

## WORK SESSION – Wednesday, February 7, 2023

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council work session held at the Ogden Valley Library, 131 South 7400 East, 5:30 p.m.

The work session was scheduled to discuss continuing the Huntsville Marathon in 2024 and beyond.

**Attending:** TC Members Sandy Hunter, Bruce Ahlstrom, Lewis Johnson, Artie Powell, Mayor Sorensen, Nikki Wolthuis – Clerk, Jim Truett- by phone, Angel Truett, Lindsey Roberts Ketcham, Jim Facer, Candy Facer, and another unidentified visitor.

Mayor Sorensen called the meeting to order. He turned the time over to Candy Facer to introduce the topic.

**Candy Facer** explained why she and her husband, Jim, organized the Huntsville Marathon and what has become of it. They are marathon runners, both running over 100 marathons each. They wanted to create a marathon in Huntsville to give back to the community. So many races were run in the valley every year, and all they did was cause inconvenience for the community without any benefits. They wanted to create a race that would give back to Ogden Valley. Organizing the Huntsville marathon is what they did beginning in 2012 and they held it every year until 2021 except for the Covid year of 2020. Their nonprofit race organization has been able to give hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community over the years.

They cannot do it anymore and have looked for an organization to take it over. The marathon is beloved by the running community and many of them have expressed a desire to get the race back. The Facers have contacted people to get it going again, but each person they talked to wanted to make the race a for-profit event except for one person.

Candy Facer introduced Lindsey Roberts Ketcham, a native of Huntsville and someone who had worked at Visit Ogden promoting the area through events and activities for 17 years. She expressed her support for Lindsey and her desire to take over the marathon and keep it a non-profit event.

**Ms. Lindsey Ketcham** spoke to the council about her many years of experience planning events and her love of the valley and great memories of Huntsville. Because of her love of her hometown of Huntsville and her experience in event planning she feels like she can make the Huntsville Marathon a great success. She has created a 501 (c) for the marathon and is planning to hold it on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Right now she is creating a 5-member board of experienced people to carry out this event as a non-profit organization.

**Jim Facer** stepped up to explain what goes into organizing a marathon. He broke down the cost of each expense including police, barricades, porta-potties, and so forth. It all

adds up to around \$90,000 to put on the event. The entry fee from the runners barely covers the operating costs. It's the money from the sponsors they can give back to the community. It's not easy to get sponsors to join, but Ms. Ketcham feels confident in being able to do that.

They have been able to give money to the Ogden Valley non-profits each year and plan on doing that again this year. Mr. Facer explained that they will need to reduce the money given to Huntsville Town from 30% to 15%. This will alleviate some pressure on Ms. Ketcham.

The TC asked about the obligation the Town had to help with the race. The race organizers explained that although they will need many volunteers and the Town has helped greatly in the past, the Town has no obligation to the marathon committee to provide volunteers.

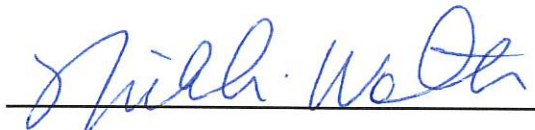
**TCM Artie Powell** had concerns about the contract being open-ended. After some discussion a contract renewal every 10 years was a favorable plan, but other ideas such as reevaluating the marathon every 2 years was also discussed. Ms. Ketcham will work on the contract and bring it to the next TC Meeting for approval.

**Mayor Sorensen** expressed a desire for the new race committee to incorporate Huntsville's 100-year celebration into their race by using their centennial logo and in other ways.

**Jim Truett** spoke for a minute on a cell phone speaker and said that the marathon gives back to the valley and is a gift to the Town.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikki Wolthuis", written over a horizontal line.

Nikki Wolthuis, Huntsville Town Clerk