

MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD MAY 12, 2026 AT THE HYRUM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 60 WEST MAIN, HYRUM, UTAH.

**CONVENED:** 6:30 P.M.

**CONDUCTING:** Mayor Steve Miller

**ROLL CALL:** Councilmembers Rebecca Foulger, Michael Nelson, NaLyn Nelson, Craig L. Rasmussen, and Mont Wright.

**CALL TO ORDER:** There being five members present and four members representing a quorum, Mayor Miller called the meeting to order.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Administrator Daniel Ferris, City Planner Tony Ekins, Fire Chief Tony Stauffer, Assistant Chief Luke Schmid, City Treasurer Todd Perkins, Senior Accountant and Internal Auditor Wes Bingham, and three citizens. City Recorder Stephanie Fricke recorded the minutes.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Miller welcomed everyone in attendance and invited audience participation.

**INVOCATION:** Fire Chief Tony Stauffer

**AGENDA ADOPTION:** A copy of the notice and agenda for this meeting was emailed to The Herald Journal, posted on the Utah Public Notice Website and Hyrum City's Website, provided to each member of the governing body, and posted at the City Offices more than forty-eight hours before meeting time.

**ACTION**

Councilmember Rasmussen made a motion to approve the agenda for May 12, 2026 as published. Councilmember Wright seconded the motion and Councilmembers Foulger, Michael Nelson, Rasmussen, and Wright voted aye. The motion passed.

- 5. **AGENDA ITEMS:**
  - A. 2026-2027 Budget Workshop.
- 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**2026-2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP.**

Mayor Miller, the City Council, and Treasurer Todd Perkins

discussed the budget for the 2026-2027 budget year.

City Treasurer Todd Perkins reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 Operating and Utility Budget and stated there is no proposed property tax increase for the upcoming year. He noted there is discussion at the county level regarding a potential new tax structure for fire and EMS services; however, the City is not increasing its rates at this time. \$4,699,600 is currently budgeted for Capital Projects, representing nearly 40% of the overall budget. He stated that if the \$2.6 million in capital projects were extended into FY 2027-2028, capital spending would still remain above 20% of the total budget. He further reported that Special Protective Services rates have been adjusted in coordination with Nibley due to wildland fire response activity. He noted there is no formal contract with Nibley at this time; however, the City is budgeting conservatively as if such an agreement were in place. He stated that revenue projections for fire and EMS remain conservative due to ongoing uncertainty. Discussions among south end mayors regarding county fire funding and expressed concern regarding the current direction of county fire service funding. He stated that there is continued discussion about establishing a more sustainable model and that south end communities are not in agreement with the current structure.

Mayor Miller stated that Smithfield is considering exiting the fire district and expressed concern regarding the direction and effectiveness of the current county board structure. He has invited Mayors from south end communities to meet and discuss the potential formation of a special service district for fire services. He stated that the County is currently competing with municipalities for fire protection services and that pricing differences will have a significant impact moving forward.

A discussion ensued regarding capital improvement priorities, including a potential \$50,000 kitchen remodel at the Civic Center. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that staff should prioritize and evaluate capital and staffing requests together to determine overall priority within budget constraints.

Additional discussion included park capital projects, including bleacher replacement at East Park, playground equipment at AJ Park, and irrigation system improvements at the dog park. It was noted that the AJ Park playground project is associated with RAPZ tax grant funding. It was further noted that any redirection of grant funds would require reapplication.

It was stated that a Parks Master Plan would assist in establishing a clear priority list for park improvements and capital needs. Councilmembers also discussed potential improvements at East Park near baseball fields, including playground placement and court usage concerns related to wind conditions.

Councilmember Wright raised questions regarding whether it was premature to proceed with staffing decisions related to Fire and EMS prior to final decisions being made on regional service structure. He also recommended adding additional staff to the City Office due to the workload that will be placed upon those employees when there is a full time fire department.

Councilmember Rasmussen said that planning must continue despite uncertainty, as multiple outcomes remain possible based on ongoing discussions.

Mayor Miller stated that the City must clearly define service expectations moving forward, noting that comparisons between departments such as the museum, senior center, and emergency services are not equivalent in scope or necessity. He stated that fire and EMS services will require a significant investment decision and that reliance on county-provided ambulance services could substantially increase costs. He further stated that it is an appropriate time to evaluate the City's role in EMS provision, including potential grant opportunities for small cities and regional partnerships.

Assistant Fire Chief Luke Schmid stated that surrounding communities such as Wellsville and Mendon may not have the capacity to independently support EMS services and noted ongoing discussions with regional fire leadership. He further discussed the importance of coordinated regional service delivery to avoid duplication of resources.

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of a south end fire district and challenges in achieving interlocal agreement among multiple municipalities. A discussion ensued on staffing models for fire and EMS, including phased hiring approaches using part-time, non-benefited personnel to allow gradual program development. Proposed positions include Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, EMS roles, and firefighter/AEMT classifications. Further discussion included call volume considerations, staffing comparisons, and the potential for a hybrid staffing model that

