

## Bicknell Town Council Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024, 7:00 PM

### I. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ ROLL CALL

Mayor Noreen Johnson called the meeting to order. Councilmembers present were Gregg Anderson, Weston Johnson, Kerry Stevens, and Steve Albrecht. Others present were Carrie Brinkerhoff, Deann Fraizer, Miguel Jimenez, Jim Dudleston, and Scott Woolsey. Kelsey Brinkerhoff was absent. Councilman Kerry Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the town council meeting on April 11, 2024, were reviewed. Mayor Johnson asked if the council had any corrections. Steve had made some corrections and Kelsey resent the minutes so there were no more corrections. Steve motioned to approve the April 11, 2024, minutes, and Weston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Council members voting yes Johnson, Anderson, Stevens, Johnson, and Albrecht. The vote was unanimous—motion carriers.

The minutes for the town work meeting on April 25, 2024, were reviewed. Mayor Johnson asked if the council had any corrections. Steve had made some corrections and Kelsey resent the minutes so there were no more corrections. Kerry motioned to approve the April 25, 2024, minutes, and Gregg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Council members voting yes: Johnson, Anderson, Stevens, Johnson, and Albrecht. The vote was unanimous—motion carriers.

### IV. BUSINESS

**Public Comment-** Jim Dudleston recommended getting some white paint for the firehouse edges. Deann Frasier wondered where the minutes were online and she was given the website. Miguel Jimenez is a new resident who introduced himself. He bought the Henshaw Ranch in Bicknell Bottoms and the triplex on the back road of Bicknell and questioned why the town had pulled out on the trails grant. He thinks it would bring more tourists and he would be very interested in being on the trails committee. Steve explained why the town council chose to remove their application. Scott would like to exchange land with the town so the town would own the land that the irrigation pond is on. There was some discussion and the council decided that they would be okay with the exchange and told Scott to find out how we go about making the exchange and we will discuss it with our attorney.

**Michael Ellett Water Meter-** Michael Ellett has applied and paid for a water hook-up. The mayor just wanted to let everyone know and tell Scott that he is good to put the meter in.

**Taxes & Fees-** Fees and taxes were brought up at the mayor commissioner meeting last month, and the mayor had asked Steve to prepare a discussion. Steve did a lot of research and explained how Utah's surrounding communities get their income. In Utah 44% of revenue comes from property taxes, 28% from sales tax, and 27% from other taxes and fees. In all 50 states, municipalities get their income follows: 61% from property taxes 16% from sales tax 6.8% from individual income taxes, and 15% from other taxes and fees. Right now, Bicknell town's income is 1.7% property taxes, 20% sales taxes, 7% other taxes, 7% interest, 15% B&C Road funds, and 49% comes from fees. Steve explained how property taxes work. When someone builds a house in that town the total property taxes must stay the same unless there is a public hearing and, therefore the tax rate goes down. Throughout the years, Bicknell by not increasing its tax rate has resulted in residents paying a lower rate and lower taxes to the town. The school district has the highest tax rate, but this year the county is raising its tax rate. Compared to the surrounding towns, Loa is about the same tax rate, Lyman has a higher tax rate, Hanksville has a much higher and so does Torrey. During the discussion, the six Counties surrounding Wayne percentage was looked at, and Bicknell is at the very low end. Compared to other towns around us, we are second highest in sales tax. There was some discussion and Steve made four recommendations: 1. Raise property tax to least keep the same rate 2. Look at Irrigation fees and make sure they cover the expenses of managing the irrigation water in town for Fremont Irrigation; 3. Annexing Taft gas

station and car wash into Bicknell town, and 4. Take a look at the fees we are charging to make sure we are covering our costs. The mayor mentioned we will be receiving telecommunication tax money soon. Everyone but Weston was in favor of raising the property tax rate in small increments. There was some discussion about annexing the Jackson subdivision into town as well. The council thanked Steve for all of his hard work.

**Website privacy policy-** The state had sent the town, a notice that they needed to put a website privacy policy in place. Brock Jackson, with six counties, helped Carrie prepare one. The mayor asked if there were any questions on it. There were none so Kerry made a motion to pass the website privacy policy and Gregg seconded. Motion passes.

**Fire District Interlocal Agreement-** The council has decided not to change the fire district contract that is in place until 2028 when it expires. The council hopes that the district will uphold its end of the contract. Carrie had looked at the insurance that the county is supposed to be paying and it is \$300 per year. The mayor explained we would have the lawyer write a letter to the fire district with the details.

#### MEMBER REPORTS

**Mayor Johnson-** The mayor reported Scott got chemicals to wash down the firehouse before cleanup, which is May 18. We will be painting the firehouse and have lunch around 12:30. Also the mayor wanted to remind everyone to register for the Regional Growth Summit on May 21st.

**Gregg-** Gregg reported that the first treatment on the cemetery had taken place on Tuesday and there will be eight more throughout the summer and fall. Gregg has also talked to Jamie Don about getting extra sod with the park order. He is hoping the cemetery looks a lot better by the end of the season.

**Steve-** Steve reported Sharon Cowley had given him information on wreaths on the graves of veterans. She informed Steve that lots of other towns are doing this. There was some discussion. The only problem is money. This would be another cost we cannot afford to take on. Steve also Reported representative Carl Albrecht had contacted Jess Anderson and he wants to have a meeting with the governor for possible flood relief for Bicknell town. The meeting could possibly be in Bicknell. Steve also had done some research about the hundred thousand dollars the division of drinking water had awarded us for our emergency water line repair. The request was submitted in April and within the coming weeks should be paid. The division of drinking water didn't fully make us aware of the process, but hopefully, we get the reimbursement soon. Steve also Talked with some Garkane Energy board members and CEO about the three-phase power line we will be putting in and the process of getting a discount. The board members explained that someone needs to go to their board meeting and present the project and hopefully get something worked out. The May one is May 20 at 10 in Hatch, but no one is available to go. Steve will call and see when and where the June meeting will be held. Steve will let the town council know when the meeting will be held, and hopefully, a few of the council members will be able to go. Steve canceled our appearance at the May meeting and scheduled us to present to the Garkane Board at the June meeting.

**Carrie-** Carrie got some bids for the other signs the town council had talked about getting. The bid was \$5500. Tom from the Beautification Committee had also designed some images for the brick signs coming into town on both the east and west entrances. There was some discussion about which signs the town council thinks are the most important and which ones could wait, Kerry suggested talking to McCoy Brian to get a bid. The town council will hold off on any decisions on the signs. Carrie also asked Kerry Stevens if he would be interested in once a month teaching the public how to play horseshoes. Kerry said he would be interested. He will look at his schedule and get back to Carrie so she can set a date this would continue for a few months.

**Scott-** Scott reported that Mountain Springs is producing 63 gallons a minute. Both tanks are full and running over. The pump house had a leak and is now fixed. The council wondered if the new SCADA system would pick up leaks like that. Scott said probably a big leak would be picked up but probably not a small one. Scott put in two irrigation valves. He had the prisoners come and they burned around the pond. He relocated a meter and found it had a leak. Scott wondered about the map Kerry made of the potholes. Kerry said he would bring a copy for Scott. The inmates also put the picnic tables together at the park. Scott also wondered if the town council would be hiring summer help for him. That was discussed in the closed session of the meeting. It was discussed that we need to have

someone learn all about both culinary and irrigation water and be a backup for Scott. Once the water is in Gregg wants to be shown about the cemetery watering. Places for the flags were discussed, and Scott will stop and look at how the church stores them and get something put together at one of the town shops.

**Financial-** A list of bills was presented to the council for payment approval. A few of the bills were discussed then Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Weston seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Council members voting yes: Albrecht, Stevens, Johnson, Anderson, and Johnson. The vote was unanimous—the motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION/ ADJOURNMENT

Since there were no other items on the agenda, at 8:45, the council went into a closed session as permitted by Utah Code Annotated Section 52-4-205(1)(a), where the council discussed personal issues and adjourned at 9:00 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk