

1 **PROVIDENCE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

2 **June 7, 2011**

3 **Providence City Office Building**

4 **15 South Main Providence, UT**

5

6 Call to Order:

Dale Astle, Mayor Pro-tem

7 Roll Call of City Council Members:

Dale Astle, Mayor Pro-tem

8 Attendance:

D Astle, B Bagley, J Russell, D Calderwood

9 Excused:

Mayor Liechty, D Low

10 Pledge of Allegiance:

D Calderwood

11

12 **DISCUSSION:**

13 **Item No. 1. Discussion:** Representative R. Curt Webb and the Providence City Council will discuss deer within Providence
14 City's boundary.

15 Dale Astle is acting Mayor Pro-tem with Mayor Liechty out of town.

16 D Astle explained to the audience why this special meeting is being held. This is a subject that has been talked about for
17 years. D Calderwood has done extensive research on this subject. The State of Utah is responsible for the deer. The City has
18 laws within the City to keep the citizens from shooting the deer. There will be no decisions made this evening.

19 Curt Webb said this is a matter of jurisdiction. State does have jurisdiction over the deer. Two gentlemen from the DWR are
20 here to talk about this issue.

21 Ron Hodson from DWR is the regional supervisor from Ogden. He explained that this is a very difficult problem to deal
22 with. Bountiful City tried to tackle this issue. There are very few cities that don't have urban deer herds. DWR lethally
23 removed about 15 deer from Bountiful City. This was very controversial. DWR just wanted to see how this would work. He
24 discussed some different solutions that different cities are trying. He is mostly here to listen and get a good idea of the scope
25 of the problem. He can't even offer a solution at this time. Moving deer to another location doesn't work either.

26 D Astle asked if the deer fence was ever successful in keeping the deer up in the mountains.

27 The audience said that the fence was a joke. It has never worked.

28 J Russell asked what the official position from DWR is.

29 R Hodson said they are trying to work on a case by case solution. There are no provisions in the law allowing DWR to deal
30 with residential situations at this time.

31 C Webb told the citizens what he has learned in trying to solve this problem. He wants to know exactly what the problem
32 with the deer is. He also would like to talk about some different solutions that may work. The City Council will need to
33 decide if the City can afford the solution and what the public opinion is regarding the deer.

34 Scott Theurer asked if anything is done to check them from illness, disease, deer ticks.

35 R Hodson said the deer in Utah don't have deer ticks. Diseases transmitted from deer really aren't an issue.

36 S Theurer said the financial losses from his hay field are being felt. Is there any chemical birth control that can be done with
37 the deer herd?

38 R Hodson said not at this time.

39 Warren Burton asked about being allowed to build higher fences.

40 D Astle said he believes there has been a discussion to allow higher fences to keep the deer out. How effective is an eight
41 foot fence?

42 R Hodson said maintained properly they are very effective. Electric fences also are effective.

43 Keith Thompson talked about the deer fence up the mountain. He isn't blaming the DWR for being ineffective. He has talked
44 with Lyle Hillyard and Curt Webb. He wants some legislation to allow the cities to control the deer herd within their own
45 cities. He believes snaring the deer would be the best solution. He would gladly take the deer for the meat.

46 R Hodson said this is called capture and kill. He thinks a snare would be hard to get people to accept. Capture and transplant
47 is another option. Fencing is talked about a lot. There are cities that run an urban archery hunt. These are types of programs
48 that can be developed.

49 C Webb asked if the law could be changed to allow the jurisdiction to be given to the cities.

50 R Hodson said other states have entered into agreements but not given up their jurisdiction.

51 Sheryl Eames said she expresses her appreciation and agreement with such a law.

52 Brian Olsen said the deer are driving him crazy. He has spent thousands of dollars trying to protect his property from the
53 deer. He would like to see archery hunting allowed. He believes that here in Providence there are areas that would be safe for
54 hunting the deer in the City limits.

55 S Theurer asked if a property owner could harvest a deer on his own property.

56 D Astle said he would want to have experts taking out the deer not just anybody.

1 B Bagley asked what the deer herd population is here in Utah.
2 R Hodson said the deer herds in general are down but the urban deer herds are up. Increasing the hunt won't affect the urban
3 deer herds. Managing the urban deer herd is the problem.
4 Richard Eames said the deer in Providence know exactly where to go to get the food. Has anyone thought about feeding the
5 deer up on the mountain to get them out of the City?
6 R Hodson said DWR is against feeding the deer. This is a summer problem and you won't be able to feed them anything that
7 will take them away from gardens, flowers, etc.
8 Gary Stauffer said there is a trail right through his field and it is frustrating to see bites taken out of every pumpkin and
9 watermelon in your garden that you have worked so hard to grow. He has had 31 deer in his field at one time. This field
10 would be a perfect place to kill the deer.
11 C Webb asked what the size of the herd is in the City.
12 Darrin DeBloois from DWR said probably 300 to 600 from Millville to Providence.
13 B Olsen asked if DWR would support an archery program in Providence.
14 D DeBloois said he believed that would work. It would just be up to the landowner to give permission.
15 R Hodson said DWR could set up a hunt within the City and the City could set up where the hunt would take place.
16 B Olsen asked if a special hunt could be set up for this fall.
17 R Hodson said that would be difficult.
18 David Eames asked if these deer in the City are part of the managed herd. He would not be against killing the deer on his
19 property.
20 D Calderwood explained what could possibly happen if a deer is shot on someone's property. Some homeowners might not
21 be happy with a deer dying on their property.
22 Marcie Lyons feels like the deer are getting more and more aggressive. She is concerned about the safety issue.
23 S Eames would encourage the Council and DWR to help the citizens with the deer problem.
24 Jim Williamson showed DWR a picture of deer crazing along the road. He asked about tranquilizing the deer or chasing the
25 deer up into the foothills to safely shoot them.
26 Steve Jensen talked about trapping and disposing of the deer right on your own property. Would DWR cooperate with
27 something like this?
28 R Hodson said it's very slow and expensive to do this.
29 D DeBloois said there is not a good tranquilizer for deer and you can't eat the meat.
30 Martha Hammond asked who shot the deer in Bountiful City. She would like to see something humane done to take care of
31 them.
32 R Hodson said it was DWR people.
33 K Thompson talked about the different possibilities of snaring the deer.
34 T Theurer asked if the City could contract someone to remove 100 deer.
35 DWR estimated that it would cost approximately \$50 to \$100 per deer. DWR spends a lot of money dealing with the
36 agricultural damage from the deer.
37 Gary Sampson asked if there is a problem with citizens feeding the deer.
38 R Hodson said it is discouraged but there is no law that forbids people from feeding the deer.
39 M Hammond suggested asking the citizens to help pay for professionals to hunt the deer.
40 S Bankhead asked why the deer herd is decreasing in the mountains, when you estimate is it possible to tag the deer to know
41 their migratory routes and would the citizens be interested in a tax increase to pay for the cost to deal with the deer problem.
42 D DeBloois said the declining deer herd is winter loss of fawns due to wintering habitats. There are deer that are collared and
43 they are tracked.
44 The citizens did not want a tax increase.
45 S Kendrick said she believes this town is full of people who could take care of this problem without raising taxes.
46 Richard Crosby said this problem hasn't happened overnight.
47 R Hodson said DWR can't find a way to deal with public opinion. They don't have a program in place at this time.
48 D Davis said he has found a paint ball gun is a good solution.
49 C Webb summarized what he heard in this meeting. We need to come up with a solution and take it to DWR.
50 The laws don't necessarily need to be changed. There is serious damage being done to property and it isn't about being re-
51 elected, it's about being sensitive to what the community wants.
52 He thanked Ron Hodson and Darrin for coming tonight. He thanked the citizens for handling this well.
53 D Calderwood asked if the citizens would like the Council to look into the cost of a sharpshooter.
54 T Theurer believes he is on the right path.
55 R Hodson reminded the citizens that DWR doesn't have a lot of resources to commit. The responsibility will be put on the
56 City.
57 B Olsen asked if they Council would like for a few citizens to create a committee to work on this.
58 D Astle said he would like for Brian Olsen to chair a committee to work on this problem.

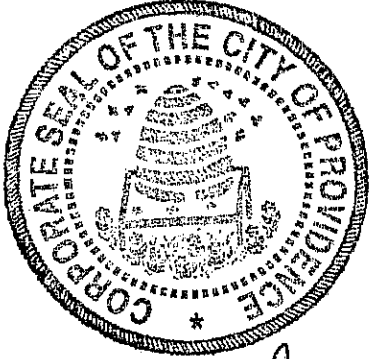
1 **Motion to go into executive session: J Russell, B Bagley second**
2 **Vote: Yea: B Bagley, D Astle, J Russell, D Calderwood**
3 **Nay: None**
4 **Abstain: None**
5 **Excused: D Low**


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7 **Motion to close the executive session: J Russell, B Bagley second**
8 **Vote: Yea: B Bagley, D Astle, J Russell, D Calderwood**
9 **Nay: None**
10 **Abstain: None**
11 **Excused: D Low**

12
13 **Motion to adjourn: B Bagley, D Calderwood second**
14 **Vote: Yea: B Bagley, D Astle, J Russell, D Calderwood**
15 **Nay: None**
16 **Abstain: None**
17 **Excused: D Low**

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19 Meeting adjourned at 9:50
20 Minutes taken and prepared by Terri Lewis

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24 Dale Astle, Mayor Pro-tem
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23 _____
24 Skarlet Bankhead, City Recorder
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