

Minutes of the Hurricane City Council special meeting held on December 5, 2023, in the Council Chambers at 147 North 870 West, Hurricane, Utah at 6 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Nanette Billings and **Council Members:** Joseph Prete, David Hirschi, Doug Heideman, and Kevin Thomas. Dave Sanders excused.

Also Present: City Manager Kaden DeMille, City Attorney Dayton Hall, and City Recorder Cindy Beteag.

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. - Call to Order

Mayor Nanette Billings welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Prayer, thought, and Pledge led by Doug Heideman

Canvassing of the 2023 General Election

Wendy Godlewski thanked the Council for their involvement in canvassing the election and taking their jobs seriously. Three errors were found at the post-election audit on Friday. She is frustrated the County isn't taking their advice and doing more of an audit. There is a very low margin of error with how close the City's race was. She doesn't think the County allowed enough time to count the number of ballots that are needed to have statistical confidence in the election. Doug Heideman stated he wished the County would have given the City more time to audit. He mentioned the ballot that was counted when an envelope was found without a signature. Ballots are secret and can't be tracked once they have been separated from the envelope. Councilman Heideman asked what other cities came to canvass. Ms. Godlewski stated she is not aware because the public was not allowed to attend.

Mayor Billings mentioned the County did another audit on Friday. This audit is required by the State but then the County Clerk did additional hand count audits. There were a couple mistakes that were found. She is not pointing fingers at anyone. The local officials are great. The machines are what is not trusted. She wants the local officials to feel supported and not attacked. Everything in government should be trusted and verified.

Cindy Beteag reported Hurricane City has 11,881 registered voters and 4,841 ballots were cast for this election which equals to 40.75 %. There were 333 ballots that were not counted for the following reasons: 28 returned past deadline, 245 undeliverable, 9 returned unsigned, and 51 signatures did not match voter record. The top three candidates are Clark Fawcett with 2276 votes, Drew Ellerman with 2108 votes, and Joseph Prete with 2076 votes. Amy Werrett received 2030 votes, Stephen Lemmon received 1876 votes and David Sanders received 1578 votes.

David Hirschi commented there are good people that work for the County but he is disappointed they didn't allow more time to verify counts. He stated if anyone was here to contest the results, then he would not canvass. Councilman Thomas believes the machines are problematic. He thinks we should return to one day voting in person. He trusts people more than how the machines can be run. He would have liked more time to review ballots. However, he is grateful for the few things they were allowed to do and the County doing hand counts on a few precincts. Councilman Heideman commented when everything was hand counted there seemed to be problems too. He trusts the County. He thinks we need to be able to test the machines locally.

Doug Heideman motioned to accept and certify the report from the County Election Official that Clark Fawcett, Drew Ellerman, and Joseph Prete received the most votes. Seconded by David Hirschi. Motion carried with Joseph Prete, David Hirschi, Doug Heideman, and Kevin Thomas voted aye.

David Hirschi motioned to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Joseph Prete. Motion carried unanimously.