

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Syracuse City Council held on November 20, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., in the Council Conference Room, 1979 West 1900 South, Syracuse City, Davis County, Utah.

Present: Councilmembers: Corinne N. Bolduc  
Mike Gailey  
Douglas Peterson

Mayor Terry Palmer  
City Recorder Cassie Z. Brown

Excused: Councilmembers Craig Johnson and Karianne Lisonbee

Visitors Present: Dave Maughan

#### 4:30:10 PM

##### 1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Palmer called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. as a specially scheduled meeting, with notice of time, place, and agenda provided 24 hours in advance to the newspaper and each Councilmember.

#### 4:30:26 PM

##### 2. Consideration of certifying the recount results for the November 3, 2015 Municipal General Election (roll call vote).

City Recorder Brown reported that the recount process took nearly three days to complete and the results were provided to her by the Davis County Elections Division this afternoon. She noted the outcome of the election did not change, but some of the vote totals did. She reported the following vote totals:

Andrea Anderson – 2536 votes  
Karianne Lisonbee – 2035 votes  
Dave Maughan – 2032 votes  
Doug Peterson – 2008 votes  
Randy Miller – 1226 votes

She noted that at this point in time the County is unable to determine exactly why the vote totals changed, but they will investigate further and provide her with an update when it is available.

#### 4:33:11 PM

Dave Maughan noted that he observed the recount that took place over the course of three days and he initially had some concerns about some of the practices used in the recount, but he was able to visit with the County Election Official and all the explanations he provided regarding the practices used gave him peace of mind. Mayor Palmer noted he is confident in the integrity of the vote tabulation process, but he would like to know why the vote totals changed slightly. Ms. Brown agreed and noted that any time there is a component of paper ballots there is an opportunity for ballots to be counted differently when scanned multiple times. She emphasized that paper ballots are used in traditional machine elections when a voter must vote a provisional or absentee ballot and she does not want the fact that the vote totals of this election changed slightly to cast a bad light on the vote-by-mail system.

#### 4:35:33 PM

Councilmember Peterson asked Mr. Maughan why he felt it was necessary to observe the recount process. Mr. Maughan stated he has been a part of recounts in the past and he has had a different experience each time and in two recounts the vote totals did change; he wanted to witness this recount so that he was aware of what was happening and so that he could gain a certain level of comfort that the officials conducting the recount were doing so legally and appropriately. He reiterated he was very pleased with the manner in which the Davis County employees, specifically Davis County Election Official Brian McKenzie, conducted the recount and he was pleased with the results at the end of the day.

#### 4:38:16 PM

Councilmember Bolduc asked why Davis County values the vote-by-mail system. Ms. Brown stated it is always an Election Officer's goal to increase participation in the election process and the vote-by-mail generally increases voter turnout. It is a method that provides voters with more opportunities to cast their vote. Councilmember Bolduc stated that it can take longer to have final results. Ms. Brown stated that is a bit of a misnomer; some people think the reason that it took so long to have final results is because the vote-by-mail system was used when, in fact, the results would not have been released until November 10 regardless of the voting method that was used because State Law does not allow an Election Official to release official results until the day of the canvass, which can be scheduled no sooner than seven days after Election Day and no later than 14 days after Election Day. She noted that the Utah Municipal Clerks Association (UMCA), of which she is a member, is lobbying the State Legislature to amend the Election Law to allow for the release of updated results between Election Day and the night of the canvass.

#### 4:41:47 PM

Councilmember Peterson stated that initially he did not plan to request a recount because he felt a 23 vote difference was insurmountable and he was worried about the cost and time associated with a recount. However, upon thinking about it

further and focusing on the fact that the law allows for recounts for a reason, he decided to request the recount to test the vote-by-mail system. He likes the vote-by-mail system and thinks the City should continue to use it in the future. Mayor Palmer added that Farmington City also conducted a recount so the total cost will be split between Syracuse and Farmington. Ms. Brown stated that is correct; she does not have a final total for the recount, but she assumes the cost will be at least \$2,000. The Council then engaged in a brief general discussion about the vote-by-mail system and counting procedures, with a focus on the opportunity for voter fraud in the vote-by-mail system. Ms. Brown stated that Davis County's Election Office is amazing to work with and she appreciates the support that she and the other cities in Davis County receive from them. She is glad that Mr. Maughan had the opportunity to witness that for himself. She has no question about the integrity of the Election Official and his staff.

[4:50:03 PM](#)

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ELECTION SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE RECOUNT FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION. COUNCILMEMBER BOLDUC SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

[4:50:31 PM](#)

At 4:50 p.m. COUNCILMEMBER GAILEY 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: December 8, 2015