



Sandy City Council Office

10000 Centennial Parkway
Room 231
Sandy, UT 84070
Phone: 801-568-7141

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Kevin T. Van Tassell
Senate District 26
3424 W 1500 N
Vernal, UT 84078

Dear Senator Van Tassell:

The Sandy City Council supports Senate Bill 97 and thanks you for your sponsorship of this legislation.

As you know, the Open and Public Meetings Act provides important protections, requiring that the public's business be conducted publicly. Sandy City has enthusiastically embraced the spirit of transparency enshrined in the Act. Our agenda management system provides instant, online, indexed access to all of our important documents including Council agendas, staff reports, supporting attachments, minutes, and complete meeting audio. With a click of the mouse, interested citizens can access the entire record of a discussion or decision. The system is accessible 24/7 from any web-enabled device and provides indexed navigation so people can instantly find the information they need without having to wade through the entire record.

As a result of this technology, traditional meeting minutes as required by the Act no longer serve the public purpose they once held. Our system provides all of the information interested citizens would look for in traditional minutes, but doesn't force them to rely on staff's truncated interpretation of a meeting. We estimate that Senate Bill 97 would save 10-15 hours per week in staff time that could be redirected to higher priority constituent service.

We also appreciate that the legislation does not mandate a new program or service but maintains traditional minutes as an option for public entities not yet as technologically equipped. This bill recognizes the vast technological improvements that have become available since the Open and Public Meetings Act was first penned, but strikes an appropriate balance between the traditional and the new.

Again, we thank you for your sponsorship of this legislation. If you or your staff have any questions about Sandy City's agenda management system or our support for this bill, please contact our Executive Director Mike Applegarth at (801) 568-7107.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Smith, Chair
Sandy City Council

cc: Nicole Martin, Deputy Mayor
Roger Tew, Utah League of Cities and Towns