



**GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Moab City Council Chambers  
217 East Center Street, Moab, Utah**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

The Grand County Council met in special joint session with the Moab City Council, and Congressman John Curtis, on the above date and the Moab City Council chamber located at 217 East Center Street, Moab, Utah. Present were Grand County Councilmembers Mary McGann, Terry Morse, Jaylyn Hawks, Evan Clapper, Greg Halliday, as well as Council Administrator Ruth Dillon, Community and Economic Development Director Zacharia Levine, and Grand County Clerk-Auditor Chris Baird. Also present were City Councilmembers Kalen Jones, Rani Derasary, Karen Guzman-Newton, Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Mike Duncan, Assistant City Manager Joel Linares, Finance Director Rachel Stenta, and City Recorder Sommar Johnson.

**□ Call to Order**

Mayor Neihaus called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m.

**□ Welcome of U.S. Congressman John Curtis and staff**

Mayor Neihaus welcomed Congressman John Curtis and staff.

**□ Introductions**

All present took turn introducing themselves.

**□ Thank you to Congressman Curtis for support of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) project**

County Council member Mary McGann, City Council Member Rani Dresary, and UMTRA Committee Member Joette Langianese presented representative Curtis with a gift and thanked him for his support of the UMTRA project.

**□ Remarks from Congressman Curtis**

Representative Curtis made opening remarks on the Emery County Public Land Management Act and the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act. He mentioned his efforts to expand rural access to broadband internet.

**□ Dialogue on:**

- **related health care legislation – discussion of programs providing stability to rural critical access hospitals and discussion on the POPPY Study Act**

Jen Sadoff, Chief Executive Officer of the Moab Regional Hospital, spoke about challenges faced by Moab's rural hospital. Mr. Curtis noted there were 67 bipartisan bills regarding opioids passed in the House as well as long-term funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Discussion about health care for veterans followed.

- **possibility of federal collection of applicable sales and Transient Room Tax for camping sites on federal lands**

County Council Chair Clapper brought up the collection of Transient Room Tax (TRT) on federally-owned campsites and explained the need for revenue to support the area's tourist economy infrastructure. County Clerk Baird further explained a recent ruling by the Utah Tax Commission regarding the collection of sales tax generated on federal lands.

- **other federal-related topics of interest**

Councilmember Derasary brought up the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as Immigration legislation. Mr. Curtis stated the Utah Compact guided his decisions regarding immigration and he added he supports Dreamers and border security. McGann brought up the need for regulation of asbestos. Clapper requested efforts to protect clean air and water.

**Motion:** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to recess the meeting. Councilmember Guzman-Newton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Niehaus recessed the meeting at 6:52 PM.

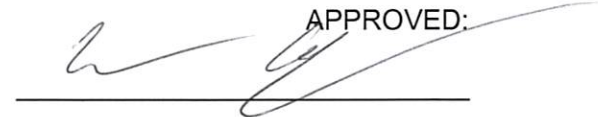
□ **Future considerations:** 7:00 p.m. Congressman John Curtis' Townhall, Star Hall Auditorium

Town Hall: At 7:03 PM Mayor Niehaus convened a Town Hall without a quorum of Council members. Approximately seventy-five participants were in attendance. It concluded at 8:15 PM.

□ **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. upon the conclusion of the town hall.

APPROVED:



Evan Clapper, Council Chair

ATTEST:



Chris Baird, Clerk-Auditor