

Transparency 101

Everyone agrees government should be transparent (meaning: open, honest, clear, well communicated, given appropriate lead time, etc.)

My observation from attending city meetings for the last eight years is that there are two sides to the 'transparency' discussion. One states we are fully transparent because we fully comply with the laws around transparency. We meet all the requirements.

The other side holds that we are NOT very transparent because we barely meet, not exceed, minimum standards set out by law.

I want to bring us from where we are now, meeting requirements, to where we really should be, exceeding expectations.

To start we have to understand that all city business must be done (by law) in a public City Council meeting with a written agenda that is posted at least 24 hours in advance. Excluding true emergencies, nothing can be decided unless it is listed on that agenda. With few exceptions, the mayor gets to decide what goes on the agenda, how it is worded, and where it is placed. That means she or he has the 'power of the agenda.' Nothing gets voted on unless the mayor puts it on the agenda.

There are many ways to hide issues from the public on the agenda. One way is bunch several issues together into one omnibus vote, called a consent item. Consider the attached screen grab from a recent City Council agenda. Do you know what each of those items mean? Some are reasonably clear. Others are not. But item 8 was passed unanimously at the meeting, including the agreement to spend \$60,616.67 each year on a single vote with little-to-no discussion.

I want to work with the new mayor to fix this.

I will make sure that we say what each agenda item means in plain English, including how much it is costing the city. I will make a motion in each City Council meeting to hear any Consent item that does not seem clear to the public, or for which there may be some controversy, no matter which group or side finds the item controversial.

Every decision must be an informed decision.

I will work to make sure we, the public and City Council, are as clear as humanly possible about what is being decided. I will make the consequences of that decision part of our discussions. I will make sure the city's business is truly transparent--clear, open, honest, that explanations are thorough, that notifications are timely, and that city business is done in way that holds us all accountable.

That is my pledge to you.

Vote David Lauret for Vineyard City Council.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

- 8.1. Approval of the June 11, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 8.2. Caterpillar Backhoe Lease Agreement**
- 8.3. Municipal Code Amendment Title 10 Transportation and Title 13 Community Development and Public Facilities (Ordinance 2025-11)**
- 8.4. ILA with Utah County for Law Enforcement Services (Resolution 2025-34)**
- 8.5. Interlocal Agreement with Orem for Emergency Water (Resolution 2025-35)**
- 8.6. Consideration of a Resolution to Enter into a Lease/Purchase Agreement for City Vehicles with Zions Bank (Resolution 2025-38)**
Fiscal Impact - Interest payment of \$9,950 annually. Principal and Interest of \$60,616.67 annually. Funds accounted in the approved FY25 Budget