hard both in practice and in games and is always trying to improve himself and those around him. Excellence is a word I would describe Jared as and he's very much deserving of this award." What can we say, he's a great kid!

Additionally, Jared makes an amazing effort as a student to earn and maintain high grades. He has consistently earned above a 3.8 and currently has a 4.0 as a ninth grader.

-Nominated by Synda Thomas, History Instructor & Brian Wilson, Basketball Coach

7:15:13 PM

At this time, COUNCILMEMBER GAILEY MOVED TO SET ASIDE THE AGENDA AND HEAR ITEMS 5B AND 5A OUT OF ORDER. COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

7:15:28 PM

5b. Recognition of six year old resident for saving his diabetic grandfather on Christmas.

A staff memo provided the following story as reported by Fox 13 News:

A split-second decision saved them both. It was made by a boy just six years old, after his grandfather suffered a diabetic attack behind the wheel on Christmas. The two were in the car together. When grandpa blacked-out behind the wheel, his grandson jumped out of the backseat while the vehicle was moving and was able to get life-saving help.

"He's my hero," said Ron Vedaa. The 63 year-old Type 1 diabetic owes his life to his grandson Sully. Around 2 o'clock Christmas afternoon, the two were headed down Midland road in West Haven to a family member's house. "I checked my blood about 12:30. It was a little bit on the high side," said Vedaa. "I had taken a correction, snacked on some food before we got into the car. I felt perfectly fine." But while driving his blood sugar hit 20. Normal levels are between 80 & 120.

"I remember him going slow and asking him a bunch of questions and he kept on acting all tired," said 6 year-old Sully. Moments before the Chrysler crossed to the other side of the road and crashed. "I jumped out of the car and rolled," said Sully. Fortunately, the vehicle wasn't going fast. Sully wasn't hurt and ran to the only house in the area.

"He come running up. He was scared," said homeowner David Trujillo. Trujillo's daughter called 9-1-1. He took FOX 13 to the scene. "Here's where he was," said Trujillo. "His tire was just burnt, that's all rubber there."

Grandpa's foot was still on the gas and the car was lodged on a boulder which kept it from slamming into a nearby building. Ironically, David Trujillo is also a diabetic. He was there to help and knew what to do. "We finally started opening the doors and gave him some orange juice and he finally started waking up a little bit," he said. It was a case of help from a stranger after quick action by a 6 year-old boy.

"As soon as I got to the scene I grabbed him and I was like 'I'm so proud of you!'," said Sully's mother McKell Vedaa. "I said 'Sullivan, you don't understand you saved your grandpa's life.'"

"He'll be my hero until the day I'm gone. He means a lot to me," added Ron Vedaa who admits he didn't check his blood sugar right before he got behind the wheel. He says he's learned a lesson and hopes others will from his story.

Police Chief Atkin read the news story for the record and then recognized Sully Vedaa as an honorary member of the Syracuse City Police Department. He presented Mr. Vedaa with a Police Department patch and a certificate from the Police Department and Mayor Palmer.

[7:18:55 PM](#)

[5a. Recognition of Syracuse City Firefighters for life saving ice rescue at Antelope Island.](#)

A memo from Fire Chief Froerer explained six years ago the Fire Department recognized the need concerning the possibility of an ice rescue, due to the creation of Jensen pond and locations of other bodies of water near residential and recreational areas. With the support of the City, and the dedication and professionalism that each member of the Fire Department has put forth to become trained ice rescue technicians, the Fire Department has put together an ice rescue program that is utilized throughout Davis County. Without a doubt, the positive outcome of this event is due to the actions taken by the responding crew that morning.

On December 23, 2013 at approximately 0800 hours, Station 31 received a medical call bravo response for cold exposure "a person in a boat one-hundred yards off the causeway". Engine 31 responded with Engineer Treir Allen as the acting officer and Firefighter Colt Cottrell as the engineer. A31 responded with Firefighter Chris Whetton and Firefighter Travis Smith. While responding they learned that the victim had fallen through the ice and was unable to get out. Davis county paramedic arrived on scene and reported that a park ranger was on the ice trying to get the victim out of the water. At arrival, no boat was observed, Engineer Allen established command and ordered his crew to prepare for an ice rescue, Firefighter Whetton and Cottrell both donned the ice commander suits and firefighter Whetton was given the assignment as primary rescuer with firefighter Cottrell as his back-up rescuer. The park ranger had walked onto the ice and thrown a throw rope to the victim, the victim had wrapped the rope around him but the Ranger was unable to pull him out of the water. Firefighter Whetton followed training and ice rescue protocols and was able to quickly respond to the victim's location and properly secure the rescue sling around the victim and assess the victim's condition. The haul team which consisted of; Engineer Allen, Firefighter Cottrell, Firefighter Smith and other bystanders, quickly pulled them to the safety of the shore and started medical treatment which they performed until they relinquished care to the hospital's emergency room staff.

Chief Froerer reviewed his staff memo and presented his firefighters with a certificate of the City's appreciation.

[7:24:37 PM](#)

At this time, COUNCILMEMBER GAILEY MADE A MOTION TO RETURN TO AGENDA ITEM THREE. COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

[7:24:57 PM](#)

[3. Approval of Minutes:](#)

The minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meetings of December 10, 2013 were reviewed.

[7:25:05 PM](#)

COUNCILMEMBER DUNCAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 10, 2013 AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

[7:25:22 PM](#)

[4. Public Comments](#)

[7:25:36 PM](#)

John Lewis stated he has come here to ask the Council to consider changing the City's election laws. He has had discussions with the Lieutenant Governor and Davis County Clerk and their advice regarding this issue was for him to approach the Council. Currently the election laws call for the citizens to vote by mail, during the early voting period, or in person on Election Day. The candidates are not required to disclose the financial information associated with their campaign until 30 days after the election. He stated he feels this diminishes the transparency of the candidates and he would like for the Council to consider a change. He stated he would like the Council to implement a process that would improve transparency. He then noted he has a request that the format of City Council minutes be changed so that the minutes are a summary of the meeting similar to the minutes taken of Planning Commission meetings. He noted the Planning Commission minutes are more informational and specific while minutes of City Council meetings are very vague. He stated he would also like for City Council minutes to be posted on the website for a consecutive four years as trying to coordinate events and dates in

audio recordings and written minutes has been very difficult and it shows that the minutes are not transparent or user friendly. He stated he has reviewed the Planning Commission minutes and the overall theme of the meeting is provided; that has not been the case with City Council minutes for quite a while. He added another item he would like the Council to consider relates to Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA) request; he is asking that the Mayor and Council set a fair policy for the charges being put upon the citizens for GRAMA requests. He stated there have been charges in the past of up to \$20 per sheet and this is highly unfair and creates a suspicion that the requested information is being hidden due to the exuberant charges.

[7:29:51 PM](#)

Colby Vaughn stated he has been a resident for 10 years and he is the new owner of the Gailey property by the Intermountain Health Care (IHC) clinic on 2000 West and he will be working with staff to propose a general plan amendment for the property that is approximately 12 acres; he will be requesting the City rezone the property and approve a general plan amendment. He stated he believes R3 zoning would provide a nice buffer zone between the existing commercial and residential R2 zoning nearby.

[7:31:09 PM](#)

TJ Jensen welcomed the two newly elected officials. He then addressed item six on the agenda, which deals with the appointment of a new City Manager. He noted in the last 10 years there have been four different people working in that capacity and none of them served for a great length of time; in particular, the last City Manager did not live in Syracuse City and had no roots in the community. He stated he feels the last few City Managers have used the position as a stepping stone to other opportunities and he feels it is important that the person chosen to fill the position have strong ties to the community. He stated that if the City Manager does not live within the City that can create uncertainty among the employees and citizens; the fact that the last City Manager lived outside of Syracuse caused a fair amount of resentment among the residents. He asked that the Council consider requiring the new City Manager to live in the City to provide additional stability.

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Gary Pratt stated the City will be reading water meters this spring and everyone will receive a bill with charges for usage that was not monitored throughout the winter months. He stated he and his wife are the only two people living in their home and they pay for 8,000 gallons of water per month though they only use approximately 2,000. He stated he feels the City should have an additional water rate bracket to supplant 'empty nesters', who are growing part of the citizenry in the community. He stated he would ask the Council to consider a change that would treat all residents more fairly and he noted it may be possible for the issue to be considered during budget preparation meetings to be held this spring.

[7:34:39 PM](#)

6. Proposed Resolution R14-01 appointing Brody Bovero as the City Manager of Syracuse City.

[7:34:49 PM](#)

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R14-01 APPOINTING BRODY BOVERO AS THE CITY MANAGER OF SYRACUSE CITY. COUNCILMEMBER DUNCAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

[7:35:16 PM](#)

Council discussion regarding the motion ensued with each Councilmember expressing their feelings regarding the two final candidates that were considered for the position of City Manager.

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Mayor Palmer stated there has been a motion and a second to adopt the proposed resolution and he called for a vote; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON, WHO VOTED IN OPPOSITION.

Mr. Bovero stood to be recognized by those in attendance at the meeting.

[7:44:16 PM](#)

7. Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Lisonbee's report began at [7:44:39 PM](#). He was followed by Councilmembers Johnson, Peterson, Duncan, and Gailey.

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[7:51:29 PM](#)

8. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Palmer's report began at [7:51:40 PM](#).

[7:52:49 PM](#)

9. City Manager's Report.

Acting City Manager Marshall's report began at [7:53:06 PM](#).

At [7:53:26 PM](#) p.m. COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Terry Palmer
Mayor

Cassie Z. Brown, CMC
City Recorder

Date approved: February 11, 2014