



HIGHLAND CITY

HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES


Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Approved November 7, 2023

Highland City Council Chambers, 5400 West Civic Center Drive, Highland Utah 84003

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

 YouTube Live: <http://bit.ly/HC-youtube>

 Email comments prior to meeting: council@highlandcity.org

5:15 PM EMERGENCY SESSION

1. CLOSED SESSION

The Council will convene to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

At 5:18 pm Council Member Scott L. Smith MOVED that the City Council recess to convene in a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. as provided by Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205.

Council Member Kim Rodela SECONDED the motion.

The vote was recorded as follows:

<i>Council Member Brittney P. Bills</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Kim Rodela</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Council Member Scott L. Smith</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Scott L. Smith MOVED to adjourn the CLOSED SESSION and return to the REGULAR MEETING and Council Member Kim Rodela SECONDED the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The CLOSED SESSION adjourned at 5:48 pm.

6:00 PM SPECIAL SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kurt Ostler as a special session at 6:00 pm. The meeting agenda was posted on the *Utah State Public Meeting Website* at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. The amended agenda with the emergency session was posted on the *Utah State Public Meeting Website* on September 12, 2023. The

prayer was offered by Council Member Brittney P. Bills, and those in attendance were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Kurt Ostler.

PRESIDING: Mayor Kurt Ostler

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Brittney P. Bills, Kim Rodela, Scott L. Smith

CITY STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Erin Wells, City Attorney Rob Patterson, City Recorder Stephannie Cottle, City Engineer/Public Works Director Andy Spencer, Police Chief Brian Gwilliam, Fire Chief Brian Patten

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendy Hart, Wesley Warren, John Weaver, Ann Weaver, Ron Campbell, Sabina O’Hearn, Helene Pockrus, Elizabeth Rice, Allie Carlson, Doug Cortney, Jeremy Meldrum, Richard Fairbanks, Anjalee Taylor, Patrick Springer, Cristy Henshaw, Wayne Tanaka, Landon Densley, Nicole M. de la Vega, Sherry Kramer, Jon Lefrandt

2. APPOINTMENT TO FILL CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

The Council will consider applicants to fill Sarah D. Petersen’s seat. The Council will take appropriate action.

Mayor Ostler thanked all individuals who applied to fill the vacant Council seat; he noted that unfortunately only one individual can be selected and he invited all others to participate in other volunteer opportunities as members of other committees in the City. He then noted that the term of office to which someone will be appointed to complete will expire at the end of December 2025. He added that other events have occurred today that he would like to make everyone aware of; at noon today, he had a conversation with Council Member Tim Ball, who had to move out of Highland about one month ago. He is now a resident of American Fork and according to State Code a current member must relocate back into the City they were elected to serve in within 60 days, or they must resign. He stated that Council Member Ball is not sure if he will be able to move back into Highland and, for that reason, he will not be voting on the item before the Council tonight. He stated there will be another vacancy on the City Council that the remaining elected officials will need to work to fill. However, that does not affect the vote to be taken tonight to fill Council Member Peterson’s vacancy. He then summarized the process that will be followed tonight to conduct interviews, participate in multiple rounds of voting, and select a new Council Member. He then moved to candidate introductions and noted that at the conclusion of each individual’s introduction, they will be asked a question by himself and each Council Member.

Jeremy Meldrum stated that he moved to Highland from Cedar Hills eight years ago and he loves the atmosphere of the City; he feels Highland is a bedroom community and is very safe. His wife teaches at the High School, and they have loved raising their children here, three of which are still attending schools in the community. He stated he wants to do what he can to keep Highland as it is currently because he considers it to be a little piece of paradise that he is grateful to come home to each night. He stated that he is employed in the healthcare field and currently works managing nursing homes. He applied for this position because he wants to serve others, which is also the same reason he went into healthcare for his profession.

Council Member Rodela asked Mr. Meldrum what qualifications and experience he will bring to the role of City Council Member that make him a suitable candidate for this position. Mr. Meldrum stated he has been a good citizen his entire life and he pays attention to local politics; he wants to be more involved in what is going on

and he has started to attend City Council meetings to see what impact they have on the community, and he wants to participate at that level. He will bring a clear state of mind to the City Council and values that Highland residents are looking for.

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Meldrum if he could change one thing in the City, what would it be. Mr. Meldrum stated he would like to get rid of ambiguities in the City's codes and laws; he attended a recent City Council meeting about local alcohol laws, and he learned of many ambiguities or conflicts in the law, and he would like to address those issues so that people understand what they can and cannot do.

Council Member Smith asked Mr. Meldrum what the certified tax rate is and why it is important to the City budget. Mr. Meldrum stated he does not know.

Council Member Bills stated Mr. Meldrum indicated that he likes that Highland is a bedroom community and wants to keep it that way; she asked how to balance the needs of old Highland and those moving to Highland. Mr. Meldrum stated that people move to a place because it is already a certain way, not hoping that it is going to change. When he looked for a place to live, he researched Highland and liked that it was quiet and safe, and he did not want it to change. There are many communities that are focused on progress and growth, but he is concerned about the negative aspects of progress, such as increased traffic and crime and he prefers a peaceful and stress-free lifestyle.

Landon Densley stated he has been a resident of Utah valley nearly his entire life; he has been in Highland for seven years and he and his wife have eight kids, two of which are currently serving missions for the LDS Church. He stated that his other children attend schools in the community. He has worked as an emergency manager for 20 years and has served communities across the United States as they cover from events and disasters. This includes management of funding streams that can help in recovery efforts, and this has given him a great opportunity to work with local legislative bodies and learn of government processes. In Galveston, Texas he worked with a large committee of over 300 that worked on organizing and moving forward as a community. He has served 30 communities across the country in this role.

Mayor Ostler stated that the Mayor and Council have heard concerns from the public about traffic issues in the community; he asked Mr. Densley what he would do to mitigate those concerns and what his recommended changes would be in relation to traffic. Mr. Densley stated he lives off of Timpanogos Highway and a few weeks ago he lost a neighbor who ran into a truck that was parked on the side of the road. Traffic is a real issue in the community and far too many people are lost in highway accidents. The introduction of a new traffic signal has helped to increase safety and reduce speed, and these are the types of things the Council should be considering to address safety concerns from the public. Research and an understanding of what the Police Department is experiencing in terms of traffic enforcement is what he would like to look at more closely.

Council Member Smith stated Highland City is part of the Lone Peak Public Safety District (LPPSD) and he asked. Mr. Densley how that entity is funded. Mr. Densley stated that it is a joint district made up of Highland and Alpine cities and they jointly fund the District through taxes.

Council Member Bills stated that Highland City neighbors several different cities, but sometimes Highland residents want something different than residents in neighboring cities; she asked Mr. Densley how he would work with neighboring cities when they have different ideas than Highland. Mr. Densley stated that cities can work together for mutual benefits, and he feels all cities are connected; there are different benefits in different cities and cities can work together to share those benefits with their residents.

Council Member Rodela stated currently one of the 'hot topics' at the State level is affordable housing and the Legislature is issuing mandates for local government to provide affordable housing. She asked what Highland City should do and how it can provide affordable housing as stipulated by the State. Mr. Densley stated he is not

aware of the exact law regarding affordable housing, but he knows there are funding streams and avenues that can be accessed to create affordable housing, which can mean different things to different people. There are some areas of more dense housing in the community and maybe the City can hold builders to commitments they make to provide affordable housing, but it is also necessary to define affordable housing.

Nicole M. de la Vega stated she has been an active member of the community for 24 years; she has six kids, has worked as a registered nurse for 27 years, and has served as an assistant professor and clinical instructor for a local university. In that role, she participates on several board and commissions where she works to make collaborative, unbiased decisions and she does so with integrity. For over four years she has sat on the Board of Trustees for the Luman Scholar Institute, which is a small charter school on the border of Lindon and Orem cities. She loves the City that she lives in, but not all of the changes that have taken place. She is currently enrolled in a family nurse practitioner program and once she graduates, she will continue to serve in the community as a health care provider.

Council Member Smith asked Ms. de la Vega what an enterprise fund is and if the City has any. Ms. de la Vega stated she does not know.

Council Member Bills stated that one of the topics the Council has been discussing recently is whether it should hire a lobbyist and she asked Ms. de la Vega what she thinks of that idea. Ms. De la Vega stated that she would like more education on what that would entail, but she thinks anyone who would serve as an advocate for the community would be a positive arrangement and she would likely say that is a good idea.

Council Member Rodela asked if there is an agenda item that three-fourths of the audience has shown up to voice opposition to, how would Ms. de la Vega vote on the matter. Ms. de la Vega stated that oftentimes as a member of the Charter School Board, the Board has heard from parents about their disagreement with a certain issue, but the Board must make a decision that is best for the whole rather than the few that have expressed their opinion. She would base her decision on what is best for the entire community rather than just the few that have expressed their opinions.

Mayor Ostler stated Ms. de la Vega mentioned concerns about changes that have occurred in the community, and he asked her to expound on those concerns and what she would do differently as a Council Member. Ms. De la Vega stated that there is nothing that she could personally do as one Council Member, but she thinks that the Council could work to address negative impacts of growth, especially since the community has grown much quicker than anticipated and infrastructure was not prepared to handle that growth. She stated she would like more information on the impact of ongoing development before she could clearly state her opinion on what changes are needed.

Helen Anjalee Taylor stated she is saddened to hear of Council Member Ball's resignation this evening. She then noted that her mother is a retired City government worker; she worked as a City Recorder, sometimes worked in the Police Department, and held administrative roles. She gained an interest in local politics after observing her mother doing her job and listening to the many Council meetings for which she transcribed minutes. She is currently active in local and State politics, and she loves news and current events. She is also an artist, loves oil painting, landscaping, and has worked as an event planner and fundraiser for political events. She moved to Highland four years ago with her family after her children all made friends who lived in Highland and wanted to live closer to them.

Council Member Bills stated that one of the issues the Council runs into is balancing the rights of a small group of people versus the needs of the majority. She asked how Ms. Taylor would do that. Ms. Taylor stated she trusts her judgement and will always be fair and listen to both sides of an issue. Sometimes the best decision is a compromise in the middle, and sometimes it is not; after listening to both sides, she would trust her opinion of what is best for all individuals and the City as a whole. She would also ask questions of people who are more

knowledgeable than her. She stated that she does not want to ignore minority groups and will consider their concerns and try to be fair to everyone.

Council Member Rodela indicated that the City recently commissioned an economic report relating to City finances and found that Highland's taxable sales per capita is among the lowest in the benchmark comparison group and ranked 16th out of 17 cities in the County. This means Highland is 'leaking' to other communities an estimated \$435 million in taxable sales. She asked what measures Ms. Taylor will take to promote economic development and job creation in the City. Ms. Taylor stated there are some high-density housing developments that have room for commercial uses, and she personally thinks it would be fantastic for the City to change its ordinances to allow alcohol sales in nice sit-down restaurants because this will help to revitalize Highland's downtown. However, part of the charm of Highland is that it does not have the same types of developments as other cities, along with traffic and negative aspects of these types of developments.

Mayor Ostler noted that over the past year, and in the last few Council meetings, the Council has heard from an entity called SURF soccer about their proposal to lease City fields for their program. He asked Ms. Taylor's opinion of that proposal. Ms. Taylor stated that of her four children, three are boys and they all loved playing soccer growing up. She would love for a soccer club to have access to local fields because one of the most difficult things about club sports is driving far distances to games and practices. If residents have those opportunities closer to them, it may be very helpful to them. However, she has seen other sports programs using some of the fields and she is unsure it is fair to give exclusive access to just one group, though they did offer to compensate the City and pay for maintenance of the fields.

Council Member Smith stated that excluding the fees that the City charges for utilities, the City charges two fees and he asked Ms. Taylor if she knows what those are. Ms. Taylor stated she does not know, but she would like to know. Council Member Smith stated that one of the most important things the Council does is develop an annual budget and some of the questions he has asked are budgeting basics and no one has been able to answer them. He stated Highland has two main fees that are included on a resident's utility statement each month: the road fee of \$18.50 and the LPPSD safety fee. He thinks that people who are on the Council should be aware of these things. Ms. Taylor agreed and stated that if she is appointed to the Council, she will take time to learn about these important issues; she is a fast learner and wants to learn.

Sherry Kramer stated that her husband is Ron, and they have six children, and two grandchildren. Their youngest child is a senior at Lone Peak High School. Her family has lived in Highland for 11 years and in American Fork for 15 years before that. She is passionate about serving the community and she has been active in the community for 20 years; she cofounded a group called Parents for Parks, Trails, and Open Space in 2001 and they brought awareness to the City Council about the lack of parks in the northwest area of American Fork. They raised over \$20,000 that was used to fund the playground at Hunter Park. She has served in the schools that her children attended and on the Board of Adjustments of American Fork. She also served on the American Fork City Council from 2007 to 2011 and thoroughly enjoyed her time there. She served on many committees, learned a lot about local government, and helped to implement policy that is still benefitting the community today. She has the time, dedication to the community, and the experience to make this transition a smooth one. If given the chance, she will do her best to keep the Highland vision statement at the forefront of decision making for the community.

Council Member Rodela asked Ms. Kramer to share her vision for the City's future and what specific policies or initiatives she would champion to achieve that vision. She stated that Highland is a beautiful place already and the vision statement in Highland is wonderful and one that she agrees with completely. She will continue to fight for large lots, wide open spaces, and trails and parks. One of the things she would like to work on are inconsistencies in the development code. She was listening to the Planning Commission meeting recently and they discussed the need to update the General Plan since that has not been done since 2008; this is a good

opportunity to revisit the vision for the City and strive for consistency. She would also like to examine the City's impact fees and other fees for service.

Mayor Ostler stated that his question relates to the time Ms. Kramer serves as an American Fork Council Member; he asked if there was a time she went to a Council meeting having made a decision, but her mind was changed during the meeting. If so, what was the issue and why did she change her mind. Ms. Kramer stated she did not change her mind very often because she is a thorough researcher and talks to people and does her homework before making a decision.

Council Member Smith inquired as to the main source of tax revenue in Highland City's General Fund. Ms. Kramer stated it would be property taxes, impact fees, and revenue from monthly utility fees. She noted sales tax as well.

Council Member Bills stated that one of the decisions recently made by the Council was in regard to Alpine Food Storage and some controversy about the way the entity was conducting business in the community. She asked Ms. Kramer what she would have done in that situation. Ms. Kramer stated that she agrees with the action taken by the Council; she knows when the business was initially created, it was very popular among residents, but it was not as large as it eventually became. The growth of the business led to traffic issues and other safety concerns for the neighborhood it was located in. She thinks the action taken by the Council was a good one.

Jon Lefrandt stated he has enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the City's elected leaders; he has taken the time to meet with each of them since applying for this position and has learned a lot about the role of a Council Member. He stated he moved to the Hidden Oaks community of Highland three years ago; he has four children. He earned his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University (BYU) in advertising and marketing and his master's degree from the University of Utah in real estate development. He has a graduate certificate in urban planning and city and metropolitan planning. He is an entrepreneur and recently won the "40 under 40" award in Utah Valley. He has created three successful businesses in the death care space, or business solutions for funeral homeowners. He came to the Highland area with his parents; his father died of brain cancer at 46 years old and is buried in the Alpine cemetery. He loves the area and is so grateful to be here after finding his forever home. He mentioned that Highland is one of the safest cities in the State, but safety is of greater importance to him recently given that his daughter turned 16 years old and will be driving soon. There are many things he can contribute to Highland City based upon his education, business experience, and youth. He is a millennial and will use that as a positive aspect in the decision-making process.

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Lefrandt what he would do if he received a \$1 million grant that could be used anywhere in the City. Mr. Lefrandt stated one of the investments he would make is in the City's mode and method of receiving feedback from citizens; when the City is trying to solicit public input on an important decision, it is important to utilize multiple tools aside from just direct mail. The feedback solicited through these other methods can help the Council to make the best-informed decisions.

Council Member Smith asked how large the City's general fund budget is for the budget that was approved in June of 2023. Mr. Lefrandt stated that it is in the tens of millions, but he does not know the exact amount.

Council Member Bills stated that an issue the Council has dealt with recently was an applicant wanting to open a residential treatment facility in a City neighborhood. There are state laws governing this type of land use, but there were many concerns from residents and those that operate pre-schools or daycares in the neighborhood. She asked how Mr. Lefrandt would handle that situation. Mr. Lefrandt stated that he would first examine the legality of the operation and what stipulations could be put on the use. He also feels the neighborhood would need to be made aware of the application and the implications of approving it. He stated that there absolutely is a need for treatment facilities in the City, but locating them in the appropriate area is necessary. Communication and transparency with residents is key to making the correct and legal decision.

Council Member Rodela indicated that City Council Members are placed on certain advisory committees, and he asked what committees Mr. Lefrandt would be most interested in and how he would contribute to them. Mr. Lefrandt stated that he is interested in many communities, but one of the most interesting to him is the Arts Council; he was the lead in two musical productions and his father was a sculpture major at BYU and he treasures the Arabian bronzes he sculpted. To pay homage to his father and the impact art has had on his life, he would pursue an appointment to the Arts Council.

John B. Weaver stated he previously sent the Mayor and Council a few emails with information about himself to give them more time to consider his qualifications and to allow him to be brief this evening. He stated he is the Principal of a local school across the street from American Fork Hospital and all of his students have been diagnosed with multiple severe disabilities and are confined to wheelchairs. Through his experience with these students, he has come to understand those who do not have a voice, those who are hurting, and those who are angry. These people are often overlooked and neglected and sometimes taken advantage of. He has devoted his life to service, and he served for eight years on the City Council and understands processes involved and some of the challenges and difficulties a Council Member faces. He stated that one of the first things a Council Member learns is that people generally want two things: the freedom to do whatever they want on their own property and the ability to tell everyone else what to do on theirs. Having the ability to temper and moderate those tendencies is a challenge and requires a lot of work.

Council Member Smith asked how the Highland City library is funded. Mr. Weaver stated that he knew the answer to every other financial question Council Member Smith asked, but he does not know how the library is funded.

Council Member Bills stated that the City is increasingly dealing with mandates from the State Legislature, and she asked how Mr. Weaver would push back on those mandates. Mr. Weaver stated that people only want two things, and so do government entities. He has dealt with unfunded mandates and the appropriate response is clear communication with locally elected representatives to let them know how mandates are affecting the community; they can use this information when they vote. It can be challenging when a local government entity is imposed upon by a higher authority.

Council Member Rodela stated there is a City Council election coming up and she asked why Mr. Weaver chose to apply for this position, but not to run for election. Mr. Weaver stated that he had not anticipated entering public life again as he felt as if he had made a sufficient contribution as a former Council Member. However, when he heard of this opportunity, he felt obligated to present himself. Based upon his experience, he thinks he would have a 'running start' and facilitate a smooth transition.

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Weaver what makes a good Council Member. Mr. Weaver stated the ability to listen, articulate your perspective, but also be open to the views of others. A good rapport with citizens is also necessary and the ability to have a 'finger on the pulse' of what resident's desire. No one ever gets their way all the time, but having the ability to negotiate on things down the road is important. Taking the long view is also important.

Wesley Warren stated he has been involved in Highland for 10 years; he moved here for his autistic son and the opportunity for him to be part of a good education system. He researched the area and felt very good about it. About seven years ago he felt uneasy about national politics, and he turned to local politics and found a home there; he has been attending Council meetings since then and has served on many resident boards. Service is infectious and has been a good opportunity for him. He loves Highland and has gained that love through his service and the relationships he has developed with so many people in Highland.

Council Member Bills asked one thing the Council has gotten wrong. Mr. Warren stated something he has been thinking about a lot lately is the arrangement between the City and SURF Soccer; he has changed his mind on the situation several times over the past year. The final outcome is yet to be determined.

Council Member Rodela stated there may be an agenda item that does not represent Mr. Warren's own personal or religious beliefs, but may have the support of many residents; she asked Mr. Warren how he would vote on that issue. Mr. Warren stated he would take himself out of the decision and rely upon input and the desires of the residents; the voice of the residents can change, but he would lean heavily into that criterion.

Mayor Ostler asked if Mr. Warren would vote with the majority or based upon his own personal or religious belief. Mr. Warren stated he would vote with the majority. He stated that it is important to let one's background inform their decision making, but more important is what the residents want. It can take a lot of work to talk to everyone and gather input, but it is worthwhile.

Council Member Smith stated residents just received their property tax notifications and he asked how much of the total property tax bill will be dedicated to the school district and how much will be dedicated to Highland City. Mr. Warren stated 75 percent goes to the school district and 10 percent to Highland City.

Elizabeth Rice stated that she emailed the Mayor and Council her resume; she is a mother of four and grandmother of 10 and a retired schoolteacher of 33 years where she taught United States History. She also operated a very successful student court in Alpine School District and received the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award. She served as four years of a Planning Commissioner, a member of the Land Use/Open Space group, a member of the Mountain Ridge Park Commission, and helped to write the City's helicopter ordinance. She has been a resident for 25 years. She thought about why she wanted to apply for this position; she chose not to run for office because that process is very costly and she is a widow with limited resources. However, she believes that democracy works best at the City Council level and that is why she chose to apply for this position. One of her favorite quotes is 'all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing' and she believes that applies to women as well.

Council Member Rodela referenced Ms. Rice's comments on open space and noted one of the issues the Council will be dealing with in the coming year is the City's encroachment policy and she asked how Ms. Rice would address that policy. Ms. Rice stated that the open space committee was very hard to be involved with because sometimes the group made decisions that did not please everyone. The committee worked on orphan properties as well. She noted encroachment is interesting; if someone is aware they have encroached on City property and the City chooses to take it back, that is fair and legal. However, she would want to listen to all facts and consider each situation on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor Ostler noted Ms. Rice has attended many Council meetings; he asked what is one issue that has interested her and what she would do about it. Ms. Rice mentioned high density housing; when she served on the Planning Commission, the group allowed basement apartments to help address a housing need in the community, but she has seen some problems develop from that issue. She also referenced dog breeders and insufficient fencing regulations for breeder operations.

Council Member Smith stated that each month, each household receives a utility bill from the City, and he asked how many enterprise fees the residents pay each month, and which is the largest. Ms. Rice stated that residents pay for garbage, a road fee, and water and she suspects the largest fee is the water bill.

Council Member Bills asked what would be the hardest part of being a member of the City Council. Ms. Rice stated that she is retired and has time to dedicate; however, late meetings would be hard for her.

Ronald V. Campbell stated that there are many great candidates for the Council to choose from tonight, which is a good problem to have. He stated he has lived on Country Club Drive for 12 years. He served on the Planning Commission but had to resign because he did not have the time that he felt he needed to put into that role. However, a couple of months ago he decided to retire from his profession, which has freed up a lot of his time. The next day, he learned of this opportunity. He stated his heart is in service; he has served on many different boards of directors, including being appointed by three different Governors to the State Rehabilitation Council. He was Chairman of that Council for the last two terms that he served.

Mayor Ostler asked the most important thing for the City to do right now: build more homes or more commercial. Mr. Campbell stated that it is to bring in retail, specifically fine dining. Highland is the 'fast food kingdom' right now and that is problematic. He would like to see the City have more options as most tax dollars are going to the Olive Garden in American Fork. That is because they serve alcohol, which is one of the factors to including a fine dining establishment in Highland. He thinks the Highland Mains project is fantastic and he would like to get some good restaurants there.

Council Member Smith asked Mr. Campbell how many culinary water wells there are in Highland City. Mr. Campbell answered six. Council Member Smith stated it is actually five. Mr. Campbell stated that his true answer is that if he is appointed to the Council, he will eventually know more about it than Council Member Smith because he is retired and, and Council Member Smith is still a very busy man.

Council Member Bills stated there was an issue presented to the Council recently that came down to a builder wanting to build one inch over the property line than he had permission to build. She asked how Mr. Campbell would act on an issue where there is a conflict between the City Code and a developer's desires. Mr. Campbell stated that it would be important to learn the feelings of the other property owner who would be impacted by the one-inch encroachment.

Council Member Rodela inquired as to Mr. Campbell's position on tax policies and how he plans to balance the City's budget while meeting the needs of residents. Mr. Campbell stated that he needs to learn more about tax policies, but the balance goes along with the expectation of what the City will provide to residents. He would pursue outside funding sources to help with needed projects in the community, but overall, he feels the tax system in Utah is fairly stable and he does not see a need for significant changes at this point.

Allie Carlson has lived in Highland for 10 years; she has owned two homes here, both of which she has remodeled. She loves giant projects and finishing things. She has four children and her family loves Highland, its large residential lots, and how safe it is. She made it a point to live in Highland and feels she can bring an empathetic ear to the City government. She will listen to people and try to understand their point of view. She could feel how people were feeling when they were talking about the alcohol issue in the community; she has talked to many people about that issue and has changed her opinion a few times, but she feels most important is listening to people and then trying to represent the majority of the people. If selected for the position, she is committed to listening, understanding, and loving.

Council Member Smith asked Ms. Carlson to explain the difference between the City's R-1-40 and R-1-20 zones. Ms. Carlson stated she thinks one is for residential development and the other is for homes. She indicated she understands she has a lot to learn, and she would apply herself to learning about zoning laws in the City.

Council Member Bills stated that candidates typically have a significant amount of time as they are campaigning to learn about City issues; however, given the short time frame for a Council Member appointment, she asked what Ms. Carlson would do to 'get up to speed'. Ms. Carlson stated she has been listening to City Council meetings from her home and has talked to many different people in the community about the issues they are concerned about. She would also try to learn from her fellow Council Members.

Council Member Rodela referenced Ms. Carlson's mention of liking big projects and getting things finished. She asked what project Ms. Carlson would like to finish in Highland City. Ms. Carlson stated she is a mother, and her children are using many facilities in the community, and she is invested in those facilities. Many mothers wish Highland had a recreation center for its citizens and she would push for that type of project.

Mayor Ostler referenced recent discussions about the condition of the Alpine Highway Fence; he asked Ms. Carlson how she would handle that issue. Ms. Carlson stated the Mayor and Council has listened to people and she loves that; they have shown care and concern about issues that are important to residents. In regard to the fence, she would like to talk to the residents and see what they want and possibly split the cost of replacing the fence with the residents who own it.

Patrick Springer thanked the Mayor, Council, and staff for everything they do to make Highland better. He stated many people just live in a location and there is a concept in real estate called the principle of conformity; people tie into the people who live around them and that eventually bleeds into the City government. Sometimes a city does something unique and special to make it stand out and when you live in that kind of city, you notice a different vibe. He is a fan of being unique and thinking outside the box, and even doing things that are challenging. Some things that he is concerned about include maintaining Highland Glen Park and completing the Mountain Ridge Park project.

Council Member Bills asked Mr. Springer how he would respond to angry people or an angry email. Mr. Springer stated that everyone has emotions and personal issues, but in those situations, he tries to put his emotions aside. He would try to take a breath and try to understand why the person may be expressing themselves in an angry manner before responding.

Council Member Rodela asked what makes Highland stand out or unique amongst other cities and how he would maintain that. Mr. Springer stated that if he is being honest, he does not think Highland really stands out; people only know they are entering Highland because of a sign on the side of the road. There are a couple of unique things in Highland, such as Highland Glen Park. He has been in other cities that have things like different streetlights or other features on their main street that set them apart from other cities. This creates a vibe. He feels the City does what it can to make Highland stand out with its limited budget, and there may be more opportunities to do more things to make it stand out more than it does now.

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Springer what zoning he would like to see the City continue to allow and what type of zoning should not be allowed. Mr. Springer stated that Highland was built on large lots and the City is paying the price for that. He referenced Lehi City, with 25 percent of their revenue coming from sales tax, while Highland only has 10 percent of its revenue from sales tax. The City is now paying the price for only allowing large lots and the City needs to evaluate its zoning without forgetting its heritage; it is possible to honor Highland's heritage while allowing different types of development. He referenced property south of Lone Peak and indicated that if he would have been a member of the Council when that area was developed, he would not have been in favor of what is occurring there now. The property would have been perfect for a real destination-type multi-use property with luxury homes, multi-family homes, and commercial uses.

Council Member Smith stated that sales tax is the main source of revenue in the City's General Fund; one-quarter of sales tax revenue comes from Highland direct sales. He noted that since Mr. Springer referenced the property near Lone Peak, he would like to know who owned the property and where the money went when the property was sold. Mr. Springer stated that he is aware that it was annexed into Highland. Council Member Smith stated that is not correct and it was always part of Highland; he asked who owned it and where the funds went when it was sold. Mr. Springer stated he does not know. Council Member Smith stated that it was State property owned by the USDC; the State of Utah had a master plan for the property that included high density development. A project with luxury homes would not have been approved by the State Legislature. Mr.

Springer stated that he could only base his opinion on what has happened at the property, and he would willingly perform research to learn the details of any project that is presented to the Council.

Mayor Ostler then advised the Council Members to use the ballots they have been provided with to conduct the first round of voting; each Council Member should vote for two candidates and the votes will be tabulated by City Recorder Cottle and City Attorney Patterson. He thanked all candidates for their willingness to participate in this process.

At 7:33 p.m., Mayor Ostler recessed the meeting for five minutes to allow for ballot tabulation. The meeting reconvened at 7:38 p.m.

City Recorder Cottle then announced the results of the initial round of voting; advancing to the second round are Sherry Kramer, Jon Lefrandt, John B. Weaver, Wesley Warren, Elizabeth Rice, and Ronald V. Campbell.

Mayor Ostler again thanked all candidates for applying for this position and reiterated his recommendation to seek out other ways to be involved in Highland City government. He added that the City will be following this same process to fill the vacancy left by Council Member Ball's resignation and candidates can apply for that position as well.

Final Round questions and answer session:

Ronald V. Campbell

Council Member Bills asked Mr. Campbell to explain his decision-making process. She asked if he makes decisions before attending a meeting or if his position can be swayed during a meeting. Mr. Campbell stated that he is a believer that government is a republic, and the elected leaders are representatives of the people. However, this does not always mean that the governing body always has complete control. He referenced the property near Lone Peak, which was developed as a high-density development with 600 homes; the City Council did not have a great deal of control over that project given the restrictions placed on the property by the State of Utah. If the Planning Commission and City Council had not done what was requested by the State, the property could have been annexed into American Fork and the density could have been double what it is now. He stated that sometimes a decision will not be popular, but his decision-making process would be to study the matter as fully and deeply as possible, and listen to public input. He stated that the 'elephant in the room' is the issue of alcohol sales in Highland; he personally feels that liberty is important. He fought in the Vietnam War for four years for freedom and liberty and giving people the choice to consume alcohol is important to him personally. As a Council Member, he will look at the results of the public survey and consider the values of the community and then decide whether to apply his personal beliefs or allow his position to be influenced by the public response. If the results of the survey are 75 percent opposed to alcohol sales and 25 percent in favor, he would consider that carefully and properly change his personal position.

Council Member Rodela stated that City Council Members have opportunities to serve on several different committees in the community; she asked Mr. Campbell which committees he would be interested in. Mr. Campbell stated he was a member of the Art City Board in Springville for a number of years, and he loves the arts; he would like to be a member of the Arts Council in Highland if that is an option. Council Member Rodela then stated that the Council receives a meeting agenda and packet on a Thursday night for their meeting on the following Tuesday night; she asked Mr. Campbell what he would do to prepare for the meeting. Mr. Campbell stated that he will reach out to staff regularly to learn their perspective on specific items; he does not want them to tell him how to vote, but he would like to understand their pros and cons for any given issue. Council Member Rodela referenced Mountain Ridge Park and she asked Mr. Campbell for his ideas on fundraising in order to complete the project. Mr. Campbell stated that he would need to understand options available to the City, which would involve speaking with the City's Finance Director about funding sources.

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Campbell's opinion of bonding and if he would ever support a bond for a specific project, which would place the City in debt. Mr. Campbell stated that he understands that bonds should be used for capital, though he would love it if they were available for needs like ongoing maintenance of City parks. He stated that any new businesses that have capital expenses amortize those expenses over a number of years and bonding is similar in the government sector. He stated if the City has a need for a significant project, he will support bonding. Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Campbell how he would help the City be on stronger financial footing. Mr. Campbell stated that more tax revenue would be great and that could be accomplished by allowing higher end restaurants. Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Campbell if he knows the percentage of sales tax generated by a high-end restaurant that is actually diverted to the City. Mr. Campbell stated he believes it is three to 3.5 percent. Mayor Ostler stated the City actually receives just over one percent; that means that for every million dollars generated by a business, the City would receive \$11,000.

Council Member Smith acknowledged Mr. Campbell's service on the Planning Commission and his desire to now be a member of the City Council. He stated that the City spends a lot of money on parks and playgrounds, but then deals with vandalism of those amenities. He asked if Mr. Campbell has any ideas on how to prevent vandalism. Mr. Campbell stated vandalism is easier in areas that are not properly lit; he learned early on the best form of insurance for a home is good outdoor lighting and he would explore that for City amenities. Also, the more pristine a park is, the less likely it is to be vandalized. Council Member Smith asked Mr. Campbell's opinion on xeriscaping and what areas of the City he would xeriscape. Mr. Campbell stated that he would support xeriscaping all park strips; he feels that xeriscaping is part of the future, and he hopes citizens will recognize new developments should have a certain percentage of xeriscaping.

Elizabeth Rice:

Council Member Rodela referenced Ms. Rice's previous service as a Planning Commission. She asked if there was a specific decision she was part of that she now does not think was a good decision for Highland. Ms. Rice stated that the issue of expanding 9600 North into a three-lane highway came before the Planning Commission; it was difficult to tell residents on that road that they would lose up to 14 feet of their property. However, she does not regret that decision and action. After receiving proper and sufficient input, she does not think it is really possible to look back on a decision and think it was a bad one; it is necessary to go forward after decisions are made. She added that for many issues, the Planning Commission was just a recommending body, and the City Council had the final decision. Council Member Rodela asked Ms. Rice how she would deal with a disagreement with another Council Member. Ms. Rice stated that she always listens to others; if she had a disagreement with another Council Member, she would likely become quiet and then try to have a private conversation with them. She stated that calmer heads prevail.

Mayor Ostler asked Ms. Rice's opinion about the SURF Soccer agreement/arrangement. Ms. Rice stated that SURF Soccer is like a business, and they should have a contract with the City for their use of City space. They should be responsible for any damages they cause. She noted she feels the City can dictate the amount of time SURF can access the City fields, and the amount of time they should be open to the public. She does not think she would support exclusive access to the fields for SURF. Mayor Ostler asked Ms. Rice about encroachments; the City has recently sent letters to private residents who have encroached on City property. Some residents have not responded, and it is now time to pursue legal action. She asked Ms. Rice if she would support taking the residents to court. Ms. Rice stated she does not believe anyone wins in court and she would take any step possible to try to remedy the situation before taking it to court. Mayor Ostler asked Ms. Rice's position on alcohol sales. Ms. Rice stated she moved back to Utah in 1972; she wants to see what the residents of Highland say. She would struggle changing the alcohol laws unless she knows the businesses coming in are really high end.

Council Member Smith stated that big community highways have been developed through Highland and he feels they have taken away from the feel of Highland. He asked what Ms. Rice would do as a Council Member to try to preserve the rural feeling of Highland and allow it to remain a bedroom community. Ms. Rice stated Highland looks the way it looks because the R-1-40 zoning was upheld as much as possible. Traffic is always a big problem when a community grows and she referenced Saratoga Springs, which did not plan appropriately for growth and their road infrastructure is insufficient. She stated that she does not think Highland should be a thoroughfare for traffic for Cedar Hills. A lot of research and planning is needed for road infrastructure and traffic management. Council Member Smith stated the City recently had an opportunity to vote on a road issue; Alpine City wanted to extend North County Boulevard along 4800 West into the round-a-bout in their City and make it a four-lane highway. Highland City rejected the plan based on the impact it would have on residents living in that area of the City. Alpine is also planning a subdivision north of View Point and wants to run the traffic from that subdivision through residential roads in Highland. He asked how Ms. Rice would work with Alpine to address those issues. Ms. Rice stated it is necessary to sit down and go over everything with both entities. Highland should not be a thoroughfare for other communities. She suggested a committee to analyze these types of projects.

Council Member Bills also referenced the issue of alcohol sales; many people have said that this is a decision the Council should make and that they should get input from residents. Others have said that the Council was elected to make decisions for the City. She asked Ms. Rice how she would decide which decisions the Council should make on its own and which issues it should solicit public input on. Ms. Rice stated that she is a good researcher and has time to visit with people. She would also talk to the City Administrator and City Attorney, review State laws, and take all factors into account.

Wesley Warren:

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Warren what residential code he would change if he could only choose one. Mr. Warren stated that he goes back and forth on the R-130 zone; he is more of a fan of high density than most people are because he thinks it is necessary for a thriving City and city center. One thing he would like to see better done in Highland is creating a more walkable retail experience, but parsing density often does not leave enough room for high density housing. Mayor Ostler asked where he would place high density in Highland. Mr. Warren stated there are not many more places to locate it. He noted that mixed-use developments are the best way to allow for high density housing coupled with commercial uses.

Council Member Smith stated the City owns 1.66 acres east of the Police Station and there has been talk of building a civic center, library, or senior center. He asked Mr. Warren if he would support that type of project and how he would fund it. Mr. Warren stated he is familiar with those plans, and he would support them. He knows the City has been actively fundraising for Mountain Ridge Park and the City can learn from that experience; one of the reasons he is eager to be more involved is to participate in those fundraising efforts in an official capacity. It has been hard to know how much he can do as a citizen, but there are many opportunities for the City to pursue. He also wondered if a bond could be used for such a project, and he noted that not all debt is necessarily bad debt. Council Member Smith asked Mr. Warren if he would support building a recreation center with swimming pools in Highland. Mr. Warren answered yes; he has two kids in swim clubs, and he has started swimming more as a form of exercise. This is an activity that fits the complexion of Highland City.

Council Member Bills stated that the Council is talked extensively about taxes and fees, especially in light of a recent Supreme Court decision regarding certain fees. She asked Mr. Warren his opinion about fees versus property taxes as a mechanism for funding needs in the community. Mr. Warren stated that many were holding their breath awaiting the Supreme Court decision. He is a fan of paying taxes and fees because they are necessary for a high functioning City. Fees are unique to each city based upon their needs, but he supports fees in addition to taxes. Council Member Bills stated residents currently pay a Lone Peak Public Safety District (LPPSD) fee, but the revenues from that fee do not fully cover the cost of public safety and the remainder is

covered by the General Fund. She asked Mr. Warren if he feels that is appropriate or if the fee should be increased to cover all costs for public safety. Mr. Warren stated that he does not see a problem with supplementing the LPPSD costs from the General Fund. He has admired how scrupulous the Council is when it comes to reviewing the annual budget; the City has been very fiscally responsible and the LPPSD is a huge component of the City.

Council Member Rodela stated that Mr. Warren has attended Council meetings for years and has been involved in many different committees; she asked why he chose not to run for City Council, but decided to apply for this position. Mr. Warren stated he has personal reasons for not deciding to run for a City Council. For the last five or six years he has been content to be involved as a resident and he feels the Council is very accessible. He has always felt that he would like to participate as a Council Member, and whether that happens through this process, or an official run for office in a few years, the outcome is yet to be determined. Council Member Rodela stated that Mr. Warren's neighborhood has had concerns about traffic issues, and they have requested speed bumps. She asked Mr. Warren if he would prioritize his neighborhood over others in the community and how he would deal with his neighbors if he were a member of the Council. Mr. Warren stated he would not give it a higher priority than something that is more important. He feels the City has worked with his neighborhood to install traffic calming measures that have been effective thus far. He has talked with his neighbors, and they are pleased at the present time.

John B. Weaver

Council Member Smith referenced funding for the library, which is funded by property tax revenue. He asked what percentage of property tax that comes to Highland goes to the library and if Mr. Weaver would increase the amount of money the library gets. Mr. Weaver stated that trends are moving further away from hard copy readable materials. He thinks it would be appropriate to carefully examine the need for the library and whether there are ways to promote increased readership. If the residents are receiving a benefit from the library, he would support it, but if other formats have wider support, that should be considered as well. Council Member Smith asked how much bonded debt the City currently has and what year debt should be repaid. Mr. Weaver stated he believes the City will be debt free in 2025 and current debt service payments are about five percent of the budget. This is something that stood out to him because many cities do not have such discipline as has been displayed by Highland in terms of debt. Council Member Smith stated that the City's debt will actually be paid off in 2027 and the annual debt payment is \$1.2 million. He asked what two areas the City has bonded debt in. Mr. Weaver stated he is not sure. Council Member Smith stated the City has bond debt for the municipal building and for parks; he is proud of the fact that the City's debt is nearly repaid. Mr. Weaver agreed and stated that is why he would be cautious about bonding for future projects and there would need to be a strong argument in favor of future debt.

Council Member Bills stated that City Councils make two different types of decisions: administrative and legislative. She asked Mr. Weaver for his understanding of those two types of decisions. Mr. Weaver stated legislative decisions deal with City laws and rules and administrative deal with the functionality of the City and internal structures. Council Member Bills asked how Mr. Weaver would deal with issues that impact himself personally or his neighbors and how he would separate himself from larger issues. Mr. Weaver stated that there are three approaches to life: pure selfishness, reciprocity and mutual respect, and higher love or self-sacrifice. He stated that he would ask people where they are and listen to their input, and if issues are approached from a position of selfishness, the outcome will be negative. If approached with reciprocity, there will be give and take. If approached from love, it may be possible to achieve the greater good.

Council Member Rodela asked Mr. Weaver to name his favorite park in Highland City. Mr. Weaver stated that based upon the plans he has seen, his favorite is the unfinished Mountain Ridge Park. Every time he drives by the park's location, he is excited about all the potential that lies there. He is excited about pickleball courts and the playground for his grandchildren. He is impressed by the scale and feels the plan is very well thought out.

Council Member Rodela asked Mr. Weaver how he has been involved in the Highland community and what achievements he has accomplished. Mr. Weaver stated that he has only lived in Highland for three years; he has sold multiple homes in order to find a location that meets the needs of his families. He has improved his property and has a very nice landscape now; he replaced his park strip with xeriscape, and he performs ongoing maintenance. He feels it is good for one to have their own house in order before positioning themselves to provide community service. He has made contributions through his local church, but this is not the forum for those discussions.

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Weaver what his favorite event of the Highland Fling is. Mr. Weaver answered the art show. Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Weaver what residential zone he would support keeping and which one he would eliminate. Mr. Weaver stated that he enjoys the R-1-40, and he feels that is what primarily gives Highland its character. If the City wants to maintain a rural feel, it must maintain the ability for residents to have large animals on their property, which the R-1-40 does accommodate. He is not sure he would eliminate any specific zone; his bigger concern is working on economic development, which involved identifying appropriate areas to allow for commerce that will support City services. Mayor Ostler asked where he envisions commercial development occurring in Highland. Mr. Weaver stated along the major corridors is the most suitable location. Mayor Ostler referenced State Road 192 from Macey's to Smiths and asked if that entire area should be consumed with retail development. Mr. Weaver stated he does not think it would be suitable in that entire area, but it can be interspersed with other development or near intersections that provide adequate access.

Jon Lefrandt

Council Member Bills asked Mr. Lefrandt if he has had a chance to review the General Plan and if there is anything he thinks should be updated or changed. Mr. Lefrandt stated he has reviewed the General Plan; it was written in 2008, which is the year after he and his wife got married. He thought of all the things that have transpired in the world since that time as well as the growth that has occurred in Highland since that time. He feels updates are necessary, but it does not need to be completely overhauled. He would pay attention to zoning and housing needs, and he would specifically focus on the senior population and empty nesters and their needs. Council Member Bills asked what is the hardest decision the City Council has had to make over the past year. Mr. Lefrandt stated there are two significant issues: the open space fee, which was eventually eliminated, and the application to change the City's alcohol laws. He feels that the City Council should not make a decision on the alcohol issue until they have sufficient public feedback.

Council Member Rodela stated an election is coming up in November and she asked why Mr. Lefrandt did not run for office, but has chosen to apply for this position. Mr. Lefrandt stated that this opportunity was interesting to him and has given applicants an opportunity to participate that maybe would not have done so otherwise. He has three businesses that he operates, and he recently attended a business convention in Las Vegas where all three of his businesses had exhibits; over the course of the last six months, he has been able to hire high level employees that can manage his businesses in his absence. This has freed up his time and now he believes that the timing was perfect, and everything occurred in advance of this opportunity. Council Member Rodela asked Mr. Lefrandt his favorite park in Highland. Mr. Lefrandt stated it is a tie between Highland Glen, which is in his back yard and is the crown jewel of Highland and something he is very interested in preserving and improving. He is also very excited about the Mountain Ridge Park because his entire family enjoys playing pickleball together.

Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Lefrandt if he would support a recreation center. Mr. Lefrandt stated he loves a good recreation center, and he has visited recreation centers in the cities he has previously lived in. For general health and wellness, having a gathering place where people can visit with friends and neighbors and visit in healthy activities is so important. Highland has historically consisted of a heavy LDS population and those dynamics are changing, and recreation centers give residents alternative locations to meet. Mayor Ostler asked Mr. Lefrandt if he would support bonding for a recreation center. Mr. Lefrandt stated that he cannot give a definitive

answer to that question, but he would be willing to explore that option. Mayor Ostler referenced the fence along the Alpine Highway and asked Mr. Lefrandt how he would resolve that issue. Mr. Lefrandt stated that he would communicate with the residents who technically own the fence and work with them to arrive at the correct decision.

Council Member Smith asked Mr. Lefrandt what sorts of things he would like to add to the Highland Glen park and how he would fund those improvements. Mr. Lefrandt stated that the E.coli problem in the pond at Highland Glen got worse this year; the body of water is beautiful, and the City should do whatever it can to preserve it and to make it usable. He loves the spaces that are carved out for picnics and other gatherings, but the outskirts of the park are somewhat scary and need to be improved and better lit. He stated that he would need to research funding sources that could be used for those purposes before declaring how he would fund it. Council Member Smith stated Highland has an extensive trail system and he asked how the City should fund improving the trails. Mr. Lefrandt stated he would need to research funding sources for that matter as well; sometimes it is necessary to get creative depending on the urgency of the need and the priority ranking of a project.

Sherry Kramer

Council Member Rodela stated that Ms. Kramer mentioned one of the reasons she moved to Highland was large lots, big homes, open space, and trails. She asked how the City should fulfill the needs of the senior citizens who want to stay in Highland but are no longer able to maintain their large lots and homes. She also asked how the City should fulfill the needs of young people and young families who want to live in the same City as their family. Ms. Kramer stated that when The Boyer Company project was proposed, many senior citizens participated in discussions of the project and they said they love Highland and wanted to stay here, but they no longer want to take care of their yards. She stated that The Boyer Company indicated they would build senior housing and she hopes that occurred. When the City considers updating its General Plan, she feels that designating areas for senior housing is essential. She loves the area near the City center that has duplexes and open spaces, but she is not sure it was specifically for seniors. She noted that for young married couples, many people have allowed their children who are newly married to live in their basements to save money for a home. There is also housing near the Lone Peak area that is likely less expensive than in many neighborhoods in the City.

Mayor Ostler asked Ms. Kramer if she would approve a recreation center in Highland. Ms. Kramer stated that at this point she would say no based upon her understanding of the City's limited finances, unless a public survey were conducted, and the majority of respondents indicated a willingness to pay for a bond for the project. Mayor Ostler asked what types of projects should be funded with a bond. Ms. Kramer stated she does not like debt and loves that the City's bonds will be repaid in 2027; a specific project would need to be in high demand and have a great deal of public support before she would support a bond. Mayor Ostler asked Ms. Kramer what she envisions for the Longhorn property. Ms. Kramer stated that R-1-40 zoning should be approved for that property and a subsequent project could possibly include senior housing surrounded by larger lots. Mayor Ostler asked Ms. Kramer if she is in favor of a dedicated tax for the library, to which Ms. Kramer answered yes. Mayor Ostler asked Ms. Kramer if she would be willing to give the library more funding above what is generated by the dedicated tax. Ms. Kramer stated she would, if the residents were in favor of that. She would solicit public feedback through a survey or the City's newsletter. Mayor Ostler stated that Ms. Kramer's resume indicated she is a resident advocate and he asked what that means to her. Ms. Kramer stated that it someone who gets involved, serves, gets to know their neighbors, finds out what the issues are and what is important to others. She would also work to get other people involved.

Council Member Smith inquired as to the number on thing Ms. Kramer wants to focus on. Ms. Kramer stated that water is very important; it is great that the City has worked on its water infrastructure and improved water wells. The City now needs to work on water pressure so that sufficient water can be provided as the City

approaches build out. She also supports xeriscaping as a means of conserving water. Council Member Smith stated that in the near term, the gravel pit underneath View Point will soon be mined out and he asked what type of development Ms. Kramer envisions for that area. Mr. Kramer stated that cannot come soon enough; she would love to see a park, but expects that it will probably be developed in a residential nature or as a maintenance building for the City.

Council Member Bills asked Ms. Kramer her opinion about fiber projects in the City and if the City should take responsibility for providing fiber infrastructure to residents. Ms. Kramer stated American Fork installed fiber many years ago and it caused the City to go into debt and it did not pay for itself. However, they have pursued another project that has been successful. She stated that she likes that the private sector has become involved in fiber projects in Highland; she is unsure that should be a City project. Council Member Bills stated that Ms. Kramer has mentioned her involvement in local schools; there has been conversation lately about Alpine School District becoming too large and whether cities should initiate a split from the District. She asked Ms. Kramer her opinion on that issue. Ms. Kramer stated that cities should not be involved in that issue and the school district should take the lead. She agreed Alpine School District is big and she can understand Orem residents supporting a split from the District, but if everyone in a District works together, more can get done.

Mayor Ostler then advised the Council Members to use the ballots they have been provided with to conduct the second round of voting; each Council Member should select one candidate; if one candidate receives two votes, they are the selected appointee. If there is a tie, the Mayor will vote to break the tie and another round of voting will occur. The votes will be tabulated by City Recorder Cottle and City Attorney Patterson.

City Attorney Patterson stated there were three votes for three different candidates. He asked the Mayor to complete a ballot to break the tie between the three candidates and narrow the field to two. One person will be advancing to the next round based upon the Mayor's vote, and a coin toss between the other two is needed to determine the second person to move to the next round. He announced the remaining tie is between Ron Campbell and Jon Lefrandt. He invited Mr. Campbell and Lefrandt to observe the coin toss; Mr. Campbell was assigned tails on the coin and Mr. Lefrandt was assigned heads.

At the conclusion of the coin toss, Mr. Campbell was declared the winner and will move forward to the final round. He also announced the other individual moving forward is Ms. Kramer.

Mayor Ostler advised the Council to complete the final round of voting between Mr. Campbell and Ms. Kramer; the person receiving two votes will be appointed. City Recorder Cottle and City Attorney Patterson tabulated the votes, after which City Recorder Cottle announced the new Council Member is Ronald V. Campbell.

Mayor Ostler congratulated Mr. Campbell and thanked all candidates for their participation.

3. NEXT STEPS: ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Council will discuss any additional items related to the Council appointment process.

Mayor Ostler then discussed the next steps in the process to appoint an additional member to fill the vacancy created by Council Member Ball's resignation. There are three open seats in the upcoming election and three individuals have declared their candidacy: Doug Courtney, Kim Rodela, and Brittney Bills. Write-in candidates have until September 18th to put their name forward, and if no write-in candidates file, the three candidates will be duly elected, and no election will be needed. The remaining time on Council Member Ball's seat is the end of December 2023 and the City has 30 days to appoint someone to complete that term. He discussed the noticing process to fill the vacancy and engaged in brief discussion with the Council, including Mr. Campbell, about the timing of filling the vacancy. If the City does not appoint someone by 30 days, the responsibility

would fall to the Lieutenant Governor to appoint a Highland resident. The Council and staff discussed minimum noticing requirements and concluded to hold a special meeting on October 3rd to conduct the interview process and appoint an individual to fill Council Member Ball's vacancy. They supported using the same process on October 3rd as was used tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Scott L. Smith MOVED to adjourn the special meeting and Council Member Kim Rodela SECONDED the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

I, Stephannie Cottle, City Recorder of Highland City, hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true, accurate and complete record of the meeting held on September 12, 2023. This document constitutes the official minutes for the Highland City Council Meeting.



Stephannie Cottle, CMC
City Recorder