



Madison County Commissioners

Joint City of Rexburg/County Public Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

7:30 PM

CITY HALL

ATTENDEES

**Commissioners: Chairman Kimber Ricks, Jon Weber , Todd Smith
Deputy Clerk: Shay Rindlisbacher**

AGENDA TOPICS

In addition to the above individuals, the following were present:

Rexburg City Council Members: Bruce Sutherland, Christopher Mann, Sally Smith, Jordan Busby and Mayor Richard Woodland

Rexburg City Clerk: Blair Kay

Rexburg City Attorney: Stephen Zollinger

Joint City/County To Amend Airport Leases:

Mayor Woodland opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Roll was taken.

A presentation was given by Richard Horner. He explained that raising airport hangar lot rent from \$.14 per square foot to \$.21 would annually generate an additional \$8,069.25. He showed a comparison of local airport rent rates.

Mayor Woodland opened the meeting to public comment. The following were against:

David Taylor, Chairman of the Airport Board, gave a presentation explaining that the Board met earlier that day, and they appreciate the effort the City has put into helping the airport. They don't believe that raising rent rates will improve their situation in the long run. They believe the demand is very inelastic, and a price increase will deter possible customers. He suggested a solution may be to extend the runway, which will attract bigger businesses.

Steve Zollinger brought up the fact that if this increase were to pass, it would violate the existing leases, and they would have to be cancelled.

Mr. Taylor stated the Airport Board passed a resolution for the rates to follow the CPI, which is essentially the inflation rate.

Lewis Hart explained that if the lot rent increase passed, it would be a 200% increase in five years.

Mayor Woodland deferred the discussion to the Commissioners. Commissioner Ricks stated they should deliberate as a whole body but that any action taken should be separate.

Councilman Busby stated he believes the increase is too much and suggested a gradual increase. Commissioner Smith agreed.

David Taylor stated the airport invites businesses into Rexburg and there are a lot of people that don't come here because of the runway length. The cost should not be placed solely on local users as a lot of the airport use is transient use. He also brought up the idea of an airport director as a City and/or County employee.

Councilman Busby made a motion to table the issue until a joint meeting with the City, County and Airport Board can be held. The motion failed.

Mr. Zollinger explained that any action taken in a joint meeting must be approved by both boards or no action is taken.

Council Member Smith made a motion to raise lease rates by 3.5 cents and revisit in a year. Councilman Sutherland seconded the motion. Councilman Busby voted nay and all others voted aye.

Commissioner Smith stated he believes the rates should stay within the lease rates. He made a motion that rates are not increased for one year, assuming that some dialog occur within that year. Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous.

Mayor Woodland stated because action by both boards was not the same, an impasse was reached and no action was taken.

Mr. Taylor asked that the airport rates be discussed annually in August.

Councilman Busby made a motion to schedule a joint work meeting to be held at the airport on November 7th at 4:00 p.m. to discuss rate increases and other airport issues. Councilman Mann seconded and voting was unanimous.

Mayor Woodland closed the public hearing at 8:49 p.m.

Joint City/County To Amend Golf Fees:

Mayor Woodland opened the public hearing at 8:50 p.m.

Matt Nielson gave a presentation. He stated the revenue across both golf courses is flat and that expenses continue to climb. He recommended an increase in golf fees of 4.6%. Commissioner Smith mentioned they are cutting back on things like new mowers and those expenses will catch up with them.

Councilman Mann made a motion to accept the new fees as proposed. Councilman Sutherland seconded and voting was unanimous.

Commissioner Weber made a motion to accept the new fees as proposed. Commissioner Smith seconded and voting was unanimous.

Mayor Woodland closed the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Approved:

Kimber Ricks, Chairman
Jon Weber, Commissioner
Todd Smith, Commissioner