

## RESOLUTION 05-2020

### A RESOLUTION ADOPTING, THOUGHTS, SUPPLICATIONS, PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, READINGS AND INVOCATIONS POLICY FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN NORTH OGDEN CITY, UTAH

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court has noted<sup>1</sup> that ceremonial prayer is part of our Nation's heritage and willing participation in civic affairs can be consistent with a brief acknowledgement of people's belief in a higher power, always with due respect for those who adhere to other beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Utah Supreme Court has upheld the practice of prayer at City Council meetings under State law<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to adopt a written policy governing how individuals will be asked to participate in opening a City Council meetings with thoughts, supplications, praise, thanksgiving, readings and invocations, that comports with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States as well as the Constitution of the State of Utah; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to maintaining neutrality in the public sphere, such that residents of North Ogden City of any or no faith have equal access to presenting thoughts, supplications, praise, thanksgiving, readings and invocations at City Council meetings pursuant to the City's policy, which is administered on a non-discriminatory basis;

**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of North Ogden City, Utah that the following thoughts, supplications, praise, thanksgiving, readings and invocations Policy be adopted:

North Ogden City has traditionally welcomed the presentation of thoughts, supplications, praise, thanksgiving, readings and invocations, along with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and also the recognition of community members, at the beginning of its regularly scheduled City Council meetings.

These ceremonial presentations are secular in purpose and are intended to (1) provide a moment during which Council members and the audience can reflect on the importance of the business before the Council; (2) promote an atmosphere of civility; (3) encourage lofty thought and high-mindedness; (4) recognize cultural diversity; (5) foster sensitivity for and recognize the uniqueness of all segments of our community; and (6) and show appreciation for the contributions made by members of the community. The City welcomes a wide variety of community organizations, churches, and individuals to participate in order to achieve these goals.

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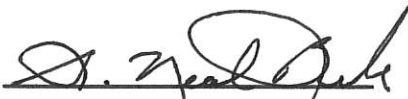
<sup>1</sup> *Town of Greece, N.Y. v. Galloway*, 572 U.S. 565, 591 (2014).

<sup>2</sup> *Society of Separationists, Inc. v. Whitehead*, 870 P.2d 916 (1993); see also, *Snyder v. Murray City Corp.*, 73 P.3d 325 (2003).

It is the formal policy of the City that all North Ogden City organizations, churches, and residents have equal access to participate in offering thoughts, supplications, praise, thanksgiving, readings and invocations when such is included on the agenda, and that this policy will be administered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to the belief system of the presenter. The City is neutral and does not discriminate between religious and nonreligious sentiments.

Invocations shall be done on a volunteer basis under the direction of the Mayor and without cost to the City. Those who wish to participate may contact the City to be included on a future agenda. Thoughts, supplications, praise, thanksgiving, readings and invocations are intended to be non-denominational and non-proselytizing in character; however, the City will not dictate the form or content of any such presentation. Presentations should be brief (no longer than three minutes). In respect for audience members, the public should not be directed or solicited to gesture (such as bowing heads or raising hands). Each member of the audience may participate, or not participate, according to their own conscience.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

  
S. Neal Berube, Mayor

**CITY COUNCIL VOTE AS RECORDED:**

	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Council Member Barker:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Council Member Covering:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Council Member Ekstrom:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Council Member Stoker:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Council Member Swanson:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**(In event of a tie vote of the Council):**

<b>Mayor Berube</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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ATTEST:



S. Annette Spendlove  
S. Annette Spendlove, MMC  
City Recorder