

City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah
City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

ATTENDING: Mayor Ren Hatt, Council Members Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Guy Webster, and Ben Lehnhoff; Planning Commission Members; Chair Stephanie Crabtree, Dustin Gingerich, Tammy Howland Kim McFarlane, Gayna Salinas: Employees; Tyler Hunt, David Wilson, Julie Spadafora; Citizens; Christine Sheeter, Tim Vetere, Cindy Bowerman, Kathy Arnold, Kelly Dunham, Tammy Howland, Amanda Dinkins, Sarah Fields, Lance Erwin, Zoe Gardner, Kenny Fallon, Anne Elliot, Caleb Rozman, Richard Ryan, Wendy Lechleiter, Craig Lechleiter, Daniel Salinas, Diane Chandler, Jimmy Chandler, Kathy Ryan, Scott Ryan, Chalyn Francis, Amanda Dinkins, Phillip Stubblefield; Western Uranium & Vanadium; Grant Glasier and John Whiteside.

CONDUCTING: Mayor Ren Hatt, the meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Pledge of Allegiance as directed by Ben Lehnhoff

1. Recognition of Kathy Ryan's years of service as a Council Member
Mayor Ren Hatt spoke, Kathy Ryan has diligently served as a City Council Member for 12 years, we are so appreciative of the Insite and energy she has brought to council over the years. We would like to publicly thank her for her many years of service.
2. Public Comment
Gayna Salinas asked how the City Council is going to inform the citizens of Green River about what is going on in town. Examples City Council and Planning & Zoning meeting. She commented that she never knows when the meetings are going to be. For new City Council members, she would like to know how available they are going to be on topics that come before you like the uranium and lithium projects. She feels that if the Planning & Zoning recommends tabling an agenda item for a later date, it is not right for the City Council to push things through. Kathy Ryan would like to thank all of those who volunteer their time for the city or any other aspect. Things are beginning to happen in Green River, we need to educate ourselves and try to keep it at a slow pace and keep the citizens inform. Keep Green River, Green River, we do not want to be Moab. Richard Ryan has one concern, if they were to activate those old sewer lagoons within a half a mile from Elgin. He knows they will have a discharge problem over there. Kim McFarlane, member of Planning & Zoning and resident of Green River, he is the person who made the motion to table this agenda item for extraction. He thinks there are more safety and health issues that need to be researched and talked about. Looking at other communities and ordinances, there are ways to structure this correctly. They need to be able to identify safety issues that may affect our residents. If we push these things forward too fast without putting the correct safeguards in place, then we are asking for trouble. Tim Vetere spoke, he has questions he hopes can be answered. Salt water is anywhere between 27 parts per million and 147 parts per million. Salt water is a mess as far as agriculture goes. He is not sure how much water they will need to use. Whether they inject it back into the ground or if they have ponds and it leaches out of the pond. There are a lot of factors that need to be looked at before moving forward. Will the city try to annex it into the Emery County? What will the city do to get their revenue? Safety is the main thing; the ground is so fractured and that is why we do not have any wells here. Kelly Quinn, Christine Sheeter, and John Weisheit say they all have concerns

about the way this is being handled and feel it should be taken slowly. They feel they should have more time to do some research. So many unanswered questions which need answering before giving a recommendation.

3. Consideration for and adoption of Parameters Resolution authorizing the issuance of Parity Sewer Revenue Bonds of the City of Green River and calling of a public hearing to receive input with respect to the issuance of such Bonds and any potential impact to the private sector from the construction of the Project. Mayor Ren Hatt spoke, this is about the Public Hearing they have to hold and the bonds that will be issued regarding the city's sewer projects. It is part of the contingency to receive CIB (Community Impact Board) funds. **MOTION:** Bo Harrison made a motion to approve adoption of Parameters Resolution authorizing the issuance of Parity Sewer Revenue Bonds of the City of Green River and calling of a public hearing to receive input with respect to the issuance of such Bonds and any potential impact to the private sector from the construction of the Project. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

4. Discuss/Approve/Deny considering Planning Commission's lack of a timely recommendation on allowing mineral extraction and processing in the industrial zones as a negative recommendation according to Utah Code 10-9a-302(4)
Mayor Ren Hatt spoke to the community, four out of the five City Council Member voted (Guy Webster was not sworn in yet.) The elected officials wanted to sponsor something to move this forward, which is within their elected right. It is the councils' intention to hear the communities' desires and to receive public comment. When public comment was asked for during the Public Hearing Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at the Planning and Zoning Meeting. Agenda line item #3 adding mineral processing and extraction to the Industrial land use matrix, there was not much comment if any. Public Hearings are posted 10 days in advance, at the Green River Post Office, Green River Library, Public Notice and Green River Websites. On the Public Notice Website, emails can be set to notify you 24 hours before the meeting. Tammy Howland asked, can you define untimely? Mayor Ren Hatt answered, this agenda item was table twice. Untimely is considered unreasonable, the council is a legislative body and at this time they wanted to move forward on it.
Mandy Dinkins commented, she isn't for or against it, but they sit up there as our City Councilmen and are the people who are supposed to represent Green River. When they are making these decisions to bypass everything. How many of you have actually taken time to talk to the community to find out what they want, or did you just decide to sponsor this on your own decision and only care about your own opinion? Mayor Ren Hatt spoke, he said he thinks that is likely untrue. He said he talked to people about this, and he knows the council did as well. He said, he isn't very hard to reach. The reason why the city is making some of these shifts is to create easier access and transparency, making it possible to hear more public comment. Kent Nelson said he doesn't want the Planning Commission to feel like the Council Members think they are not doing their job. He knows they have the City's' best interest at heart. He is grateful for the effort and time the Planning and Commission put into their position. Honestly, he is doing what he feels is best for the community. **MOTION:** Kent Nelson made a motion to approve considering the Planning Commission's lack of a timely recommendation on allowing mineral extraction and processing in the industrial zones as a negative recommendation according to Utah Code 10-9a-302(4). Ben Lehnhoff seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Ben Lehnhoff voted aye. Guy Webster abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

5. Discuss/Approve/Deny Ordinance No. 2024-01 allowing mineral processing and extractive industry in the City's industrial zones (I-1, I-2, and I-3) which includes solids,

such as coal and ores; liquids, such as crude petroleum and salt brine; and gasses, such as natural gasses; and setting conditional use criteria for extractive industry

Mayor Ren Hatt commented, this will still require a review by the Planning Commission to set the conditional use criteria.

MOTION: Bo Harrison made motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-01 allowing mineral processing and extractive industry in the City's industrial zones (I-1, I-2, and I-3) which includes solids, such as coal and ore, liquids, such as crude petroleum and salt brine; and gasses, such as natural gasses; and setting conditional use criteria for extractive industry. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

6. Discuss/Approve/Deny letter of recommendation for Western Uranium and Vanadium's project Mayor Ren Hatt commented, there was a question brought up in public comment earlier. What would be in the letter of recommendation? Grant Glasier said they will be applying for all the state licensing and the City's letter is just saying this is something they want to see happen. They support their decision to apply for licensing and grant funding to explore further. They will have a lot of strategic planning to just get through the licensing. Richard Ryan said, so if the city recommends it, the state can still stop it through licensing, correct? We are giving them the opportunity to bring something into Green River. Bo Harrison commented, if they meet our zoning requirements. Sarah Fields asked, "Will approving such a letter will it interfere with the ability of a conditional use permit?" Mayor Ren Hatt answered back, there is nothing binding about the letter. Sarah Field commented, what is so great about a uranium mill that you would want one in your community? Kent Nelson said the rules and regulations on lithium & uranium are better now than they were when they built the uranium mill in Moab, things have changed, regulations have changed. He would like to explore it for his community, for his children, that might want a job here. Most people here have two or three jobs just to make ends meet. Guy Webster shared, as citizen of Green River, representing a big share of the Green River community, that are currently working at the Atlas Tailing Relocation. They are about four to five years out from being finished. There will be a good share of our community who have good paying jobs with benefits and head of household jobs being out of work. Those who work at this facility support the schools and businesses in Green River. Green River is lacking in good paying jobs, we are in trouble if there is not another job for them to transfer to, for an occupation. These businesses need to be explored. Voting for this today does not mean it is going to happen. They still have to go through the permitting process and follow the regulations. There is still a lot of time to comment, if this isn't for Green River, there can always be time to say no. By not saying let's explore it and look into it for the community, they are giving up the chance to bring higher paying jobs into our community. Richard Ryan commented, if they stop every single industry that questionable and stop it and send it to China where there is no regulations. The pollution is still part of this earth and will still effect Green River. He said he would personally welcome A-1 Lithium.

MOTION: Kent Nelson made motion to approve letter of recommendation for Western Uranium and Vanadium's project. Guy Webster seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

7. Discuss/Approve/Deny MOU with the Utah Cyber Center in order to participate in the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Tyler Hunt explained that they are offering training and resources for the city, employees, and software. It will help to lock down the water plant and city hall, making it safer.

MOTION: Bo Harrison made a motion to approve the MOU with the Utah Cyber Center in order to participate in the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. Guy Webster seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

8. Discuss/Approve/Deny appointing Bo Harrison as Mayor Pro Tempore
MOTION: Kent Nelson made a motion to approve Bo Harrison as Mayor Pro Tempore. Ben Lehnhoff seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
9. Discuss/Approve/Deny appointing Guy Webster as the City of Green River representative on the Emery Emergency Medical Special Service District board
MOTION: Larry Packer made a motion to approve appointing Guy Webster as the City of Green River representative on the Emery Emergency Medical Special Service District board. Bo Harrison seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
10. Discuss/Approve/Deny appointing Kim McFarlane as a regular Planning Commission member
MOTION: Bo Harrison made a motion to approve Kim McFarlane as a regular Planning Commission member. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
11. Discuss/Approve/Deny appointing Gayna Salinas as an alternate Planning Commission member
MOTION: Kent Nelson made a motion to approve appointing Gayna Salinas as an alternate Planning Commission member. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
12. Discuss/Approve/Deny appointing Glenna Brown as an alternate Planning Commission member
MOTION: Bo Harrison made a motion to approve appointing Glenna Brown as an alternate Planning Commission member. Ben Lehnhoff seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
13. Green River EMS Report
Mayor Ren Hatt spoke, he needs to talk to an attorney making sure the city is in control of some things with the EMS payroll and stipends. If they are, then the city can just make the change. Guy Webster commented, please contact him anytime with your thoughts or concerns about EMS.
14. Discuss/Approve/Deny Consent Agenda
 - Financial Report November 2023
 - Payment Approval Report January 2024
 - Treasurer Report December 2023
 - December 1, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes**MOTION:** Kent Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.
15. City Council, Mayor, and/or Employees comments and concerns.
No comments were made.
16. Adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
MOTION: Kent Nelson made motion to adjourn. Bo Harrison seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Bo Harrison, Ben Lehnhoff, Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

Ren Hatt, Mayor

Julie Spadafora, City Recorder

Approved: February 13, 2024