

DATE W E D N E S D A Y APRIL 12, 2023

THE COPPERTON METRO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL, STATE OF UTAH, MET ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023, PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT ON MARCH 15, 2023, AT THE HOUR OF 6:30 P.M. AT THE BINGHAM CANYON LIONS CLUB, 8725 W HILLCREST ST., COPPERTON, UTAH.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: KATHLEEN BAILEY
SEAN CLAYTON, Chair
KEVIN SEVERSON
DAVE OLSEN
TESSA STITZER

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: NATHAN BRACKEN, LEGAL COUNSEL
NICHOLE WATT, DEPUTY CLERK
AMY PITT, DEPUTY CLERK



Mayor Clayton, Chair, presided.



Regular Council Meeting

Council Business

Consideration of a Resolution Establishing Policy and Providing Direction Regarding the Implementation of HB 374 (County Sheriff Amendments)

Mayor Clayton stated he would like to agree upon some talking points regarding the Council’s position on Unified Police Department (UPD) for Council Member Olsen to take back to the boards of UPD and the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA). He wanted to eventually create a steering committee for law enforcement in Copperton comprised of two council members and members of the community, and this would have to be voted upon at the next meeting after being properly noticed on the agenda. He also suggested holding monthly work session meetings where only law enforcement services would be discussed.

Council Member Severson stated he was content with the resolution.

Council Member Stitzer stated she could not accept the resolution in its current form because the UPD portion was reading too much like a “resurrection” of UPD or UPD 2.0. She wanted to take more time to research all the options. She stated she was uncomfortable having the township’s highest-paid employee, Nathan Bracken, do most of the legwork and she felt some of these duties could be done by Council Members or at least an administrative assistant. She did not want to put Mr. Bracken in the position of negotiating by himself due to him representing other entities besides Copperton. She was in favor of holding more work sessions.

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Council Member Olsen stated he was also uncomfortable with the idea of a “UPD 2.0” and he was still confused about taxing authority. He recalled there had been a previous discussion about the MSD coming onboard and he wondered if that was still an option.

Mayor Clayton stated this was presented as a possibility a couple of months ago, but it has not gone anywhere since.

Council Member Bailey stated she would rather start fresh than use UPD as a model. She did not feel the resolution was ready for a vote.

Mayor Clayton stated he would like each council member to take the draft of the resolution and modify it to something they could agree to.

Mayor Clayton opened the meeting to citizen comment, and afterward, the discussion on the resolution resumed.

Mayor Clayton stated though other municipalities might want to stay with SLVLESA, he would like a mechanism for Copperton to withdraw if it so chose. He also did not like the idea of being authorized to make unilateral decisions along with the city attorney, as this violated Copperton’s bylaws.

The members of the Copperton Metro Township Council agreed upon the following statement to the boards of UPD and SLVLESA:

The Copperton Metro Township Council is working diligently to review all options related to future law enforcement services. We are also watching movement in the state legislature related to potential future taxing authority in the interim.

Copperton Metro Township Council is initiating a monthly work group starting the first week in May 2023. We will also establish a law enforcement steering committee made up of two council members and Copperton residents to explore all law enforcement options.

Furthermore, the Copperton Metro Township Council is dedicated to ensuring that our officers are supported.

Nathan Bracken stated he had been removed as the point of contact due to there not being a common consensus among the metro townships on law enforcement services.



Community Input

Citizen Comments

Apollo Pazell stated Copperton could create a special services district, by collecting petition signatures and possibly a ballot initiative, that would give it taxing authority.

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Nathan Bracken stated while this was a possibility, timing would create a challenge. If SLVLESA were to dissolve, or there were to be legislation allowing Copperton to withdraw, there would not be an immediate way to fund a special services district. He recommended not eliminating the current funding source before obtaining a new one.

State House Representative Anthony Loubet stated the Legislative Management Committee of the Utah Legislature plans to discuss taxing authority as it pertains to metro townships. It also plans on discussing the future of the metro townships and whether they should be annexed into existing cities.

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THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

LANNIE CHAPAN, METRO TOWNSHIP CLERK

By _____
Deputy Clerk

CHAIR, COPPERTON METRO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

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