

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

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**Attendance:**

Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1
Pam Cotter	District #2 – Council Chair
Rosalba Dominguez	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4
Adam Hock	District #5 – Council Vice-Chair

**Others:**

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Phil Markham	CED Director	Zac Smallwood	Planning Manager
Kim Fong	Library Director	Rebecca Mieure	Librarian
Travis Bootcher	Fire Department	Bruce Holyoak	Parks Superintendent
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Camron Kollman	IT
Citizens and Guests			

**Opening Ceremonies:**

Call to Order – Ms. Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Brenda Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** None scheduled.

**Special Recognition: Murray City Employee of the Month, Rebecca Mieure, Librarian.**

Mayor Hales, Ms. Turner and Murray City Library Director Kim Fong congratulated Ms. Mieure as the Employee of the Month. Mayor Hales presented the certificate and \$50 gift card and Ms. Fong spoke about all that Ms. Mieure does for the Murray Library.

**Citizen Comments:**

Laurence Horman – Homeless advocate

Mr. Horman visited the State legislature to advocate on behalf of the homeless where he found the State is doing a lot to help the homeless. He felt State funding should go to smaller cities and not just allocated to downtown Salt Lake. He asked the Mayor and City Council to help find ways to assist the homeless with things like medical services, warming and cooling spaces, cooking and bathing facilities because the existing homeless facilities are limited in that ability.

Kevin Westenskow – Murray City resident

Mr. Westenskow said the Mayor and City Council should use Murray citizens in a more organized way to prepare for catastrophic emergencies before it is too late. He said emergency preparedness training should be ongoing instead of quarterly and volunteer groups that are engaged in emergency preparedness would be interested in continuing education. He suggested that City emergency efforts

include training volunteers in Murray communities because this would make Murray more self-sufficient and self-reliant in dealing with a natural disaster. He said people are waiting and wanting to participate but they do not know where to start. His ideas include helping at hospitals, aiding Murray police with traffic control and helping Murray firefighters as needed.

**Consent Agenda:** Mayor Hales presented the following:

1. Consider confirmation of the Mayor's reappointment of Sunshine Szedeli to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term from January 2023 through January 2026.
2. Consider confirmation of the Mayor's reappointment of Kimberlee Bird to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term from January 2024 through January 2027.
3. Consider confirmation of the Mayor's reappointment of Ted Maestas to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term from January 2024 through January 2027.
4. Consider confirmation of the Mayor's reappointment of Bill Carnell to the Building Board of Appeals for a term from April 2023 through April 2026.
5. Consider confirmation of the Mayor's reappointment of Mark Burton to the Building Board of Appeals for a term from April 2023 through April 2026.
6. Consider confirmation of the Mayor's reappointment of Richard Kester to the Building Board of Appeals for a term from April 2023 through April 2026.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cotter moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Dominguez SECONDED the motion.

**Council Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Ms. Dominguez	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Motion passed:	5-0

**Public Hearing:** Staff and sponsor presentation, Zac Smallwood:

**Consider an ordinance amending Sections 16.04.020, 16.04.040, 16.04.050, 16.04.060, 16.04.070, 16.04.080, 16.04.090, 16.04.100, 16.04.110, 16.04.120, 16.08.020, 16.08.030, 16.08.040, 16.12.010, 16.12.020, 16.12.030, 16.12.040, 16.12.050, 16.12.060, 16.12.070, 16.12.080, 16.12.090, 16.12.100, and 16.12.110 of the Murray City Municipal Code regarding subdivision approval procedures.**

Mr. Smallwood said the request to amend the City's Subdivision ordinance was made by staff to comply with new State requirements. He explained how the State stepped in with Senate Bill 174 to help remedy the housing crisis.

Mr. Smallwood explained going forward a subdivision request would now be reviewed only by the administrative land use body, which is the Murray City Planning Commission and not city or town councils. A new application would be posted on the City's website, which must be processed by city planners and presented to the Planning Commission within 15 days of submission. A maximum of four engineering reviews would be allowed. The Planning Commission would review the preliminary subdivision within 15 days of the completed application where only one public hearing would be allowed. The final subdivision review would occur within 20 business days of application submission which would be reviewed only by City.

Mr. Smallwood reviewed the current process and compared it to the new process noting that the new process no longer requires a concept review. He stated that City staff still encourages concept reviews because they are helpful, and most applicants are happy to do them.

He confirmed that the proposed amendments were carefully considered and are in harmony with the General Plan and necessary to ensure State compliance. The Planning Commission voted 5-2 to make a recommendation of approval to the City Council and City staff also recommended approval.

Mr. Pickett clarified that the one public hearing would occur on the same day that the Planning Commission first considers a subdivision plan. Mr. Smallwood stated that was correct.

Ms. Cotter confirmed that all City departments involved in city planning thoroughly reviewed and approved of the new application. Mr. Smallwood stated that was correct. Ms. Cotter asked how the City would be held accountable if they did not approve the amendment. City Attorney Critchfield said the City would be penalized financially.

The public hearing was open for public comments.

Kevin Westenskow – Murray City resident

Mr. Westenskow asked if subdivision notifications could be extended to the entire City and not just those within 300-500 feet of an impacted area. He was not pleased with watching new growth in the City and said the current impact was unreal and he hoped that growth could be curtailed. He thought all residents in the City should be notified about new developments.

City Attorney Critchfield said public hearing notices are mailed out to all nearby impacted areas, but to mail written notices to all City residents would be cost prohibitive for the City. He noted that all agendas and public hearings are posted on the City's website, so anyone has access to the information and is welcome to attend any public hearing to give public comment.

Scott Hansen – Murray City resident.

Mr. Hansen believed in expediting the subdivision planning process but was concerned about making mistakes along the way to hurry the process along. He noted the City of Draper that had soil issues and homes falling off the side of a mountain. He felt tests for things like soil and water analysis studies could take longer than 15 days, so he was afraid safety could be jeopardized in the new process.

Clark Bullen – Murray City Resident

Mr. Bullen thought the proposed amendment was an improvement to the subdivision planning process. He expressed concern about public input being procedural and not about swaying decisions. He asked that agendas be sent out sooner so that concerned residents could let neighbors know by spreading the word about subdivision changes proposed in future Planning Commission meetings. Since they are losing the second public hearing, he felt people could better plan to attend the only public hearing if notice was given earlier.

The public hearing was closed.

Ms. Cotter stated that the Utah State Legislature was interfering with the City's ability to build their communities in a way that is best for their residents. She understood that Murray City Planning

Commissioners would like to see and vote on the final plot of a development, but with the passing of Senate Bill 174 that is no longer possible, as a city has to follow the law. She wanted to let it be known that she was not happy with the legislators.

Mr. Pickett seconded and supported the comment of Ms. Cotter. He said the legislature needs to trust the cities in this process, especially the cities that are working well like Murray. He felt legislators are imposing something that should have been applied to specific areas that are troublesome but not to Murray which has always had a great history of working well with the approvals of construction.

Mr. Hock addressed the public comment about soil analysis and problems in Draper City and asked if those tests were not part of the new 15-day deadline as proposed. Mr. Smallwood said regarding Draper, he believed they did not require soil reports and geotechnical studies in their building permit reviews, but those test are included in the new proposed Murray application. He said Murray has always asked for geotechnical testing when needed and has always required soil testing as part of building plans.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hock moved to approve the ordinance. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

**Council Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Ms. Dominguez	Nay – Ms. Dominguez explained she was voting no to stand with Murray against the State, who is trying to govern cities and take power away from the cities.
Ms. Turner	Aye
Motion passed:	4-1

**Business Items:** None scheduled.

**Mayor's Report and Questions**

**Adjournment: 7:11 p.m.**

**Pattie Johnson**  
**Council Office Administrator III**