

AMERICAN FORK CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 29, 2021
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:

Bradley J. Frost	Mayor
Kevin Barnes	Council Member
Staci Carroll	Council Member
Rob Shelton	Council Member
Clark Taylor	Council Member

Staff Present:

David Bunker	City Administrator
Terilyn Lurker	City Recorder
George Schade	IT Director
Cherylyn Egner	Legal Counsel

Also present: John Woffinden, Alex Pratt, Alicia Jones, Bruce Frandsen, Christine Anderson, David Bell, Heidi Rodeback, Jeffrey Shorter, Matthew Marcek, Nathan Mecham, Ryan Hunter, and approximately seven additional citizens.

The American Fork City Council met in a special session on Thursday, April 29, 2021, in the American Fork City Hall, 31 North Church Street, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL SESSION

1. Call to order Mayor Frost; Roll Call; Agenda outline.

Mayor Bradley J. Frost welcomed everyone to the meeting. A prayer and the pledge of allegiance were recited.

Mayor Frost spoke about the importance of the City Council and thanked everyone for being in attendance. He said that nobody understood the goals of the City the way that the Council Members did, and said that their passion for the wellbeing of the City was what made the City successful. He then explained the process, and said that each candidate would have three minutes to present. Then, he said there would be a moment of deliberation, after which the Council Members would have the chance to ask the candidates questions.

Legal Counsel Cherylyn Egner went over the requirements for appointing the new council member. She said that each council member would vote for two individuals to move forward to the final round, and then the top two candidates will be voted upon for the final selection. She added that in the event there is a tie, the Mayor would be the tiebreaker; otherwise he would not have a vote.

Mayor Frost also explained the reasoning behind the order that the candidates would present in. He said in accordance with Utah State code, they would go by last name, and he elaborated that it was a system required by law and the order was determined by the lieutenant governor.

2. Candidate presentation period – limited to three minutes per candidate.

Alex Pratt thanked the Council for allowing him to be there, and said he was humbled for the opportunity to be there that evening. He said that as he decided what he wanted to say, his thoughts went back to qualities that any elected official needed to exemplify. He said that the main quality that they should have was integrity, and they should do the right things when no one is looking. He felt that they should always aim to make the best unbiased decision as they represented the entire community. Alex Pratt added that elected officials should be brave, and not afraid to develop their own opinion. He said that another quality that was important for officials was to use the Constitution as a guide. He said that he had thought about the Statue of Liberty as he had drafted his speech, on which was inscribed “give me your destitute and downtrodden [...]” He said that to him, that quote was the invitation to a beautiful home, and he said that he would like to help make American Fork a beautiful home for those who were there now, and those who would come.

David Bell introduced himself and said it was a privilege to be there that evening. He said that he has enjoyed many conversations with each of the members, and gave a small tribute to Barbara Christiansen. He remembered that she had always been at a lot of school functions, as well as at the 2006 unveiling of the Run 21 statue. He felt her presence had made that event even more special, and thought it was something the community appreciated as well. He went on to say that his family had moved to American Fork when he was 10, and it has been his home ever since. He recalled his involvement in sports and AP classes in high school, and said that he had owned several businesses in American Fork and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He said that he had attended BYU, and during his time there he had participated in several Council Meetings on behalf of the students there. After he had graduated BYU with a degree in manufacturing and engineering, he had attended Arizona State for his master’s degree, where he had also coached soccer. David Bell summarized that he was passionate about the community development projects and the parks program, and said that American Fork had his heart. He stated that his goal was to preserve the City’s historic charm, and give identity and substance to the community. He said also that he was not interested in serving in a limited capacity, and that he had no underlying agenda.

John Barratt introduced himself electronically. He said that while he had no experience in politics, he had a lot of experience as an American Fork resident. He said that his family’s construction company had built a large amount of the City, and said that his mother had been a teacher in American Fork and had worked with children’s choirs. He stated that he had worked for over 20 years at Cascade Collision, and that experience had shown him how to assemble a strong team and build something successful. He said that he would love to join the Council as he felt the need to take action, and said that it had been hard to watch the division that had occurred over the last year, both on a large and small scale. He said that he felt the need to use his voice to help, and said that felt they could all use their voices more effectively. He said that they needed to make a plan, be strategic, and ensure that all of the residents of the City felt that their voices were heard. He asked the Council to consider him for the vacancy, and promised that his contributions would align with their values. He said he would serve the City with dedication and fairness. He felt that there was always a way to find common ground, and felt he was a good listener. He closed by stating that he had resolved difficult situations in the past, and he was qualified to make tough decisions on behalf of the Council.

Christine Anderson spoke and said that it was a pleasure to be with them in person. She said that she was the current vice chair of the Planning Commission, and had been closely involved in the growth and development of the community for the past six years, which would enable her to hit

the ground running if she was selected. She said that she cared deeply about creating a thriving community, and would love to continue working together. She said that while she lived in the same area as some of the other members, she asked them to consider her based on what she can offer rather than the demographics of the members already on the Council. She voiced her opinion that she had the ability to keep things running, as she was already in the thick of it. She pointed out that she already knew the code and was familiar with the General Plan, and had helped to amend the code. She added that she had spent the last three years attending different conferences, where they discussed the code and long-term plans for the City. She lastly stated that she was up to speed on the TOD area. She summarized that due to the listed reasons, she felt well informed and would be able to keep the ball rolling on the City's projects. She stated that her husband had given her a map of American Fork as a Christmas gift last year, and had put a dot on all the addresses that had been addressed at Planning Commission meetings. She commented that the gift had made her realize the impact that she had on the City, and said that she loved the people of American Fork and was excited for the chance to serve them.

Dave Albers was not there.

Jeffrey Shorter said it was great to be with the Council again, and he offered his condolences to Barbara Christiansen's family. He remembered that she was always calm and polite. He noted it was nice to see that there was still peace and justice in American Fork, and that they were still united under God. He said that he was worried about justice for all, and that he worried about current events at a national level. He stated that he enjoyed driving around the City and watching it grow. He said that many great people had moved into his neighborhood from all over the country. He felt he could work with the City Council, and could jump in and help for the next eight months until a permanent replacement could be found. He added that he had the time and resources to help, as he was a small business owner.

Heidi Rodeback spoke next, and told the Council Members about themselves. She said that they were proud residents of a pioneer city with a proud history, and were also the host to a growing number of tech companies, as well as a regional hub for amenities such as the hospital and the school district. She said that while they had their challenges, they still offered a great quality of life to the residents. She went on to say that she had watched them over the last eight years after she left office, and felt they understood the citizens, and had made themselves available to the residents, which had forged a close connection between the Council Members and the residents. She said that due to the close relationship that they had with the residents, they had been able to enact some significant accomplishments, and she listed the PARC Tax, construction of the fire station, and their beautiful 10-year road maintenance plan. She thanked the Council Members for her work, and said that her motivation was to help them. She said that she had served with the City Council before, and she did not have an intention to serve beyond the eight-month term. She stated that she was a strong communicator, had an analytical mind, was a team player, and she would be deeply honored to finish this term for her friend Barbara.

Alicia Jones said that she had lived on the southwest side of American Fork for the past four years. She said that she was the mother of small children, and had a vested interest in the growth and development of the City. She listed her specific goals, which were to revitalize Main Street to bring in business, the expansion of recreation, and the development of the parks to the west of freeway. She explained that she was a realtor, and knew the sacrifices that people made to live in American Fork. She said that she knew people wanted to live in a close-knit community with strong values. She spoke about her involvement in schools, sports, and church services, and said

that she could reach an important demographic of young parents. She said that she was currently on the HOA board of her community, and understood how to handle complaints and problems that needed to be solved. She closed with the statement that she has fought for all kinds of people, for things that matter most.

Bruce Frandsen voiced his appreciation for the opportunity. He said that over the years, he had seen an interest in serving in the community go through different cycles, and it was exciting for him to see how many people were there. He said that in his 30 plus years of serving in the Army Engineer Corps had given him some unique insights and training. He had also worked as a District Chairman for the scouting program, which had given him a great feel for the youth of the community. He said that he owned a couple of businesses in the community as well as in Idaho, and he owned land and farmed on the south side of town. He said that he would love to represent the south side of American Fork, as it had been the hub of North Utah County for many decades. He stated that he would be pleased and honored to serve.

Nathan Mecham thanked the Council Members for the opportunity, and recalled that almost six years ago, he had been asked to sit on the PARC Tax Committee. His involvement had allowed him the opportunity to see how City government worked, and to help increase the beauty of the City. He recalled that he had grown up and attended school in American Fork, and his grandparents had lived on Main Street when he was a child. He said that he and his wife had lived in many places both in the United States and abroad, and those experiences had shown him what worked and what did not. He added that his profession as a civil engineer had given him experiences that lend themselves well to the City Council. He knew that there were critical years ahead of them, and he was very familiar with transportation and water rights issues, as he dealt with them on a daily basis in his line of work. He felt he was in a great position to offer his comments and thoughts as to how to help the City. He agreed with the comment that the most important government is the closest one to them, and said that local government was where it matters, and he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Council.

Matthew Marcek offered his condolences for the loss of their friend and colleague, and recalled that years ago, he had also lost a dear friend and colleague, who he said had taught him the ins and outs of how governments function. He also had learned then that no matter the grief they felt, they had to move forward and make sure that the community needs are met. He applauded the Council Members for doing so. He went on to say that he lived in American Fork with his wife and three kids, and they loved their home. He had a background in drinking water, and had fallen in love with serving the public. He was now a facilities manager, where he oversaw the maintenance and upkeep of two water treatment plants. He said that his job came with the need to plan and budget for projects of all sizes. He said that the water treatment plants serviced many people in the City. He felt that with the experience that he had gained in his job, he could step into the role and be successful. He wanted to help the City grow and use their resources responsibly.

Ryan Hunter thanked the Council Members for the chance to be considered. He remembered that he had stood at this podium a few times over the years, and commented that it was a different feeling this time. He spoke about his long roots in American Fork, and said that his family had been there for six generations, and it was his home and where he wanted to raise his family. He said he had served on the Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Commission, and had worked on the new fire station bond. He noted that there were many wonderful people who served American Fork, and thanked his wife for what she did to allow him to have the chance to serve with them. He thought that there was a lot happening in the community, and felt that one challenge

was to hold on to the heritage of American Fork, and to love the community and responsibly oversee its growth. He felt that the civilian review board for use of force had been a blessing as well, and thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve.

3. Council Deliberation and Questions for Candidates

Mayor Frost explained that the entire community was invited to ask questions of the candidates via the YouTube channel. He said that the candidates should announce their name each time they spoke, and opened the floor to any discussion.

Council Member Shelton recalled when he had been on the other side of this procedure and remembered when he had put in an application with the interest of serving the community. He recalled that he had originally not been appointed, but had been invited to serve on a committee, which had been a great opportunity for him. He addressed the candidates, and said that while only one person would be invited to the City Council position, he urged them to consider joining a committee to find a way to serve the community, and thanked them for their interest in doing so.

Council Member Taylor recalled as well that he had been in the candidates position three years ago and felt that all the candidates had done a terrific job of presenting. He acknowledged that it was not an easy thing to do, and he appreciated them. He asked them all if they were interested in running in the fall for the full-time seat, and all of the candidates raised their hand, with the exception of Heidi Rodeback.

Council Member Carroll thought that each of them brought something different and unique, and thought all of them would be great as they had different assets that would be valuable for the Council. She recommended they continue the efforts of serving, even if they were not chosen for the seat. She then spoke about the time commitment of being on the Council, as well as the commitments that would come from being on the committees. She elaborated that they spent about ten hours a week in meetings, and did other tasks that sometimes took up to 20 hours a week. She asked the candidates to give an honest assessment of how much time they would be able to give to the City. Council Member Barnes agreed that it was about 20 hours per week worth of work, and said that there were many things that they did outside of the Council meetings. Mayor Frost added that beyond meetings, they would also have to devote time to sending and replying to emails.

Alex Pratt replied that he would be able to devote that amount of time to the Council weekly. He said that he would work with his manager to find the time, but he did not foresee that being a problem. The time commitment would be fine with him, and he said that he would do what it takes to make sure everything got done.

David Bell said that back in December, he had scheduled a meeting with Council Member Rob Shelton and it had been at 7 AM, which had made him realize how much time the Council Members really took to serve the City. He said that he worked in close proximity to City Hall, and he had an employee who had recently taken on the role of Vice President, which freed up some of his time and would allow him to work for the City Council.

Christine Anderson answered that in her years with the Planning Commission she had become familiar with the workload that was involved with four meetings per month. She knew the time it took to make phone calls and do the research that was needed leading up to the meetings. She anticipated a lot of work and a big-time commitment, and said she was familiar with it and up for it.

Jeff Shorter said that as an attorney, he could adjust his schedule, and said that he had always made time for all of his commitments. He said that he would make sure he had the time to answer his calls and returned all his emails, as he also got many emails throughout the day in his line of work.

Heidi Rodeback said that she did work full time, but she had been on the Council before, and would be able to prioritize the meetings. She did note that while she would be there when she could, she did have one conflict that they would need to find a solution to, but she added that in the past they had found ways to work around it.

Alicia Jones said that as a mom, she was a naptime warrior, and was familiar with adjusting her schedule around her children. She said that she had built her business in the early hours before her kids were awake, and late at night. She added that her husband had a flexible job, and would also be able to help make sure she would have the free time.

Bruce Frandsen replied that he was retired, and his businesses run themselves. He said that he would be available, and was familiar with the workload that would be expected of him.

Nathan Mecham said that as a business owner, he could create his own schedule and could be flexible to the needs of the Council. For full disclosure, he said that he spent one week a month out of town to help clients, and would hope that there would be a creative solution for that. He said that he was a firm believer in effective meetings, and advocated that they did their research before the meeting. He said that he might not have 20 hours per week available; but he would have 10 hours for the meetings.

Matthew Marcek said that he was also blessed with a flexible schedule. He noted that he had held a discussion with his superior who served on his City's Council, and his superior had been encouraging him to take the opportunity. He reported that his superior had told him that he would be willing to adjust his schedule to allow him to serve on the Council.

Ryan Hunter replied that he could make the time commitment work, and said that he had also been blessed with a flexible schedule that would allow him to attend meetings. He added that his employer would make sure he had the time, and said that his tenure on the school board would come to an end soon, which would open up more of his time as well.

Council Member Barnes said that he too had done this once, and he had failed. He said that only one person could be appointed, and he encouraged everyone to get involved even if they were not chosen that night. He said that while the process was hard, he felt it was a good experience to knock on doors. He said that while it was sometimes terrible, it was the best way to learn about the job. He then asked the candidates what their philosophy on taxes was.

Council Member Shelton expanded on the same topic, and said that recently they had a study done which showed that their revenue versus expenses were about 0.5% under each year, which would not be able to continue in the long term. He asked what the candidates thought they should do in a ten-year timeframe to mitigate that, and make their expenses over revenue more sustainable.

Ryan Hunter answered that growth was inevitable, and there were some things that had to be put in as the City expanded. He said that it was critical that they had the infrastructure that was needed to provide for everyone who lived in American Fork, and spoke specifically about how he had

chaired the bond for the Fire Association. He said as well that it was not an easy conversation, but he hated the idea of kicking the can down the road and paying far too much in the long term.

Matthew Marcek said that taxes were a necessary evil, and that while no one especially liked them, taxes were essential to help the City move on and grow. He said that as far as a balanced budget, it would be a matter of monitoring growth in the City to make sure that the growth was done right. He thought there were many things that went into this topic, but summarized that the main thing was to work on conservation in the area, and make sure people get the most out of what they had.

Nathan Mecham replied that determining what to do with other people's money was a quintessential discussion. He said that unfortunately, the City had not done things in the past that should have been done, and now very expensive projects fell on the shoulders of those who lived there now. He said that they needed to treat the resident's money as if it was their own, plan large purchases well in advance, and put off their wants in order to take care of essential things first.

Bruce Frandsen stated that he was a fiscal conservative, and reiterated that they needed to be responsible and good stewards of other people's money. He said that in his work, he relies heavily on staff to bring forth good recommendations and good options for using the budget that they had to work with. He said that he liked to see three options, and then drill down from there.

Alicia Jones answered that they needed to use the money of the residents responsibly, and she felt that part of that would be to educate the public on what needed to be done and where their money went. She said that they needed to keep the money in the City, and bring in businesses which would allow them to increase their revenue, and that would help to balance the budget.

Heidi Rodeback said she was a fiscal conservative and a free market economist, and she felt that the best thing to do for families was to keep taxes low. That said, she understood that all Utah cities were hamstrung, and that did not allow them to collect any more revenue than they had last year without a tax increase. She pointed out that inflation would drive up their costs. She thought that the best strategy was what the school district did, and have modest, inflationary increases every two to three years. She said that the school district had great public support for their policy, and if the Council did things that way, they could keep ahead of infrastructure projects without paying the price of neglect.

Jeffrey Shorter said that he was also a fiscal conservative, and the reason he ran last time was the road bond. He thought that the PARC tax was brilliant, and thought it was good to have others help pay for the PARC projects. He added that he had liked that Mayor Hatfield had kept the sewers up to date, to minimize bigger costs down the line. He thought that they should educate people with conservation, but not punish them with higher taxes, and that they needed to be very careful with other people's money.

Christine Anderson said that she had a lot to learn from the budget side of the City Council, and she said that taxes were tricky. She said that while no one wanted a broken road or taxes, there were things that needed to get done, and so she thought taxes needed to rise to account for inflation. She liked the approach that they reach out to citizens to determine what their priorities were and what they wanted to have done.

David Bell acknowledged that he had never been on the City Council's side when it came to taxes, and he had always been on the complaining side. He saw the need for taxes, however, but wanted

to be fiscally conservative in his approach. He felt that the City Council had done a great job with creating a plan for upgraded infrastructure, and said that they had a good balance. He wanted to see balance and ways that they could help the City have vision in ways that they could bring in great businesses to help raise revenues, rather than just rely on the citizens.

Alex Pratt admitted that taxes were not his area of expertise, but said that he has always been a strong problem solver. He thought that part of the solution would be to utilize the money to make more money, as they did in Washington State where he had grown up. He said that they needed to be careful with how they spend others' money, and thought that they needed to come up with programs that would increase revenue. He suggested that bringing in fiber optic internet could bring in additional revenue.

4. Review/Action on Nomination and Approval of New Council Member to Fill Vacant Council Seat

Mayor Frost explained that the Council would now take a vote that would determine the top two candidates and outlined how the process would work. He said that the Council Members would be able to pick up to two people, and gave them a moment to make their selections. Legal Counsel Cheryl Egner explained that after the final two were selected, the Council Members would take a final vote to determine the winner.

The Council took a couple minutes of deliberation.

Council Member Taylor said that he had gone over the candidate's applications in great detail, and said he was happy to discuss in detail the way that he would vote after the meeting. He voiced his appreciation for the work that was done at the Planning Commission, and said that he never thought that he was smarter than the people that he got information from. He appreciated the opinions of the Planning Commission, and said that their insights made a huge difference. He added that his selections were nothing personal, and thought it would be nice to have a private vote so that the Council Members would not be impacted by what the other members chose. He then chose Nathan Mecham and Ryan Hunter.

Council Member Shelton commented that there were many qualified people, and said that he approached his selections based on what the Council needed the most. He selected Heidi Rodeback and Bruce Frandsen, and added that he would be happy to discuss his reasoning in more depth.

Council Member Barnes chose Ryan Hunter and Heidi Rodeback, and echoed the sentiment that anyone was welcome to ask him about his reasoning in his choices.

Council Member Carroll nominated Christine Anderson and Ryan Hunter, and also offered to disclose her rationale after the meeting.

Mayor Frost summarized that the final two candidates would be Ryan Hunter and Heidi Rodeback. He asked the Council if they had any additional questions.

Council Member Barnes asked the two candidates whether they would plan on running for the next term. Heidi Rodeback indicated that she would not; Ryan Hunter said that he would plan on running for the full-time seat.

Mayor Frost said that if there were no further questions, he would accept a motion.

Council Member Shelton moved to appoint Heidi Rodeback to fill the vacant City Council seat for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2021. Council Member Barnes seconded the motion.

Mayor Frost called for a vote on the motion.

Council Member Carroll	Nay
Council Member Shelton	Aye
Council Member Taylor	Nay
Council Member Barnes	Aye

Council Member Taylor stated that while there was no one he respected more than Heidi Rodeback, and he knew how much she put into everything that she does. However, he thought that the chance for a cohesive transition was critical when it came to the next re-election, and he thought it would be best for the candidate selected tonight to intend to run in the fall. Council Member Carroll agreed that was her rationale as well in not voting yes.

Council Member Barnes that he wanted the citizens to make the decision without the influence of an incumbent seat. Council Member Carroll answered that the citizens would still get to vote, and it would be more efficient to get someone up to speed that would then remain on the Council.

Mayor Frost stated that he did not think he would have a choice, and he had wanted for people to be able to speak. He talked about the idea of the momentum, and reflected back to the budget retreat that had taken place that year. He thought there was something to be gained to have someone sit on the City Council and get really involved, which is why he voted for Ryan Hunter.

Mayor Frost broke the tie and voted Nay. The motion did not carry.

Council Member Carroll moved to appoint Ryan Hunter to fill the vacant City Council seat for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2021. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Council Member Carroll	aye
Council Member Barnes	aye
Council Member Shelton	aye
Council Member Taylor	aye

The motion carried.

5. Swearing in of New Council Member by City Recorder.

City Recorder Terilyn Lurker swore in new Council Member Ryan Hunter.

Ryan Hunter commented that it was humbling to be counted among the Council Members, and he hoped that everyone who came out of the meeting that night realized that they had been among many great candidates. He looked forward to the opportunity.

6. Adjournment.

Council Member Taylor moved to adjourn the special session. Council Member Barnes seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The special session adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terilyn Lurker".

Terilyn Lurker, City Recorder