



MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Murray City Municipal Council met on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 for a meeting held electronically in accordance with the provisions of Utah Code 52-4-207(4), Open and Public Meeting Act, due to infectious disease COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. Council Chair, Ms. Turner, determined that to protect the health and welfare of Murray citizens, an in-person City Council meeting, including attendance by the public and the City Council is not practical or prudent.

Council Members in Attendance:

Diane Turner – Chair	District #4
Brett Hales – Vice Chair	District #5
Kat Martinez	District #1
Dale Cox	District #2
Rosalba Dominguez	District #3

Others in Attendance:

Blair Camp	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Director
Jennifer Heaps	Chief Communications Officer	Pattie Johnson	City Council Office Admin
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Ben Ford	Wastewater Superintendent
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Melinda Greenwood	CED Director
Stan Lockhart	Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce	Chris Zawislak	City Senior Civil Engineer
Danny Astill	Public Works Director	Bill Francis	The Imagination Company

Ms. Turner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Turner asked for comments or a motion on the minutes from Committee of the Whole – March 2, 2021; and Committee of the Whole – March 16, 2021. Mr. Cox moved approval on both sets of minutes. Ms. Martinez seconded the motion. (Approved 5-0)

Discussion Items:

RCV (Ranked Choice Voting) Presentation – Mr. Lockhart informed Council Members that Salt Lake County now has the capability of processing RCV ballots for the 2021 election. A PowerPoint was shared to give refreshed understanding about the voting process, should Murray be interested in using it. (Attachment #1) He reported that Utah municipal cities Payson and Vineyard opted to utilize the pilot project in 2019; and after a survey, 4.2% of voters found it “not at all” easy to use; and County Clerks confirmed that 75% of candidates would use it again. In 2020 the Utah Legislature formally recognized the success of the 2019 pilot project and passed House Bill 75; Governor Herbert encouraged all cities and

towns statewide to use it. Mr. Lockhart discussed in length why he favors RCV, and discussed next steps taken should the City change to RCV. The deadline to notify Salt Lake County about the decision is May 10, 2021.

Council Comments and Discussion:

- Mr. Hales asked how many cities were committed to RCV this year. Mr. Lockhart said between five and ten.
- Mr. Cox affirmed that software to calculate totals and redistribute votes where they need to be, was already in place; he wanted to ensure the automated system worked correctly. Mr. Lockhart confirmed although RCV is more complicated for the casual voter, the program generates visual graphs related to instant runoffs that occur from round to round, making it easy to understand.
- Ms. Turner asked the advantage of RCV for two candidates running for one position. Mr. Lockhart said in that scenario RCV would not kick in; it requires more than two candidates per position.
- Ms. Dominguez inquired about citizen input, public awareness, and the educational piece for citizens regarding the RCV movement; she asked for the cost breakdown related to splitting expenses with the County.
- Mr. Lockhart deferred public feedback to Mayor Camp and Council Members. Regarding cost, the City would be charged on a *per active voter* basis; for example, with 10,000 voters, the same amount is charged for a primary race, as would be for a general election, even though there is a fraction of the turnout in a primary. However, he estimated cities would save about 50% in annual election budgets by switching to RCV. But because cities would be using a new system, time, effort, and money would be required for public education.
- He suggested using social media for engaging in educational discussions; and linking RCV apps to city websites, where the public can participate in mock elections. In addition, for cities who want to participate in the pilot program, there is State funding of \$200,000 available to help pay for advertising videos and mailers. The vendor, Dominion would give Salt Lake County a one-time charge of \$25,000 that would be factored into the cost of the election, which is charged to cities based on voter participation.
- Ms. Martinez expressed favor for RCV; she asked if the \$200,000 would be available for other election years if cities do not participate now. Mr. Lockhart said funding was intended now for cities that want to be RCV pioneers; he thought by 2023 there would be no State Funding available.
- Mr. Hales thought the education piece was important. Mr. Lockhart said RCV was simple. He felt once citizens use it, they like it; and those opposing RCV do not think voters can easily understand it.
- Ms. Turner requested direction from Council Members about whether the item should move forward to a council meeting for a formal vote. All Council Members responded yay. Ms. Kennedy would schedule the item for a council meeting.

Discussion on a Text Amendment to City Code, Section 17.12 of the Land Use Ordinance relating to Planning Commission Compensation – Ms. Greenwood led a discussion about updating language in City Code to correlate with compensation of the planning commission. A power point was provided to review the current and updated language; instead of \$25 per meeting, there is a maximum pay of \$40 per meeting. Ms. Greenwood shared a planning commission compensation chart to compare Murray with other cities. She noted the \$40 amount was not the highest or the lowest comparatively; and, that the text amendment would allow for the compensation rate to be adopted through the annual budget process.

Public notice was given, and the Murray Planning Commission considered the item on January 21, 2021; no public comments were given; and the vote to recommend approval was 7-0. Ms. Greenwood reviewed the findings and confirmed staff also recommended approval.

Ms. Turner asked what other Murray City commissions were compensated. Mayor Camp said none. But it was due to commissioners' frequent travel to projects that the stipend was put in place for fuel cost reimbursement. The Council would consider the text amendment during the April 20, 2021 council meeting.

Discussion on a GP (General Plan) and Zone Map amendment for the property located at 344 East and 404 East 5600 South – Ms. Greenwood spoke about how the amendments would facilitate a single-family subdivision developed by Monterey Properties. The situation is complex because a land exchange would be necessary between neighbors whose properties exist in different zones; and, the City must ensure that all properties have the same corresponding zone designations. An aerial photo was displayed to verify the location of the two properties; and a map was analyzed to describe existing land uses, current zones, and how portions of properties would be swapped. Photographs of the land and street views were shown.

A portion of the property at 344 East 5600 South would change from Low-Density Residential, to Medium-Density Residential on the GP Future Land Use Map. The Zone Map amendment/requests are as follows:

- Property at 344 East 5600 South would change from R-1-8 to R-1-6.
- A portion of the property at 404 East 5600 South would change from R-M-15 to R-1-6.
- A portion of the property at 344 East 5600 South would change from R-1-8 to R-M-15.

Pictures of the existing structure and street views related to Hillside Drive were displayed. Low and Medium Density designations were compared to explain the housing types that would be proposed for the project. She confirmed a planning review meeting was held on February 16, 2021, so that City staff and City departments could carefully consider needs for water, power, and wastewater. Public notices were sent on February 19, 2021; no opposition was heard from surrounding residents.

Ms. Greenwood concluded that with Council approval the project would allow the development of residential lots compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. If approved, changes would not impact the allowed range of uses; and staff does not anticipate adverse impacts to utilities, public services, or facilities from a change to the R-1-6 Zone. It is expected that any subdivision of the property would result in lots fronting on a new dedicated public road from 5600 South. Three findings were reviewed to confirm that the GP provides flexibility, zone changes were analyzed; and zone map amendments are supported by the GP and Future Land Use Map. Since two separate actions will be taken on the amendments; two positive recommendations of approval were given.

The Murray Planning Commission held a public hearing on March 4, 2021; one positive comment was received, and the vote was 7-0 to approve both amendments. The Council would consider these items during the April 20, 2021 council meeting.

Discussion on an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Salt Lake County to receive property in the public use (4500 S Atwood Blvd.) – Mr. Zawislak discussed how it was necessary for the City to formally obtain a currently used parcel, as part of the City's right-of-way. The parcel contains the roadway, park strip and sidewalk sections on the east side of the intersection of Atwood Boulevard (300 East) adjacent

to 4500 South. He explained Salt Lake County took possession of the parcel years ago, when taxes had not been paid on it in a very long time; but, they would quitclaim deed the property to Murray for \$91.27; he thought it was to Murray's good fortune the County made the offer.

There was a brief discussion about whether there were underlying reasons for making the correction now; and if a future development hinged upon the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. Mr. Zawislak explained it was due to happenstance that they discovered the situation, and the agreement was needed only to make it correct, since Murray was already utilizing the property. The Council would consider approving the proposed resolution and interlocal agreement during the council meeting, which would allow the City to take sole possession of it and preserve it as a City right-of-way.

Announcements: Ms. Kennedy made two announcements related to the Murray Chamber of Commerce.

Adjournment: 5:58 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator II

ATTACHMENT #1



RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN UTAH CITIES

RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN UTAH

In 2018, the Utah legislature passed HB 35 that established a pilot in which cities can use ranked choice voting (RCV). **It passed 22-0 in the senate; 67-3 in the House; then Governor Herbert signed** it into law in March 2018.

In 2019, Payson City and Vineyard City used ranked choice voting in city elections. In a post election survey administered by the Utah County Clerk, **86% of respondents found RCV easy to use and 82.5% want RCV used in future elections**. **71.2%** of Payson voters ranked all five candidates on the ballot and **58.6%** of Vineyard voters ranked all seven candidates on the ballot. **87.5%** of candidates **had a positive impression of RCV** with no candidates having a negative impression. **75%** of candidates think their city should continue using RCV with no candidates opposing it.

In 2020, the Utah Republican Party and Utah Democratic Party used RCV in their state conventions and some county conventions. The Utah Republican Party surveyed delegates and over **1,100 of 3,700** delegates responded. **72%** not only **liked ranked choice voting, but want to use it again** to nominate candidates.

WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING?

Ranked choice voting (also known as instant runoff voting) has voters rank their choices, first, second, third and so on. If someone wins over 50% during the first round, that's your winner. But if no one crosses that threshold, the last place finisher is eliminated, and that candidate's supporters are reallocated to their next backup choice. That process is repeated **until someone wins over 50% of the votes**.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING & MAJORITY RULE

In 2020, Utah is having an important conversation about our elections. With multiple paths to the primary ballot, four Republican candidates faced off for Governor. **The winner received 35% of all votes**. The Republican nominee for Utah's 1st Congressional District **received 31%**, and the 4th District GOP winner **received 43.5%**. Unlike the current process, ranked choice voting **would ensure that a winning candidate receives a majority**.

MERITS OF RANKED CHOICE

Encourages Civility

Candidates conduct more civil campaigns by addressing the issues and working to appeal to a broader spectrum of voters when they actively seek second and third choice support from backers of other candidates.

More Robust Debate Of Issues

To win a ranked choice voting election, a candidate reaches out to all voters in order to see first, second and third choice support. Candidates talk about issues: not only their issues, but their opponent's issues as well.

More Engaged Voters

Voters become more informed about the candidates and issues since they have reasons to consider candidates beyond their 1st choice.

Voters More Fully Express Their Will

Ranking their choices, voters can freely vote for the candidate who they most support, even if that candidate isn't favored to win. There are no wasted votes.

Fiscal Savings For Cities

Taxpayers' dollars are saved by allowing the city to hold one election in November rather than two elections.

Shorter, Less Expensive City Campaigns

Candidates can focus on a single election in November, rather than an August primary followed by November election.

Ready For Cities To Implement

Voting equipment and software used in elections throughout Utah are fully ranked choice voting ready. Cities have until April 15th 2021 to declare their intent to use RCV.

Eliminates Vote Splitting

Longshot candidates do not win when more than one mainstream candidate split the majority of the vote.

Ends Spoiler Effect

Longshot candidates don't draw votes away from a candidate who is preferred by most voters.

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BETTER. FASTER. CHEAPER. IT WORKS.

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WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RANKED CHOICE VOTING?
PLEASE VISIT UTAHRCV.COM



How Does Ranked Choice Voting Work?



1 2 3
Voters rank the candidates in order of preference on the ballot

Voters' First Choices are counted

50%

Does one Candidate have an Absolute Majority?

NO

YES

Redistribute votes from eliminated candidate to voters' next choice

Eliminate last place Candidate

WINNER!
Count Finished

Re-Tally Total

designed by organised by bethome

2019 Municipal Pilot Project a Success!



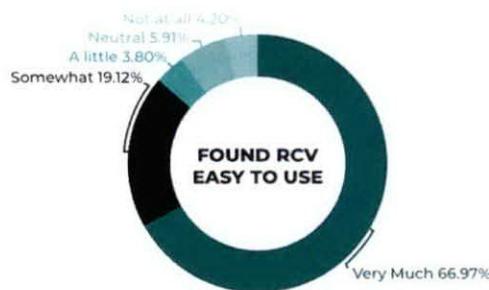
2019 Pilot Success in Payson and Vineyard



POSITIVE VOTER EXPERIENCE

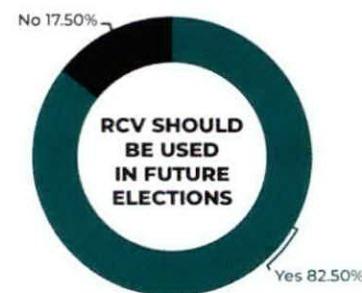
VOTERS:

86% said they found RCV "VERY MUCH" or "SOMEWHAT EASY" to use.
ONLY **4.2%** found it "NOT AT ALL" easy to use.



VOTERS:

82.5% said RVC SHOULD BE USED IN FUTURE ELECTIONS



2019 Pilot Success in Payson and Vineyard



POSITIVE CANDIDATE EXPERIENCE

IMPRESSIONS OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

87.5% of respondents reported a positive impression of RCV.
No candidates reported a negative impression.

CONTINUING TO USE RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

75% YES **25% No Opinion**

NO candidate expressed a preference for returning to the other way.



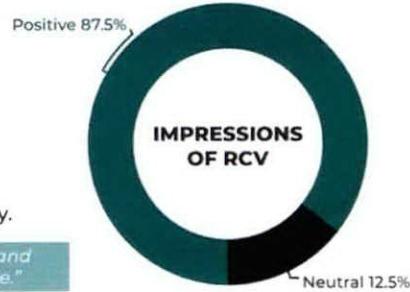
"I really like the approach and think it should be adopted by more cities."

-Payson City Candidate



"I loved it! It's easy and makes a lot of sense."

-Vineyard City Voter



Legislature Commends and Expands Municipal Pilot!



In 2020, Utah lawmakers **formally recognized the overwhelming success of the 2019 municipal pilot** and commended Payson and Vineyard cities for their participation.

Also in 2020, the Utah Legislature and Governor Gary Herbert expanded the municipal pilot and **officially encouraged all cities and towns statewide to use ranked choice voting** for their upcoming municipal elections!

Utah Legislature Passes HB75 to Enhance Pilot!



Last week, the Utah Legislature passed House Bill 75, which clarifies and improves provisions of the pilot to help more cities participate.



The Salt Lake Tribune

Utah Lawmakers Expand Ranked Choice Voting Experiment

City officials would have the option to contract with other county clerks to conduct ranked choice voting elections.

Utah Legislature Passes HB75 to Enhance Pilot!



Specifically, House Bill 75:

- Provides that the legislative body of a municipality makes the determination to participate in the pilot project,
- Instructs cities who wish to participate in the pilot program to communicate their intent by providing written notice to the Lieutenant Governor and the city's county elections official,
- Establishes the date by which cities must provide written notice as May 10, 2021 to be eligible for the 2021 municipal election cycle,
- Permits a city to contract with any local political subdivision to administer the election.

Why ranked choice voting?



Taxpayer savings for cities:

Taxpayers' dollars are saved by allowing the city to hold one election in November rather than two elections.

Shorter, less expensive city campaigns:

Candidates can focus on a single election in November, rather than an August primary followed by November election.

Ready for cities to implement:

ES&S, the voting equipment awarded a State of Utah contract for state funding is capable of running ranked choice voting elections.

Why ranked choice voting?



Voters more fully express their will:

Ranking their choices, voters can freely vote for the person who they most support, even if that candidate isn't favored to win. There are no wasted votes.

A winner by majority vote:

The final tally is between the top two vote getting candidates and the winner gets more than 50% of the vote.

Eliminates the spoiler effect:

Longshot candidates do not draw votes away from a candidate who is preferred by most voters.

Next Steps to Try Ranked Choice Voting



How to join Utah Municipal Alternative Voting Methods Pilot Project:

1. Legislative body of a municipality makes the determination to participate in the pilot project.
2. Communicate intent to participate by providing written notice to the Lieutenant Governor and county clerk.
3. Provide written notice by **May 10, 2021** for 2021 municipal election cycle.
4. Cities now permitted to contract with any local political subdivision to administer the election if county clerk will not administer.



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