

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES – DAVIS COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

December 14, 2021

The Board of Davis County Commissioners met for a Work Session at 8:30 a.m. on December 14, 2021, in room 306 of the Davis County Administration Building, 61 South Main Street, Farmington, Utah. Notice of this meeting was given under the requirements of UCA § 52-4-202.

AGENDA AS POSTED

Roll Call

8:30 a.m. Statue Placement on the Memorial Courthouse Grounds—Presented by Kathy Smith and Val John Halford

9:00 a.m. Reprecincting Update and Discussion

9:30 a.m. Closed Session—For reasons permitted under Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205(1)(c) for strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation

DISCLAIMER

The meeting was an open dialogue. Critical points in the discussion have only been briefly summarized. The reader may refer to the audio recording and the publicly distributed materials for further clarification of the content. Timestamps have been noted in the minutes to aid in locating points of discussion in the audio record. The audio recording for this meeting is available based upon the County's current retention schedule.

All documents from this meeting are on file in the Davis County (DC) Clerk/Auditor's office.

ROLL CALL

Davis County Commissioners in attendance: Bob J Stevenson, Chair; Randy B. Elliott, Vice-Chair; and Lorene Miner Kamalu.

Davis County Staff in attendance: Shairise Bills, Deputy Clerk/Auditor; Neal Geddes, Chief Civil Deputy Attorney; Curtis Koch, Clerk/Auditor; Cynda Melville, Commission Office; Lane Rose, Facilities Director; Brian McKenzie, Chief Deputy Clerk/Auditor; Amber Miller, Deputy Clerk/Auditor; Jeff Baker, GIS Specialist; Colton Harrison, GIS Specialist; and Chris Bone, Human Resource Director.

Members of the public in attendance: Rhonda Lauritzen, Hartley Ann Lauritzen; Kathy Smith; and Val John Halford, Sons of Union Veterans.

The meeting commenced at 8:31 a.m.

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

Statue Placement on the Memorial Courthouse Grounds—Presented by Kathy Smith, Rhonda Lauritzen, and Val John Hartford (Minute 01:44)

Kathy Smith explained that Rhonda Lauritzen had been a great researcher on the Lot Smith story. Lot Smith was Kathy's late husband, Bert Smith's grandfather. Rhonda gave the presentation on Lot Smith's life and explained why it is appropriate that the Commission allow his statue to be placed on the grounds of the Memorial Courthouse. He was one of the first residents of Davis County, and his life was one of service. Lot was the second youngest soldier in the Mormon Battalion at 16 and completed the entire 2,000-mile trek ending in California. He was present at Sutter's Hill when the Mormons discovered gold and brought some of that gold back to Utah to give to Brigham Young and his stepmother. He then became one of the largest landowners in Farmington, after which he became the first Sheriff of Davis County. He served in various capacities and raised the stock of the famous Antelope Island horses. At one point, Johnston's Army was coming to unseat Brigham Young, and he stalled them (with the help of those infamous horses he raised) without the use of any kind of violence.

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This act was significant at the time because it prevented a war from occurring, and Rhonda said, by this act alone, he should have a statue to honor him. Lot Smith served as a Utah Territorial Legislator and was later called by Abraham Lincoln and Brigham Young to serve as an Army Civil War Captain to protect the telegraph lines, making him one of the few Civil War Veterans from Utah. When he was called to settle Little Colorado in Arizona, he lost his life to a rogue Indian even though he was friendly to the indigenous people there. Ten years following his death, his body was brought back to Farmington, where the entire town shut down, and the storefronts were draped to mimic a funeral parade/precession. The Deseret News said there was no child alive who did not know who Lot Smith was. He lived his life valuing life and protecting people.

Rhonda said they are looking for a suitable location for his statue. Kathy said Bert commissioned Stan Watts to construct the statue and has been paid for by his estate, so this would be a donation on behalf of the family. Stan said his vision for the statue's base could be built to match the Courthouse stone to look like it always belonged there.

Curtis encouraged the Commission to read the County's Donation Policy #310. The Commissioners would like to look at the statue, see what installation would entail, and have time to consider such a significant decision like this given the political climate in the country regarding statues and the fact that it will be a permanent fixture in the community.

(See Attachments A1-A14.)

Reprecincting Update and Discussion— Presented by Brian McKenzie, Chief Deputy Clerk (Minute 34:34)

Brian McKenzie said every ten years; the country goes through a census process which causes the County to do a redistricting and reprecincting of its voting precincts. The State just finished realigning the Congressional and State Schoolboard boundaries. The County began its reprecincting with [Geographic Information System] GIS Specialists Jeff Baker and Colton Harrison, along with Amber Miller, Deputy Clerk, leading the charge. Brian explained how the boundaries are adjusted for growth and population. In next week's Commission meeting, on December 21st, the Commission will consider approval of the voting precincts, the School District Board District boundaries, and the Davis County voter participation areas, all of which must be approved by the County Legislative Body. He said the voting precincts increased from 224 to 360 due to a reduction in precinct size of 700 active registered voters (the max is 1,250.) The reduction makes it more manageable when multiple political entities have elections and identifying in which precincts they participate. The reduction should limit precinct modifications over the next ten years. Once the Commission approves, the Clerk's Office will work with the State to update the voter registration database in January. A postcard will be mailed out to every registered voter to inform them of their new precinct.

Closed Session (Minute 46:13)

Commissioner Kamalu motioned to a closed session for reasons permitted under UCA§52-4-205(1) for strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Commissioner Elliott seconded the motion, and all voted aye.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

MATERIALS PRESENTED All publicly distributed materials associated with this meeting are noted as the following attachments:
A1-A14 Lot Smith Presentation

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Minutes prepared by:
Shairise Bills
Deputy Clerk/Auditor

Minutes approved on: 1/4/2022

/s/ Curtis Koch
Curtis Koch
Davis County Clerk/Auditor

/s/ Randy B. Elliott
Randy B. Elliott
Commission Chair