

MINUTES OF THE HUNTSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Huntsville Town Maintenance Building, 165 South 7500 East, Huntsville

Name	Title	Status
Richard L. Sorensen	Mayor	Present
Bruce Ahlstrom	Council Member	Present
Lewis Johnson	Council Member	Present
Sandy Hunter	Council Member	Present
Artie Powell	Council Member	Present
William Morris	Legal Counsel	Excused
Nikki Wolthuis	Clerk	Present

Citizens: Lt. Cowley, Nate Allen, Kevin Anderson, Corey Shuman
Zoom: TCM Artie Powell

1-Mayor Richard Sorensen called the meeting to order.
There is a full quorum present.

2-Pledge of Allegiance led by Nate Allen

3-Opening Ceremony given by Lewis Johnson

4-Public Comments: Former Councilmember Kevin Anderson came to the meeting to express his love and thanks to Councilmembers for his time on the Town Council.

5-Sheriff's Report (See Attachment #1) Lt. Cowley explained the statistics from the written reports. There were some traffic incidents, a trailer fire and an assault on an adolescent that was forwarded to DCFS.

6-Discussion and/or Action on Letter of Support for Approval Voting (See Attachment #2)

Nate Allen, from Utah Approves spoke to the TC about what Approval Voting is and asked the Town Council if they would like to sign a letter asking the Utah Legislature for Approval Voting as an option for municipal elections in 2025. Council members discussed different voting methods and spoke for and against Approval Voting. Mayor Sorensen and Town Councilmembers Artie Powell and Bruce Ahlstrom, who spoke in favor of Approval Voting decided to sign the letter.

7. Discussion and/or action on approval of Minutes for Town Council Meeting January 4, 2024

(See Attachment #3) TCM Hunter motioned to approve the Minutes for Town Council Meeting January 4, 2024. TCM Ahlstrom seconded the motion. All votes Aye. Motion passed

8. Discussion and/or action on the July 4th Celebration

Local business owner Corey Shuman from the Gold Rush Gallery came to the meeting to give his ideas for the 4th of July celebration in Huntsville this coming year. Mr. Shuman wants to help support the Town by having businesses provide concessions and other activities for the celebration so that the Town doesn't have to provide so many volunteers. Also, expanding the celebration will help bring people in and let them see there are businesses here.

Some of his ideas include an expanded car show, a beer garden, food trucks, and breakfast in the park.

The TC talked about having a food court all on one side of the park instead of having food on both the north and south sides. That would require power being installed on the south side which would cost potentially a couple thousand dollars. The need for a mass gathering permit was discussed as well as only allowing Pepsi products because of a contract with Pepsi.

Traffic and parking were mentioned as something that needed to be solved before the event. The traffic would not only include those wishing to celebrate at the park but also those wanting to recreate at Cemetery Point and in the mtns. east of Huntsville. They explored the idea of using open lots for parking with a shuttle bringing people to the celebration.

Mayor Sorensen asked about how the beer garden will work with kids walking around. Mr. Shuman explained how the beer garden will be fenced off and wristbands will be issued.

TCM Johnson loves the idea of the businesses taking over the celebration. There are many people who own homes here but don't live here and the volunteers are hard to come by.

TCM Powell will be meeting again in the next couple of weeks with Mr. Shuman to come up with some concrete proposals to bring to the Town Council meeting at the end of February for approval.

9. Discussion and/or action on Garbage and Recycling Rates (See Attachment #4)

Econowaste is not interested in renewing the Town's contract for waste removal. They were not making enough money hauling the waste and the recycling market is dwindling. When Mayor Sorensen asked Econowaste what it would take for them to continue servicing Huntsville they said not for less than \$18 a can. Another waste pickup company, Republic, was contacted and they gave a higher bid. Waste Management, another company servicing Ogden Valley, did not return calls made to them by Huntsville's clerk, Shannon Smith.

TCM Ahlstrom motioned to renew the garbage contract with Econowaste for \$18 a can.

TCM Johnson stressed that waste management is a service, not a right and 20 dollars a can is not a bad price for what they provide. The TC discussed whether to continue recycling. Residents have watched the garbage truck dump the recycling cans in with the garbage. The market for recycling is dwindling and right now Econowaste is taking it to the landfill. There is another company picking up recycling in Ogden Valley and perhaps Huntsville citizens could sign up for that service. Nikki Wolthuis, Town Clerk, was going to research it.

TCM Ahlstrom amended the motion to include the decision to discontinue recycling since there is no recycling going on. TCM Hunter seconded the motion. Roll Call vote. Votes reflected below. Motion passed 5-0.

VOTES	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	EXCUSED
Mayor Richard L. Sorensen	X			
CM Bruce Ahlstrom	X			
CM Lewis Johnson	X			
CM Sandy Hunter	X			
CM Artie Powell	X			

TCM Powell wanted to discuss the problem of people using the dumpsters at the park as their garbage cans. TCM Johnson wondered if you put several cans out instead of a dumpster if it would deter people from putting big stuff in them. TCM Powell said when they are full, people put garbage on the ground. A solution was not found, but this issue will be discussed again in the future.

10. Discussion and/or action on appointment of a Town Cultural Council

Mayor Sorensen explained that Huntsville Town recently applied for a RAMP grant for Huntsville's 100-year celebration and their 4th of July celebration. At the last minute, they also asked for money to buy chairs for the Town Hall. Because of this application the Town is required to have a cultural council. Mayor Sorensen proposed that they rename the Town Hall Community Center Committee, the Town Cultural Council. All those serving on the Town Hall Committee will continue to serve under the new name. TCM Hunter asked whether this was a long-term committee and Mayor Sorensen said it was. TCM Powell wanted to ensure other people could be on this council if they wished. Mayor Sorensen said they could.

TCM Hunter motioned for the Town Hall Community Center Committee to be appointed as the Town Cultural Council. TCM Ahlstrom seconded the motion. All votes Aye. Motion passed.

TCM Powell left the meeting at 7:45

Department Updates

Mayor Sorensen will meet with David Green on the 30th to discuss having the symphony back this year. There's a very good chance they will come.

There is a company potentially wanting to do a photo shoot at the ice rink in Huntsville Park. A scout was going to come up the next day to check out the park. The TC looked up what permit and fee Huntsville has for that kind of thing. It was inconclusive and Nikki said she could ask other cities what they do.

TCM Ahlstrom discussed snow plowing in Town. There were some complaints that the roads were too narrow because of the snowbanks. The TC discussed ways to prevent or help the situation. An email was sent out that morning to ask residents to help by clearing fire hydrants and bringing in their garbage cans as soon as possible after they are emptied.

The Earthquake preparedness meeting was rescheduled for March 14th at the library. There will also be Emergency Preparedness classes for 4 Thursdays beginning January 25th at 7 pm at the library.

Mayor Sorensen talked about his meeting with UDOT about putting in a runaway truck ramp at the bottom of Trapper's Loop. UDOT has other projects they are working on right now and they don't have the funds to build one yet. The price tag for the ramp at Trappers Loop is 2 million dollars. They said that data shows there haven't been enough accidents to warrant the ramp right now, but they are considering putting in extra signage and random brake checks at the top to prevent accidents.

TCM Hunter motioned to approve the December bills. **TCM Johnson** seconded the motion. **All votes aye. Motion passed.**

TCM Ahlstrom motioned to adjourn the meeting. **TCM Hunter** seconded the motion. **All votes Aye. Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



Nikki Wolthuis, Town Clerk

SHERIFF'S MONTHLY REPORT



Integrity, Initiative, Intelligence

December 2023

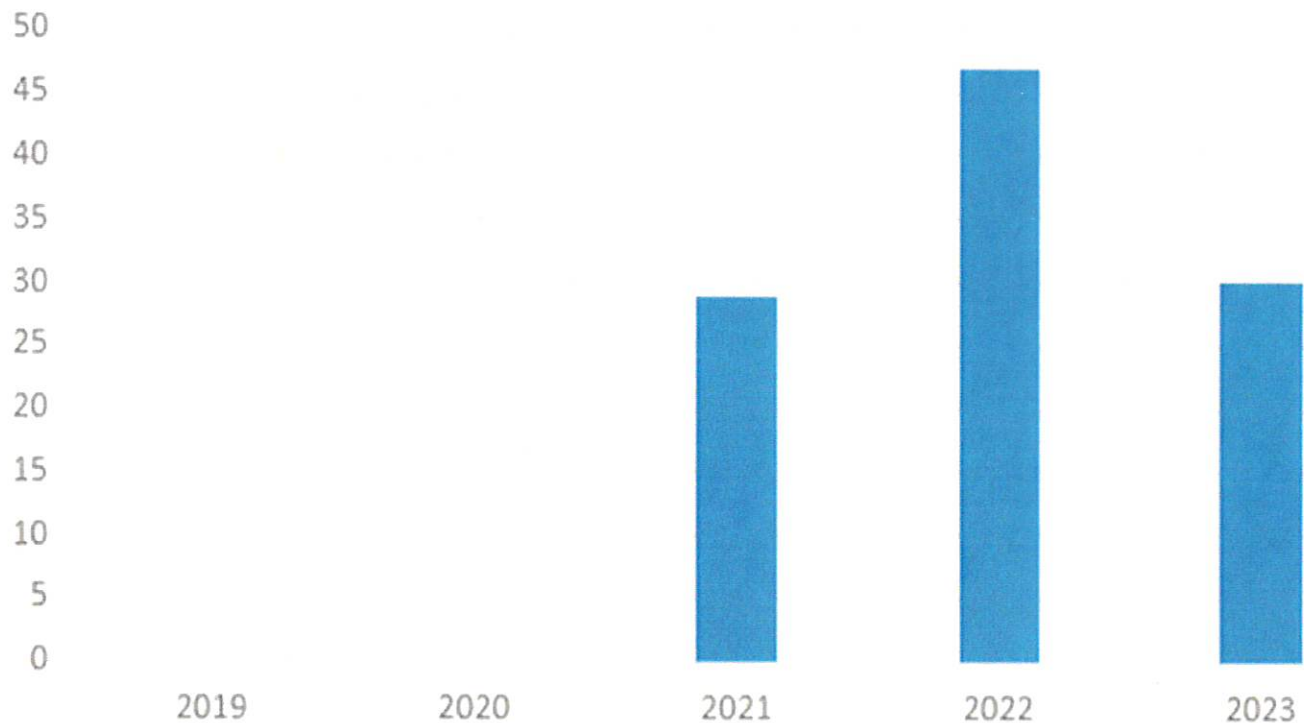


HUNTSVILLE CITY CALLS FOR SERVICE INCLUDES TRAFFIC STOPS

unk	unk	29	47	30
	2019	2020	2021	2022

- 12/03 | Travel trailer caught on fire. Total loss. Fire doing investigation to determine cause.
- 12/24 | Juvenile female was reportedly assaulted by an adult male. Investigation concluded a known friend of the family got upset and grabbed her by the neck. The report was followed up by DCFS.

Chart Title

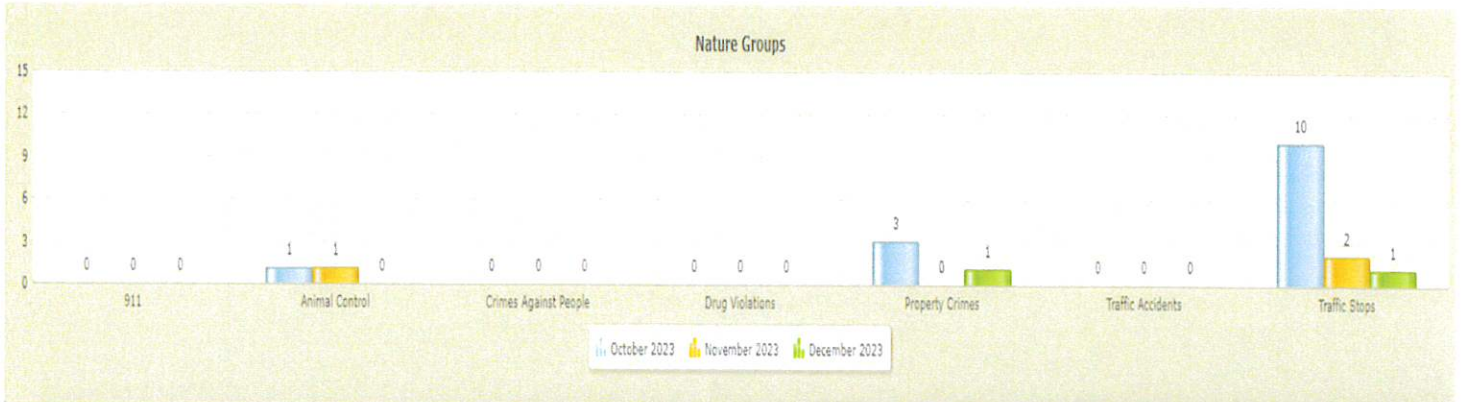




SHERIFF'S MONTHLY REPORT

Integrity, Initiative, Intelligence

December 2023



Category	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	Total
911	0	0	0	0
Animal Control	1	1	0	2
Crimes Against People	0	0	0	0
Drug Violations	0	0	0	0
Property Crimes	3	0	1	4
Traffic Accidents	0	0	0	0
Traffic Stops	10	2	1	13
Totals	14	3	2	19

Phone: 801-778-6614

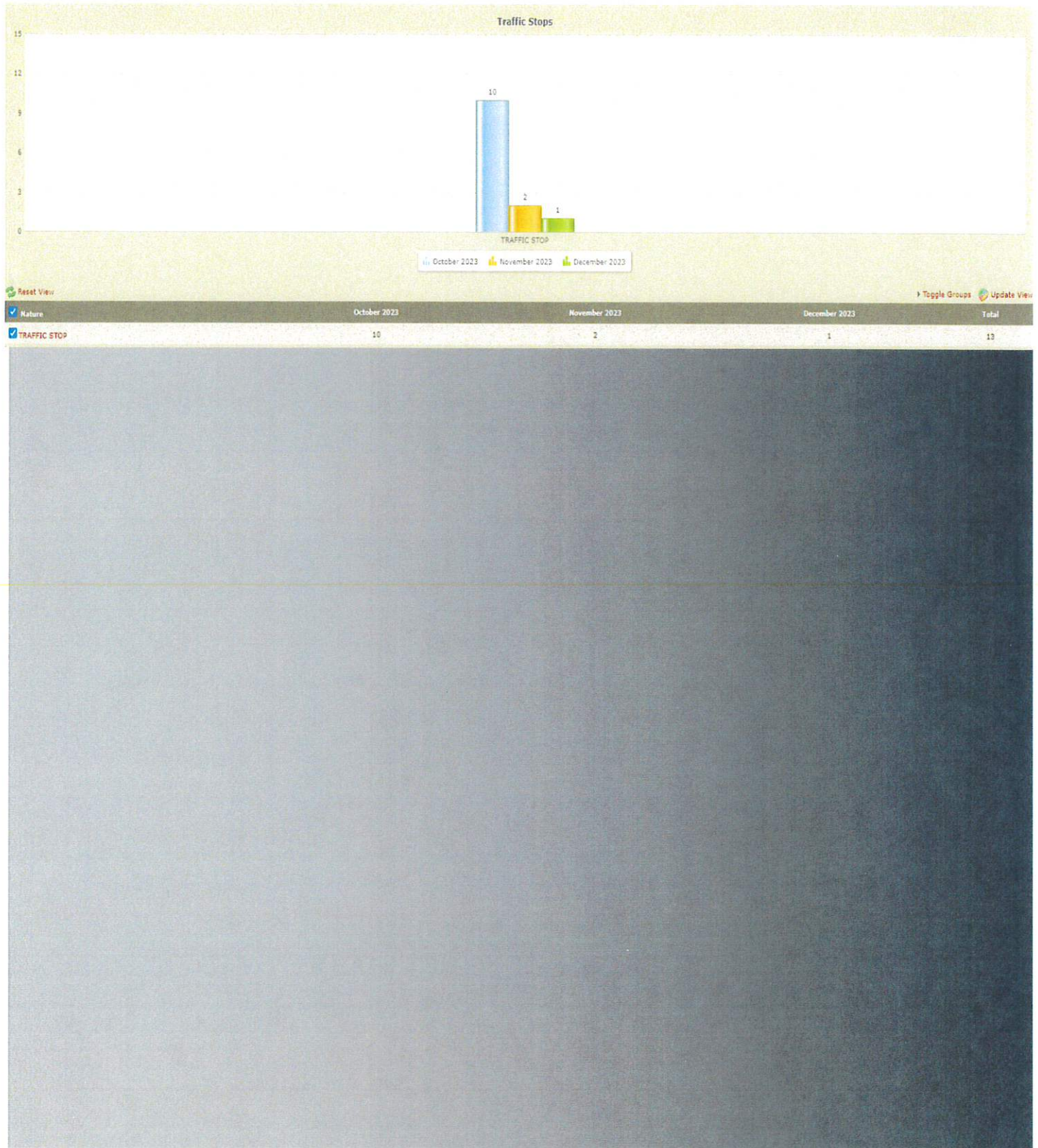
E-mail: gcowley@webercountyutah.gov



SHERIFF'S MONTHLY REPORT

Integrity, Initiative, Intelligence

December 2023



Phone: 801-778-6614

E-mail: gcowley@webercountyutah.gov



Utah
Approves.

Approval Voting for Huntsville

Savings, Simplicity, and Security

What is Approval Voting?

- Voters show support for all candidates they approve of
- The candidate with the most votes wins

CURRENT BALLOT		APPROVAL BALLOT	
Vote for <u>ONE</u> candidate		Vote for <u>ALL</u> candidates you approve of	
Business Betty	<input type="radio"/>	Business Betty	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Education Eddy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Education Eddy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Parks Pablo	<input type="radio"/>	Parks Pablo	<input type="radio"/>
Public Transit Tiana	<input type="radio"/>	Public Transit Tiana	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Taxes Terry	<input type="radio"/>	Taxes Terry	<input type="radio"/>

How is Approval Different?

	Current System (Plurality)	Approval Voting
Elects based on	Exclusive support	Favorability rating
Tends to favor	Candidates with a passionate base of support	Candidates with broad-based appeal
Works well with	Races with only 2 candidates	Races with any number of candidates

Why Approval Voting?

- Cost savings (if no Primary Election)
- More expressive voting
- Outcomes better reflect voters' values
- Limits vote splitting and spoiled elections
- Clearer winning mandates
- Produces broadly supported consensus winners
- Secure, transparent, easily audited

Approval Voting

Support your favorites

Alice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Drew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Edith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frank	<input type="checkbox"/>

Simplicity

Approval voting is an extremely simple method for everyone involved

- The Municipality
 - Very little voter education needed (less than with Ranked-Choice Voting)
- Candidates
 - Simple strategy: appeal to as many people as possible
 - Produces friendlier campaign strategies
 - No need to explain the voting method (unlike RCV)
- Voters
 - Only one election (no primary)
 - Simple ballot instructions
 - Fewer spoiled ballots
- The County
 - No new software required
 - Ballot size unchanged
 - Elections remain precinct summable

Administrative Ease and Security

- Precinct summable unlike other alternatives
- The county clerks have stated approval voting is the only alternative that “has an audit trail they are comfortable with”
 - Ricky Hatch, Weber County Clerk, is supportive of implementing approval if cities want to try it
- No increased cost of administering elections
- Voter education is extremely cost efficient

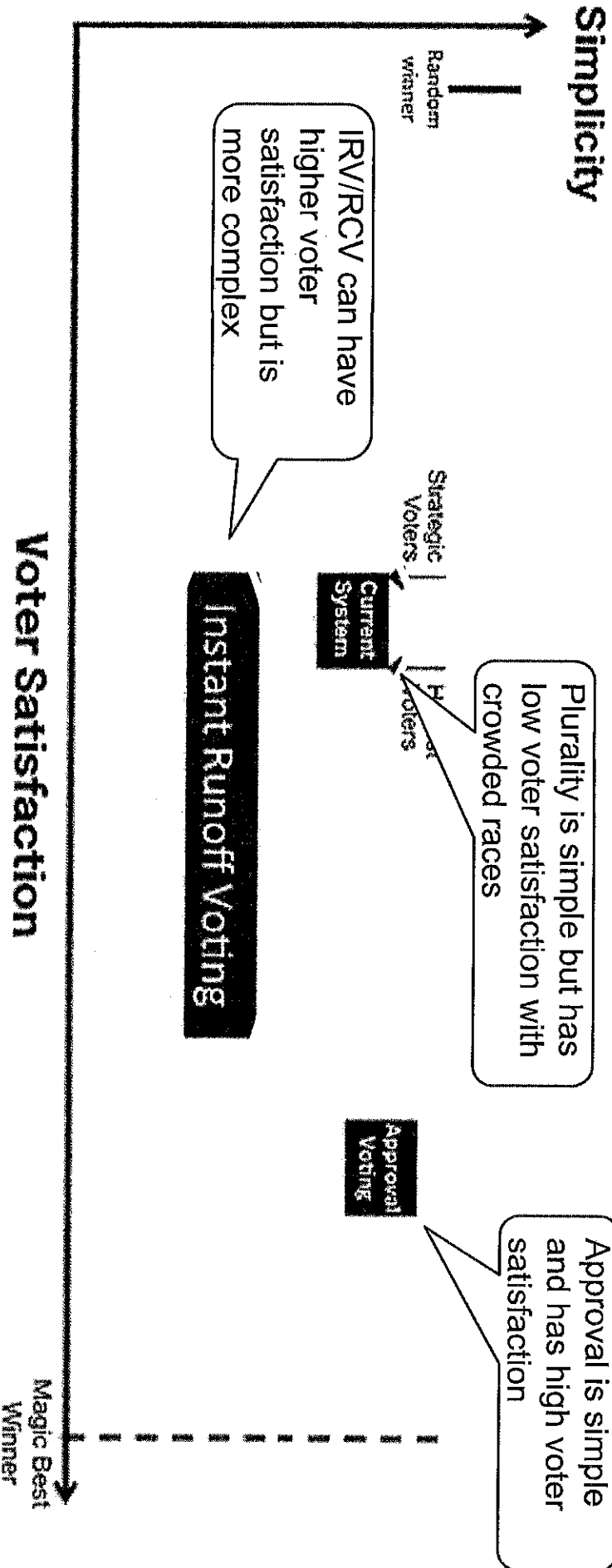
	SLC Costs	Ranked Choice	Approval Voting
Voter Education		\$283,600	\$94,533

SLC used as an example

Voter Satisfaction

Ms.rran D. Smith, 2000

Based on computer simulation with 5 candidates and 200 voters



Simplicity

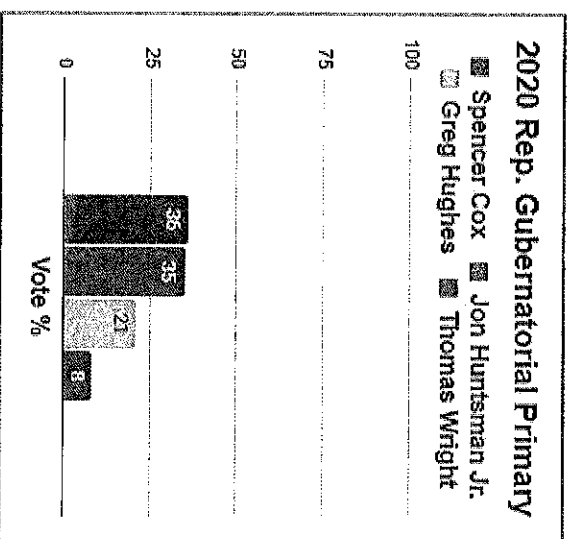
Voter Satisfaction

Magic Best Winner

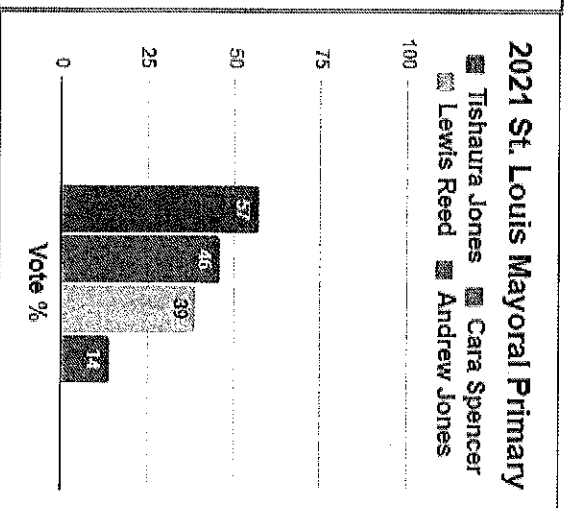
Higher Voter Satisfaction

- Higher winning percentage gives winner stronger mandate to lead
- Shows true levels of support for each candidate
- Favors candidates with broad-based support

Plurality Election

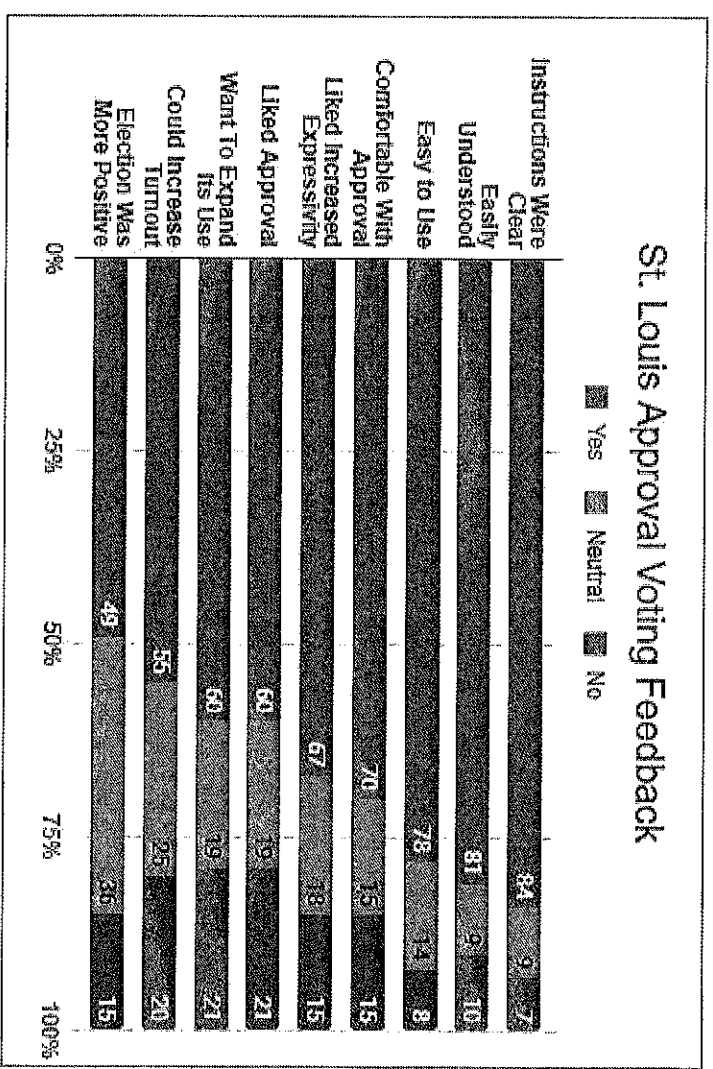


Approval Election



Where has Approval Voting been used?

- International Elections
 - Papal Conclaves
 - Venice, Italy
 - Greek Legislature
 - UN General Secretary
- US Elections
 - Fargo, ND
 - St. Louis, MO



Comparison of Voting Systems

	Current System	Approval	Ranked Choice
Cost	High (2 elections)	Low (1 election)	Low (1 election)
High Winning Percentage	No	Yes	Yes
Voter Satisfaction	Low	High	Moderate
Ballot Spoilage	Moderate	Low	High
New Voting Software	No	No	Yes
Ballot Size	Small	Small	Large
Counting Complexity	Low	Low	High
Precinct Summable	Yes	Yes	No
Voter Education	Low	Moderate	High

Questions?



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Mayor
Richard L. Sorensen

Town Council
Artie Powell
Sandy Hunter
Kevin Anderson
Bruce Ahlstrom

Town Clerk/Recorder
Beckki Endicott

Treasurer
Sheree Evans

Attorney
Bill Morris

Re H.B. 395 Municipal Voting Methods Amendments

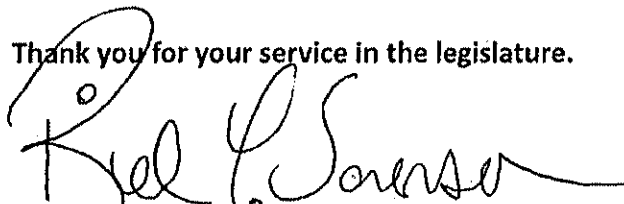
March 1, 2022

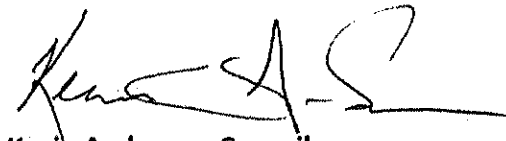
Dear Representative Waldrip, Senator Johnson, and members of the House Government Operations Committee,

The Huntsville Town Council is interested in effective voting reform.

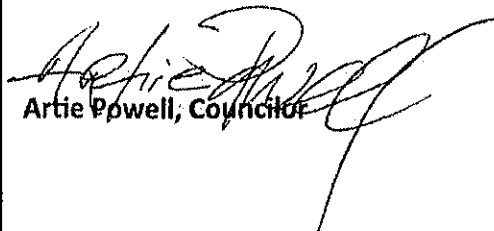
After receiving a presentation on approval voting at a recent town council meeting, the council is interested in the possibility of trying approval voting. We would like to express our support for adding approval voting as an option for municipal elections and request that you vote in favor of HB395.

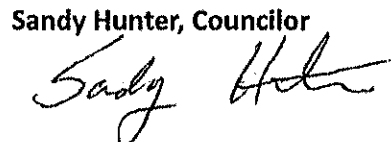
Thank you for your service in the legislature.


Richard Sorensen, Mayor


Kevin Anderson, Councilor


Bruce Ahlstrom, Councilor


Artie Powell, Councilor

Sandy Hunter, Councilor




Re Utah Municipal Alternative Voting Methods Pilot Program

January 18, 2024

Dear Members of the Utah House of Representatives Government Operations Standing Committee,

The Huntsville Town Council is interested in effective voting reform that enhances accessibility and strengthens the security of our elections.

Due to serious concerns about the security risks, difficulty of implementation, and significant opposition among registered voters in our Town, we do not support the use of ranked choice voting.

Having previously received a Town Council meeting presentation on Approval Voting and having participated in ongoing discussions regarding it and other options available to our Town, the Huntsville Town Council believes that more voting method options, such as Approval Voting, should be made available under Utah's Municipal Alternative Voting Methods Pilot Program. We believe the pilot program should allow local jurisdictions to explore more than just ranked choice voting, a method that fewer and fewer municipalities are interested in utilizing moving forward.

We are interested in the possibility of trying approval voting and would like to express our support for adding approval voting as an option for municipal elections in 2025.

Thank you for your service in the Utah Legislature,

Huntsville Town Council Members Artie Powell, Bruce Ahlstrom, and Mayor Richard Sorensen

Artie Powell
Bruce Ahlstrom
Richard Sorensen

MINUTES OF THE HUNTSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Huntsville Library, 131 South 7400 East, Huntsville

Name	Title	Status
Richard L. Sorensen	Mayor	Present
Bruce Ahlstrom	Council Member	Present
Kevin Anderson	Council Member	Excused
Sandy Hunter	Council Member	Present
Artie Powell	Council Member	Present
William Morris	Legal Counsel	Present
Nikki Wolthuis	Clerk	Present

Citizens: Lt. Cowley, Wade Budge, Steve Starks, Lonny and Nancy Bailey, Laurie Porter and Sanford Moss, Lewis Johnson, Pam Johnson, Stephanie Ahlstrom, Liz Poulter.

1-Mayor Richard Sorensen called the meeting to order.

There is a full quorum present.

2-Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Starks

3-Opening Ceremony given by Bruce Ahlstrom

4-Public Comments: No public Comments

5-Sheriff's Report: Lt. Cowley arrived late because of an accident he was assisting with and told the council that he did not have a report for this month.

6-Discussion and/or Action on Minutes for Town Council Meeting December 5, 2023 (See Attachment #1)

TCM Ahlstrom motioned to approve the minutes. TCM Hunter seconded it. All votes Aye. Motion passed.

7. Discussion and/or action on approval of the November Bills

TCM Hunter motioned to approve the November bills. TCM Ahlstrom seconded it. All votes Aye. Motion passed.

8- Swearing-in Ceremony

Nikki administered the Oath of Office to Lewis Johnson and Bruce Ahlstrom, newly elected Town Council Members. Lewis Johnson took his seat with the other Town Council Members.

Name	Title	Status
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Richard L. Sorensen	Mayor	Present
Bruce Ahlstrom	Council Member	Present
Lewis Johnson	Council Member	Present
Sandy Hunter	Council Member	Present
Artie Powell	Council Member	Present
William Morris	Legal Counsel	Present
Nikki Wolthuis	Clerk	Present

9. Discussion and/or action on Resolution 2024-01-04 to accept the Starks Annexation Petition (See Attachment #2)

Attorney Bill Morris explained that this is the 2nd petition for Mr. Starks' property, McKay Meadows. This property is north of the property on the previously accepted petition. If accepted, both annexations would be presented together at a public hearing soon. TCM Hunter requested an annexation agreement between Mr. Starks and the Town to assure the Town that there would only be 4 homes and 5 water connections on the property (As presented to the TC in November). Attorney Bill Morris stated that Starks' attorney, Wade Budge, would draft the annexation agreement and he would create the annexation ordinance.

TCM Hunter motioned to approve Resolution 2024-01-04 accepting the Starks Annexation Petition. TCM Ahlstrom seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. Votes reflected below. Motion passed 4-1.

VOTES	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	EXCUSED
Mayor Richard L. Sorensen	X			
CM Bruce Ahlstrom	X			
CM Lewis Johnson	X			
CM Sandy Hunter	X			
CM Artie Powell		X		

10. Discussion and/or action on Resolution 2024-01-04a Accepting the Bailey Annexation Petition (See Attachment #3)

TCM Hunter wanted an annexation agreement for these parcels stating that if the property owners wanted to subdivide in the future, they would need to follow the town code regarding road width and frontage for each lot on that road. Bill Morris said he could draft the agreement along with the ordinance. **TCM Hunter motioned to approve Resolution 2024-01-04 to accept the Bailey Annexation Petition. TCM Ahlstrom seconded the motion. Roll Call vote. Votes reflected below. Motioned passed 4-1.**

VOTES	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	EXCUSED
Mayor Richard L. Sorensen	X			
CM Bruce Ahlstrom	X			

CM Lewis Johnson	X			
CM Sandy Hunter	X			
CM Artie Powell		X		

11. Discussion and/or action on Business License for Valley Welding LLC (See Attachment #4)
 Logan Hofmeister is starting a business to weld at various jobsites. He will be using his home to store the equipment. **TCM Ahlstrom motioned to approve the business license for Valley Welding LLC. TCM Hunter seconded the motion. All votes Aye. Motion passed.**

12. Discussion and/or action on approval of the Hansen Planning Group to revise the subdivision code. (See Attachment #5)

TCM Hunter explained that the subdivision ordinance needs to be rewritten to reflect the new state law giving planning commissions the authority to approve subdivisions. The Hansen planning group reached out to the Town offering their services. They are approved by the state to use state funds to offer this service free to municipalities. **TCM Hunter motioned to approve hiring the Hansen Planning Group to revise the Town’s subdivision code. TCM Powell seconded the motion.** TCM Ahlstrom was hesitant about the motion because the state had chosen the select group to do the work. He wondered if there was any choice for them (The TC) in the matter. TCM Hunter asked Bill Morris why the State had taken the ability to approve subdivisions out of the town councils’ hands and given the job to planning commissions. Bill Morris stated that they were trying to depoliticize subdivision approval. **Roll Call Vote. Votes Reflected below. Motion passed 4-1.**

VOTES	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	EXCUSED
Mayor Richard L. Sorensen	X			
CM Bruce Ahlstrom	X			
CM Lewis Johnson		X		
CM Sandy Hunter	X			
CM Artie Powell	X			

6:35 Bill Morris left the meeting

13. Discussion and/or action on Town Council Member Assignments (See Attachment #6)

Mayor Sorensen discussed Town Council assignments for the new year.

TCM Ahlstrom motioned to approve Town Council Assignments for 2024. TCM Hunter seconded the motion. All votes Aye. Motion passed.

Department Updates

Mayor Sorensen- asked Liz Poulter what questions she had about recycling. Liz had seen the garbage truck dump both the garbage and the recycling in the same place. Mayor Sorensen said the recycling plant in Ogden had shut down a while ago and the garbage company has been unable to dump the recycling there. There was a discussion about how recycling hasn’t been profitable. TCM Powell stated he was concerned with the fact that some homeowners leave out

their garbage cans well past the time to bring them in. It makes it difficult for snowplows to plow in the winter, and it crowds the narrow roads. TCM Hunter suggested reminders in the newsletter and on the website.

The turkeys are back and the DWR is helping to relocate them. Mack Devries built two traps and placed them in the Town west of the church. There have been complaints of turkeys on 200 S. as well.

The ice rink got a late start, but it is up and running.

TCM Ahlstrom reminded the council about the Earthquake preparedness meeting on January 11th at the library. There will also be Emergency Preparedness classes for 4 Thursdays beginning January 25th at 7 pm at the library.

TCM Powell- he and Mayor Sorensen talked with some business owners in Town who want to expand the 4th of July and bring people in. They will come to the next TC meeting to discuss their ideas. He explained that the TC will need to decide what role the Town wants to play in organizing the 4th and what elements they want to keep. There was also a discussion on how to get more people to volunteer to help. One suggestion was to get some help from people in the unincorporated area of Huntsville and other parts of the valley by advertising in the paper.

TCM Powell wants to invite Lon Child and Mark Ferrin of the Ogden Valley Park Board to the next TC Meeting to explain what Huntsville needs to do with tax monies they get for the park. The county treasurer has told Lon and Mark that they need to handle the money differently than they have been.

TCM Ahlstrom motioned to adjourn the meeting. TCM Hunter seconded the motion. All votes Aye. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Nikki Wolthuis, Town Clerk

Trash/ Recycle Rate Table

	Current rate EcoWaste charges the Town/ with fuel surcharge	What the Town Bills out to residents	New Republic proposed rate*
Trash 1st Can	\$11.13/ 11.46- 12.45	\$16	\$19.66
Trash additional can	\$4.04/ none	\$12	\$ 5.51
Recycling	\$3.56/ none	\$6	\$8.01

- Fuel surcharge would only be applied when diesel is more than \$4/ gallon

Currently Econo Waste dumps our town dumpsters for free in the summer months, the rate with Republic would be 6.60 per yard. And cans for the park would be charged \$19.66/ can