

MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD MAY 18, 2026 AT THE HYRUM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 60 WEST MAIN, HYRUM, UTAH.

CONVENED: 5:000 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 five members representing a quorum, Mayor Miller called the meeting to order.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Administrator Daniel Ferris, and City Treasurer Todd Perkins. City Recorder Stephanie Fricke recorded the minutes.

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Miller

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 18, 2026 as published. Councilmember Foulger seconded the motion and Councilmembers Foulger, Michael Nelson, NaLyn 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 2026-20276 budget year.

Discussion was held regarding manpower requests and staffing needs within several City departments.

Councilmember Rasmussen discussed proposed changes within the Fire Department and stated that information had been received from the department regarding staffing needs. He stated that Museum Director Jamie VanHuss currently has up to \$35,000 in allocated funding available to assist with a salary adjustment to move her position to full-time status. Jamie has been successful in securing additional funding through the Museum and Elite Hall and noted that she currently has had full-time employment offers Jamie had previously turned down a full-time opportunity with Brigham City because she was happy working for Hyrum City. He expressed concern that losing Jamie would significantly set back the Museum program and noted that she currently supports approximately fifty percent of Courtney's position through grant funding. He stated that if Jamie were to leave, the City would likely lose that grant funding as well. A substantial investment has been made over the years in the Museum program and that losing Jamie would not be beneficial for the City. He also noted that Jamie has received two national recognitions for her work within the museum industry.

Councilmember Foulger asked what the \$35,000 in the Museum Budget represented.

A short discussion ensued regarding the Museum's nondiscretionary funds that were not specifically allocated to programs or activities.

City Treasurer Todd Perkins said he was unsure where the funding originated.

Councilmember Rasmussen said the Museum Foundation conducts multiple fundraising events throughout the year and raises several thousand dollars annually. He stated that foundation funding has been used for feasibility studies, matching grants, and other Museum-related projects.

Mayor Miller asked for clarification regarding the \$35,000 funding. Dan explained that the funds are currently available through grant funding that could be used during the first year to offset salary costs, but that the funding is not recurring.

Mayor Miller asked which account contained the \$35,000. He stated that he did not feel comparisons between the Museum and the Library

were appropriate because the Library experiences significantly greater patron usage. Mayor Miller noted that the Museum is only open part-time and stated that he rarely sees visitors in the Museum. He expressed concern regarding how the City could justify a full-time Museum Director position from a fiscal standpoint, particularly if additional part-time help would still be required. He asked whether there may be alternative ways to utilize Jamie's grant-writing skills or expertise on a part-time basis and stated that he was struggling to justify a full-time Museum Director position.

Councilmember Nelson stated that he had visited the Museum several times at different times of the day and had not seen many visitors. He questioned what direction the City wanted the Museum to grow toward in the future and stated that if he were looking to grow his own career, he would likely pursue other opportunities.

Councilmember Wright stated that with the changes occurring within the Fire Department there will also need to be additional support within the office and that needs to be budgeted for.

Mayor Miller asked what direct benefit the Museum provides to Hyrum citizens. He suggested installing a camera system to accurately track Museum attendance and visitor numbers.

Discussion then shifted to Recreation Department staffing.

Councilmember Foulger asked whether an assistant position was necessary for the Recreation Department and what the parameters were for the department. The Recreation Manager was hired one year ago and he has been busy creating numerous new programs, but at what point does Hyrum fund the Recreation Department and since most of these programs were established in last year's budget maybe the existing programs will not need the amount of time that was needed to establish the programs.

City Administrator Dan Ferris stated that Recreation Manager Robert Stroud has already helped organize revenue-generating programs and explained that the position could largely pay for itself and remain revenue neutral. He stated that in the year Robert has worked with the department he has done a phenomenal job.

Councilmember Foulger discussed the growth of recreation programs including baseball, basketball, and other smaller programs and

noted that when staff are managing major programs there is limited time available for additional responsibilities.

Councilmember Nelson stated that some recreation programs originally intended to be part-time have continued growing into full-time operations with additional staffing needs.

Councilmember Wright stated that the City Council needs to determine how much it wants departments to continue to grow. He stated that City employees are doing excellent work and deserve recognition, but the City must decide how large each department should become moving forward.

Mayor Miller stated that recreation programs are greatly appreciated by the community because they allow residents to participate locally in Hyrum. He further noted concerns about employee burnout and retaining quality employees.

Additional Museum statistics were reviewed. The Museum is currently open 22 hours per week and closed two weeks out of the year. Reported attendance included 4,238 patrons annually, averaging approximately 85 visitors per week or 3.8 visitors per hour, not including attendance related to the Hot Wheels in Hyrum event. It was also reported that the Museum secured approximately \$43,000 in grant funding, not including smaller donations, and had recently received a RAPZ grant award. Additional programming activities, special events, and social media engagement statistics were also reviewed.

Budget reduction discussions followed. The Little Feeder walking trail project was reduced to design work only at approximately \$45,000 rather than the originally discussed \$300,000 project cost. The canyon parking lot project was deleted. Road projects were reduced by approximately \$435,000. Park landscaping and the dog park project were delayed for one year. The Part Time Assistant for Recreation was eliminated from the budget. A full time position for the Museum Director was not approved.

The Council discussed staffing support for the Senior Center and also discussed the proposed Engineering Technician position. It was noted that the Engineering Technician would assist with storm water management, inspections, GIS mapping, and potentially provide support for Tony Ekins as needed.

