

Mendon City Council Minutes

Convened: November 14, 2024 | Meeting location 15 North Main Street, Mendon City Office

Meeting called by Mayor Ed Buist

Type of meeting City Council

Note taker Holly Gordon

Attendees:

Amy Garbe Jim Cannon

Jon Hardman Kirk Taylor

Brian Myers

Bob Jepsen

Ian Nemelka

TIME: 6:00 PM

Call to Order: There being five members present and five members representing a quorum, Mayor Buist called the meeting to order.

Others Present: Kirk Taylor, Ken Buist, Macie Mickelsen, Greta Andersen, Phil Zobell, Eric Bowen, Stuart Maughan, Courtney Larsen, Deputy Derek Spence, Jamie Spence, Kaitlyn Maughan

Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Hardman

Invocation: Council Member Garbe

Welcome:

Agenda

Agenda Adoption: A copy of the notice and the agenda for this meeting was posted on the Utah Public Notice Website, Mendon City's Website, posted at the City Office, the Post Office. It was also provided to each member of the governing body. All provided more than forty-eight hours before meeting time.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for October 10, 2024 have been reviewed.

Motion: Council Member Garbe motions to accept September 12, 2024 minutes. Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion.

Action: All are in favor and October 2024 minutes are accepted.

Approval of Bills: Bills have been reviewed by all council members present.

Motion: Council Member Hardman motions to accept and pay the bills as submitted. Council Member Myers seconds the motion.

Action: All are in favor and bills are submitted.

Minutes:

Topic 1- Citizen Participation/Comment: (6:03 PM) No comments

Topic 2- Frisbee Golf/Deep Canyon- Stewart Maughan: (6:04 PM) Stuart Maughan brings a proposal to the council for an 18-hole frisbee golf course at Deep Canyon Trailhead. He is prepared with a topographical map and itinerary. He explains that a few years ago when they first approached the council with this idea, there were some challenges concerning restroom facilities and parking. Stuart has been in contact with Landis Wenger with County Trails about the renovation of the Deep Canyon Trailhead and believes now is the time to address the possibility of a frisbee golf course again.

The Disc Golf Association in Cache Valley would assist in clearing the area and maintaining it afterwards. Infinite Disc is willing to donate the baskets.

Council Member Myers asks if they would be putting in their own trails. Stuart answers no, they would use the bike trails. He refers to the map to point out the holes and the trail.

There's some concern about hikers and pedestrians being struck with frisbees as discs used for frisbee golf are considerably harder than traditional plastic frisbees. Stuart points out that frisbee golf players would wait for foot traffic to clear before throwing the frisbee and believes this would not be an issue. He believes the trail could be shared.

There is concern about the amount of traffic this will create on the road leading up to the trailhead as the traffic is already expected to increase once the trailhead is complete and the trail reopens.

Another concern is vegetation removal. Stuart says there are trees that will need to be cleared out, however, the removal will be done by the Disc Golf Association. It is pointed out by council that with the conditional

use permit, there is a portion of the populous that are adamantly opposed to tree removal up Deep Canyon. If there can be minimal vegetation and tree removal, this proposal would have a better chance of approval. It is pointed out that removing trees may also lead to a drainage issue.

Another concern is the disc golf course map shows a private property line that borders the city land that the course will infringe on. Stuart wants to see about getting permission from the city before talking to the owner of the private land for permission to use it.

Mayor Buist would like predicted numbers from Landis of people expected to use the trail once the trailhead is finished. He believes the last number he heard was 1,300 a day, which raises another concern of sharing the trail.

While the council is not opposed to the idea of the frisbee golf course, they are not in a position to give Stuart a definitive answer at this time. They are focused on the conditional use permit as it stands.

Topic 3- PUBLIC HEARING- Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution: (6:21 PM)

Council Member Garbe motions to close city council meeting and open the public hearing for the cemetery fee schedule resolution.

Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion. All in favor.

Council Member Jepsen proposes a fee increase to the plots and perpetual fund to help sustain the Mendon City Cemetery. The proposed increase is as follows:

Mendon City Cemetery Fee Schedule *Effective 01/01/2025

Burial Plots

<u>Perpetual Care Fee</u>	<u>Plot Fee</u>	<u>Total Burial Plot Price</u>
Resident: \$240.00 Non-Resident: \$480.00	Resident: \$360.00 Non-Resident: \$720.00	Resident: \$600.00 Non-Resident: \$1200.00
<u>Weekday Open/Close</u>	<u>Saturday Open/Close</u>	<u>Open/Close Infant-2 years*</u>
Resident: \$600.00 Non-Resident: \$1000.00	Resident: \$700.00 Non-Resident: \$1200.00	Resident: \$250.00 Non-Resident: \$350.00

Cremation (Adult/Infant)

Resident: \$300.00
Non-Resident: \$400.00

Transfer of Ownership Per Plat (Family Council)

Resident: \$125.00
Non- Resident: \$250.00

Disinterment of Grave*

Disinterment will be charged to include:

- Labor and city equipment costs (at going rate)
- Costs associated with specialized equipment, as required

**Mendon City reserves the right to amend these fees at any given time. However, the fees shall be reviewed no less than every five years.

***A “Resident” is a person with an established residence, who is living within the Mendon City limits at the time of their death. This term shall also include those persons who would have been living in Mendon City limits but for the fact that they have been temporarily removed to a nursing or rest home or other care facility.

Payment of Fees

Mendon City
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 70
Mendon, Utah 84325-0070
treasurer@mendoncityutah.gov

Cemetery Sexton

Eric D. Bowen
78 East 400 North
Mendon, Utah 84325
ericbowen1@comcast.net
Home: 435-752-9005
Cell: 435-757-5210

All fees must be paid to the treasurer.

***Items have not been previously discussed.**

Council Member Jepsen points out many expenses that need to be met for the cemetery. With the expansion and future expansions come costs for secondary water, equipment, employees, etc. He shows a spreadsheet of other surrounding city cemetery costs.

The microphone is open to public comments. Eric Bowen, cemetery sexton of 19 years, expresses his frustration and anger at not being informed of the fee schedule increase prior to public meetings. He expressed concern and frustration on the steep incline of prices, especially for non-residents that include our county neighbors Cobblestone and Petersboro. He is concerned about the burden this fee increase will cause grieving families. There is a discussion about cremation and infant burials and if the fees match the time spent digging.

Mr. Bowen is concerned about boring for the pipeline being too close to the old existing cemetery plots that are only a foot from the road, some only 6 inches. Same thing applies at putting a sprinkler system in the old cemetery. He is concerned about infringing on the rights of the deceased.

Mr. Bowen wants to know what the funding is urgently needed for. If he sold every lot in the new cemetery, it wouldn't even come close to making \$100,000. He mentions grants that may be available; however, they may take up to five years to obtain.

Council Member Jepsen thanks Mr. Bowen for making valid points. He says they will bore down the middle of the road if necessary to avoid disrupting any graves. He apologizes to Mr. Bowen for not keeping him in the loop of decisions made thus far.

There is a discussion about the pros and cons of the list of neighboring cities cemetery rates. Council Member Jepsen would like to see Mendon City closer in rates to these cities, so Mendon City Cemetery isn't taken advantage of having the lowest rates.

Council Member Jepsen lists the expenses as well as the donations that have benefited the cemetery and how the budget is not enough to keep up with ongoing expenses. Council Member Jepsen reminds Mr. Bowen that Mr. Bowen approached council four or five years ago stating that the cemetery had run out of room. Council Member Jepsen took on the task of getting the cemetery expansion started. It is agreed by both Mr. Bowen and Council Member Jepsen that since then, there has not been a great working relationship between the two of them.

Mayor Buist suggests postponing the Cemetery Fee Schedule Resolution with the intent to meet with Mr. Bowen. It is recognized that there has been a lack of communication on both sides. For this resolution to move forward, there has to be communication on both sides.

Jim Cannon, city recorder, feels it's important that the public know that \$30,000 comes from Mendon City taxpayers for city operations. Looking at the differential between residents and non-residents, that doesn't come close to covering the \$30,000 budget that residents are paying through taxes.

Caitlin Maughan from Petersboro expresses concern for prices being too high for non-residents to be able to reside next to previously buried loved ones.

Kirk Taylor expresses his appreciation for Eric Bowen meeting with families at such hard times and Bob Jepsen for all his hard work at the cemetery. He thinks we all need to get together and work this out because there are a lot of people involved, especially families losing loved ones.

Phil Zobell expresses concern about prices being too high. He's concerned that the city isn't taking into consideration all Cobblestone and Petersboro residents have done for Mendon City community and if we are ostracizing them and their families by charging them the non-resident pricing.

Council Member Hardman motions to close the public hearing and open city council meeting.

Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion. All in favor.

Council discussion. Council Member Garbe recognizes that if every plot was sold at the proposed new price, it would not begin to cover costs of the cemetery upkeep, etc. However, it is unwise to wait until the budgets are depleted and there is no backup plan. Tax paying residents are already paying each year to cover some costs of the cemetery and should receive a discounted plot rate. Non-residents should expect to pay more as it is a one-time cost that does not cover costs continually like taxes do. It is not in the city's interest to price people out, however, it is not unreasonable to ask more for a one-time fee, especially when costs of upkeep have gone up as well.

Council Member Myers asks about grants available. Eric Dursteler says it is the PL 566. Council Member Hardman says this program allows for some recreational projects. Federal pays half, the city pays half. However, this would only cover costs up to the reflection part of the cemetery. It could help get the pump and pipeline partway, only to the reflection area. It will not cover the new portion of the cemetery. Sale of plots will go into perpetual care.

Council Member Jepsen reminds the public that Mendon City is a business and should run as such. Streets, the cemetery, parks, etc. need to be maintained. Man-hours and equipment need to be considered. Council Member Jepsen gets confirmation from Jim Cannon, recorder, that he himself has never been compensated for hours of work done on the cemetery noting that there is a lot of volunteer work not considered in the cost of upkeep. Mayor Buist points out tens of thousands of dollars are saved by Council Member Jepsen's work.

Mayor Buist suggests to the council. If the council can sit down with the sexton and work something out that is fair, but still effective, he would be ok postponing the Cemetery Fee Schedule until January.

Council Member Hardman motions to postpone the Cemetery Fee Schedule for discussions to take place concerning a fair rate with the intent to move forward.

Council Member Myers seconds the motion.

Ayes: Council Members Hardman, Myers and Garbe. Nays: Council Members Jepsen and Nemelka. With ayes being the majority, the motion carries.

Topic 4- PUBLIC HEARING- Zoning Ordinances: (7:06 PM)

Council Member Nemelka motions to close city council meeting and open the public hearing on zoning ordinances.

Council Member Jepsen seconds the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Buist asks if this is now in the format that coincides with the State requirements. Keilani Ludlow, Planning and Zoning Chair, answers yes, however, there are already some new things coming down the road, but Planning and Zoning did as much as they possibly could in the time frame they had to do it.

Ms. Ludlow briefs the city council on changes made and ordinances added to the zoning code. (Zoning Code will be updated on MendonCityUtah.gov by January 2025 for public viewing.)

[2024 Zoning Ordinances.pdf](#)

The following changes will be amended.

- Change MCLUA- Mendon City Land Use Authority to ALUA- Administrative Land Use Authority throughout ordinances.
- Put “Definitions” first.
- In definitions under Food Production, refer to 3.20.
- Dwelling Accessories: clarify that garage needs to be attached to the house. Typo change as well.
- 7- Planning and Zoning: delete no pay as the council approved a pay schedule for Planning and Zoning.

Open to public comment. Greg Taylor comments on the color of storage containers. If someone gets a violation letter, how long do they have to correct the violation? 30 days. Ms. Ludlow reads the ordinance violation concerning storage containers. Violation of any provision of this ordinance may be restrained by the action of the city council in the name of the city, and such violation shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$299 or by imprisonment for not more than six months or both. As each day of violation is permitted to exist, self shall constitute a separate offense. If the offender is aware of the violation and would like to take care of it, they would contact Mike Morgan of ALUA for a permit to start the process after a zoning clearance.

Phil Zobell asks if shipping containers existing before this ordinance are allowed to be on their land without a permit and painted whatever color they want due to the grandfathering law. No, because the only thing changed on the shipping container ordinance is a foundation is required underneath it. The permit and color are already in effect with the existing ordinance.

Council Member Hardman motions to close the public hearing on zoning ordinances and open city council meeting.

Council Member Garbe seconds the motion. All in favor.

Council Member Nemelka motions to accept the zoning ordinances as read, amending the changes discussed.

Council Member Hardman seconds the motion. All in favor.

Topic 5- PUBLIC HEARING- Subdivision Ordinances: (7:40 PM)

Council Member Hardman motions to close city council meeting and open the public hearing on subdivision ordinances.

Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion. All in favor.

Mike Morgan, ALUA, briefs city council on changes made and ordinances added to the subdivision code. (Subdivision Code will be updated on MendonCityUtah.gov by January 2025 for public viewing.)

[2024 Subdivision Ordinances.pdf](#)

The following changes will be amended.

- 3.6- strike section F to clarify the deadline for a preliminary application.
- Definition S: strike word error
- 7.08 section D: strike the date of AutoCAD and specify most recent version.
- 7.12: strike word error
- Clarification on section 3.14: specify city engineer and oversight cost.

Open to public comment. Kirk Taylor, public works director, has questions about swells versus curb and gutter, cul-de-sacs and knuckles, and water mains to the end of the property. It is suggested these are things that need to be addressed in the general plan in 2025 before changes are made to the subdivision code. Keilani Ludlow clarifies that hammerheads in place of cul-de-sacs are found in the zoning ordinance. If you want swells instead of curb and gutter, it will need to go in the zoning code, not subdivision and not just the general plan. Otherwise, it will not be legally binding.

Council Member Hardman motions to close the public hearing on subdivision ordinance and open city council meeting.

Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion. All in favor.

Council Member Nemelka motions to accept the subdivision ordinances as read, amending the changes discussed.

Council Member Garbe seconds the motion. All in favor.

Topic 6- Cell Tower Discussion- Mayor Buist: (8:00 PM) Spencer Davis from Verizon e-mailed about the cell tower. Mayor Buist spoke with a couple of people through e-mail who have done this. It's a portion of the amount. It's not the full, say, 50 years. Talking in approximates, instead of \$450,000 or \$400,000, the city would get \$180,000 instead, in a lump sum rather than \$10,000 per year for X amount of years. It's all in what the city wants to do. This is something that Verizon is making money on, that they're able to do, but it's also something that can be helpful to a community. The reason that they're interested in it right now is Verizon is selling their towers, and they know that, with Verizon, they are good with this kind of agreement. The next group, it's not guaranteed that they would be interested in doing such agreements like this, the amounts that they've got. Mayor Buist talked to a few of the council individually about it. He sees both sides to it. If we keep on the way we are, it's been \$10,000 every year that goes into our budget. If we did this other thing, Mayor Buist can think of three things right off the top of his head that would be extremely helpful to the community, one of them being the cemetery, one of them being the portion that Mr. Willie and the city hall addition, the city contributing about \$50,000 to do the things that we need to. Rather than coming out of the budget, there's something there. And then whether it be roads, there are things that we could prioritize. Mayor Buist says we could put it off until January if we needed to and Verizon can get an offer sheet written

up if we are interested in something like that. It's not official until we sign off on it. As for the other group, they were wanting to put a tower up. Mayor Buist told them, no, we've got one tower. If they're interested in working with Verizon, there's room to go on there, and we would receive some money from them. However, AT&T and other groups are not really interested in using other towers. They like to have their own. T-Mobile is considering renting the tower which does not affect the agreement with Verizon. We have an agreement with Verizon for another 10 or 15 years. And then they can either renew or that runs out. Chances are they will renew it. Mr. Davis pointed out to Mayor Buist you could have a 15-year agreement, and that's great if you look at it. But as we see technology change, are they really going to be using that for 15 years? We don't know. The question is asked if Verizon were to not be using it, would we have to pay them back? No. It's an upfront thing, so Verizon takes that risk. Say we did a one-year agreement and it was \$180,000. We get that. We don't have to pay it back. But on the other side of it, if we keep doing the \$10,000, if Verizon decides they're done and they take the tower down, we're out that payment. They will do a one-year offer, and it was around \$170,000 to \$180,000. Mayor Buist doesn't know if they do it consecutive years. They'd have to write it up. They'd do a five year one, so that would be broken up. Say it's around \$250,000, they'd give us \$50,000 for five years. They'd do a ten-year one, and it would be smaller ones. Those would be the options. Mayor Buist asks the council if they are interested in looking into this offer. There are no guarantees that we will sign the contract but it doesn't hurt to see an offer. The council agrees.

Topic 7- Cache Waste Consortium- Mayor Buist: (8:08 PM) Cache Waste Consortium has raised their prices as of August 2024. 96-gallon black garbage can went from \$15.99 to \$16.81. We will increase resident bills by \$1.00 on garbage. Recycle went from \$5.00 to \$5.26. We will increase resident bills by 30 cents. Total increase on resident bills will be \$1.30. Mendon City has already covered the cost since August. There will be a public hearing on the increase in January 2025.

Topic 8- Landmark City Shop Contract Award- Eric Dursteler: (8:13 PM) Bids came in as follows:

Total of Base Bids:

Landmark Companies: \$420,766.00

DWA Constuction: \$516,347.00

Raymond Construction: \$505,120.00

Lundahl Building: \$510,382.00

The budget for the new maintenance building is \$350,000.00. Landmark came in lowest and includes part one and part two. Landmark is willing to enter in with the city to do just part one, leaving the interior unfinished. The contract will be for \$301,533.00. The process is scheduled for next spring. The architect will be paid \$20,000.00. Drains will use up the budget.

There is a discussion about asking for pricing in the steel package for a future third bay. Mr. Dursteler will find out.

Council Member Hardman motions to accept the shop bid of \$301,533.00.

Council Member Jepsen seconds the motion. All in favor.

Topic 9- Fire Station Addition Bid Opening- Eric Dursteler: (8:20 PM) This is for concrete work from the building with a prefabricated addition. For the concrete itself, the bids were: Landmark: \$38,310.00 Raymond Construction: \$80,206.00. For the prefabricated metal structure: Landmark: \$86,206.00 Raymond Construction: \$100,095.00. Chief Ray Olsen is concerned about the price of the structure and would like to revisit that pricing in the spring. Mr. Dursteler is asking for a motion on the Landmark concrete bid on behalf of Ray Olsen.

Council Member Jepsen motions to approve the \$38,310.00 bid from Landmark for concrete for the Fire Station addition.

Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion. All in favor.

Topic 10- Youth Council- Mayor Mickelsen: (8:27 PM) October activity was the annual Zombie Wars. The Youth Council opened this activity to the entire community. They had a great turnout and gained better friendships with one another. The November activity was tying blankets for a charity to give to refugees. They tied six blankets and wrote lots of letters. The Youth Council liked this activity and serving others. Upcoming activities are the Christmas community breakfast on December 14th, the legislative activity, and making cookies for people in the community.

Topic 11- Law Enforcement- Deputy Spence: (8:28 PM) Excused (Was present for most of the meeting.)

Topic 12- Library Report- Jessie Eiman: (8:28 PM) Excused

Topic 13- City Engineer- Eric Dursteler: (8:29 PM) Refer to Topics 8 and 9

Topic 14- Public Works Director- Kirk Taylor: (8:29 PM) Getting the fall cleanup done, ready for snow.

Spending the last few weeks inspecting the tank lid at the cemetery. Getting all the modifications done.

Spending a lot of time on the lead and copper pipe rule revision. The state wants us to identify the type of material of the lead service lines on both sides of the meter into the house. Mr. Taylor has to inventory every culinary user in town. Letters must be sent to those he can't identify. He's required to send letters out to approximately 90 water users by tomorrow explaining the effects of lead and asking them to identify what's coming into their house from the outside and identify that material.

Councilmembers Reports:

Brian Myers- (8:31 PM) Talked with Courtney Larsen about the food stand. The success of the food stand exceeded expectations this year and Mr. Larsen is interested in continuing for the foreseeable future. The city is aware of some upgrades the stand needs, but Mr. Larsen said that regardless they would like to continue using the building. Two basic improvements: a freestanding commercial 3 basin stainless steel sink with a drying rack above it. There will need to be some replumbing involved to create an air gap between the drain on the sink and the drain going into the septic to bring it up to code with the health department. A commercial refrigerator. Domestic refrigerators can't keep temp with the constant opening and closing of the doors. Future improvements would include a deep fryer to be able to meet customers request of French fries which will require a hood, which would be a big investment. Some bigger investments would be to get rid of the island as it is and move the grill to the back wall, putting a refrigerated food prep island in the middle of the space. This will make the workspace more efficient. Going with all the improvements using used equipment, the cost would be approximately \$40,000. New would be approximately \$75,000. It is decided that the sink and the refrigerator take priority. Mayor Buist suggests Council Member Myers get the rent on the food stand numbers from Daphne Carlson, city treasurer, so the council can reopen the budget and add that and whatever else can be spared from buildings.

Council Member Hardman motions to reinvest proceeds from the food stand to improve the food stand.

Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion. All in favor.

There is a public hearing on the 21st for a tax increase for the Mosquito Evasion District at the Bear River Health building on 1800 North in Logan.

Amy Garbe- (8:47 PM) The dog licensing and rabies clinic is scheduled for Saturday, January 25 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Fire Station.

Ian Nemelka- (8:48 PM) Nothing to report.

Jon Hardman- (8:48 PM) Reiterates the lead and copper pipe mandate is a lot of work. He mentions that not only does the city have to fix the city's side if there's a problem, but also the homeowner's side. The city fixes both sides of the meter if there is a problem. This is coming from legislature.

Bob Jepsen- (8:49 PM) Went to a meeting to discuss with a consortium about a possible rec center on the south end of the valley. There was a lot of good information that Council Member Jepsen invited them to come talk to the council. He asked them to get on the agenda for January.

Council Member Jepsen recognized the cemetery funds were insufficient 4 years ago when he took on the job. In thirty years, the rates have only been raised once.

Council Member Jepsen asks Council Member Hardman if we move forward with blocks in the canal and drill them under the canal. Council Member Hardman responds he doesn't have a problem moving forward with the work, that as soon as he gets information, he will pass it on. The federal funding is about 3 years out. EIS approved internally and have it come out next year, another year for engineering and a third year is when the implementation would start. Council Member Jepsen asks Eric Dursteler if he could get a permit and would it be good until spring. Mr. Dursteler says he believes so. Council Member Jepsen wants to avoid disrupting graves as Mr. Bowen expressed concern about and comments on the extra expense it will take to cut into the road for the pipeline.

The scoreboard has arrived and needs to be installed.

Mayor Buist- (8:57 PM) Mayor Buist asks Council Member Nemelka if there has been any progress on an ordinance concerning temporary permits for Mingo's and possible food trucks. Council Member Nemelka has done some preliminary investigations and has drafted a guideline statement that he would like to present to the council in January. He would like to go over them with Keilani Ludlow, Planning and Zoning Chair, first.

Mayor Buist touches on the cemetery discussion from earlier in the meeting. He would like to see a compromise between the city and the sexton. Whatever the outcome, the council as leaders need to move forward with the fee schedule. The fact remains that even if we triple the amount of the fee schedule, there won't be enough money for cemetery expansion. It would be a good start though. He believes there are options to be discussed as he, personally, believes the price to be a little high. However, he would support the council's decision if the fees were accepted as presented. Mayor Buist sees both sides of the picture. Seeing the cost of materials and bills on the cemetery every month is proof that there is simply not enough money. It is pointed out that numbers were shown to Mr. Bowen the last time there was an increase with a similar negative response from the sexton.

Council Member Nemelka expresses disgust for Mr. Bowen's behavior toward the mayor and council as an employee of the city. He points out that he is one citizen. If we are postponing the fee schedule to allow more citizens a voice on the fee schedule proposal, he supports that. He does not support postponing for one citizen who was so disrespectful.

Jim Cannon, recorder, comments that this council has a responsibility to the citizens of Mendon on the use of the resources that the city is given through taxes and other avenues for the commodities that support the community, and that community, as we know, extends beyond Mendon. We attract a lot of people for a lot of the things that we provide. Mr. Cannon's understanding of the sexton's responsibility is that he manages what the city asks him to manage, which doesn't include the funding. He transacts. He manages deeds, but he doesn't make funding decisions. Which is why Mr. Cannon believes it's important to think about the limited coffers from which the city takes funds, the constituents who have benefited from the use of those funds with respect to the cemetery, and to make a decision that takes into consideration the voice of the

citizens. The sexton's voice is only one citizen, with the responsibility but to manage the cemetery. Citizens who come from outside our community also deserve to have a voice, but that is not our primary constituency, no matter how hard it might feel to say that. To echo what has been said by Council Member Nemelka, Mr. Cannon sees no reason to involve the sexton in any further discussion, because it's not his stewardship. His stewardship is to manage the cemetery operations, not to make funding decisions. The way Mr. Cannon sees that going forward is a little tough, because he feels like he hasn't been heard as a citizen and as a steward of his responsibilities, which does deserve some attention. Mr. Cannon doesn't think the discussion should be one of how the city should fund the cemetery operations and expansion.

Council Member Hardman agrees with Mr. Cannon; however, the sexton is also the face of the city in dealing with mourning and grieving people. He has to present to those people, this is what it's going to cost you, and that's a difficult position to put somebody into. That has to be weighed in with this to the extent that the city needs to cover the costs, make sure we're moving forward with things, but also realize that he has to represent that to people that are in a very difficult situation.

Council Member Myers comments with the rate increase that's proposed, if somebody can't afford it here, where can they? Because we're still on the lower end, not to sound non-compassionate, but it's still a problem.

Keilani Ludlow comments that in context of nonresidents, residents inside the city limits are facing the same problems in the fact that life is hard, and times are hard but yet, they are expected to take care of nontaxpayers.

Mayor Buist concludes that in the discussions to follow with Mr. Bowen, he is either willing to work with the city or he resigns. He recognized Mr. Bowens' compassion for the grieving, but unfortunately this goes beyond that. The city needs to take care of the cemetery grounds and a rate increase will help with that.

It is decided that Council Members Hardman and Myers will meet with Mr. Bowen within the week to discuss the matter at hand, with Jim Cannon in attendance to go through some numbers.

Mayor Buist entertains a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Hardman motions to close city council meeting.

Council Member Nemelka seconds the motion. All in favor

Adjourned (9:32 PM)