

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 23, 2024

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at www.utah.gov/pmn and video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXTCou-SPF8.

Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Lena Pace led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Luke Wojciechowski, Jason Taylor, Colin Topper and Kaitlin Myers attended. Also in attendance were Interim City Manager David Everitt, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Community Development Director Michael Black, Transit Coordinator and Grant Writer Richard Lory, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton Jr., Assistant Engineer Mark Jolissaint, Human Resource Director Dani Guerrero, Treasurer Marcy Mason, Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin and seven members of the public.

Amendment to the Agenda:

Mayor Langianese requested a change in the order of the agenda to accommodate a staff member who had an education commitment later in the evening. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve an amendment to the agenda, moving General Business to follow Public Comments. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Dee Taylor spoke about a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plan for Mill Creek that he said was prepared two years ago. He said he expected monthly meetings with the City regarding the plan but stated he had no meetings in the past two years. He commented on the possibility of using revenues from the Transient Room Tax (TRT) for flood mitigation. He also spoke about exiting gabion retaining structures in Mill Creek and noted that as flood season commences, there is still debris blocking the creek. He mentioned the City has active permits to allow work in the creek.

Sara Melnicoff commended the police department following an incident she witnessed involving an intoxicated driver apprehended at a City park.

Pete Gross noted the improved morale of the police and commended the department. He spoke about the third anniversary of the noise ordinance that enabled the police department to cite overly loud vehicles. He asked if the City could bring a previous noise expert who served as a consultant to the City. He asked if the consultant could be engaged to offer training for law enforcement officers. He stated there is ample evidence that noise has negative impacts on wildlife and humans, including on child development.

General Business:

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Strategic Plan—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Treasurer Mason presented the City website's strategic planning pages. She demonstrated how a strategic goal could be tracked. Councilmember Myers noted the 19 percent completion rate is based on a 2030 target completion date. Councilmember Taylor clarified there are periodic amendments to the plan.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Taylor moved to approve **Resolution 19-2024:** adopting a City of Moab fiscal year 2024-2025 strategic plan. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

Introduction of Lena Pace—National Park Service Superintendent

Newly appointed Superintendent of the Southeast Utah Group of the National Park Service, Lena Pace, introduced herself. She said a draft environmental assessment for the planned timed entry program at

Arches would be released in August. She spoke about a comprehensive river management plan and Moab's recent Dark Sky certification. She invited communication and dialog with Council.

Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Road Safety Audit

Community Development Director Black introduced the recent UDOT road safety audit conducted for two miles of Main Street. Jared Beard and Cody Marchant from UDOT Region IV presented data, which focused on pedestrian safety. Marchant presented priorities that could enhance pedestrian safety, including short-term high priorities such as removing obstructions from sidewalks, repairing damaged sidewalks, and completing a speed study. He also presented mid-term, second priority proposals such as signal timing and optimization, which he said had garnered an award for Moab's equipment and improving visibility of crosswalks. He also mentioned planting less impactful tree species along Main Street. Also presented were third priority, more long-term enhancements to pedestrian safety including curb bulb outs, variable message signs, and medians to reduce left-turn conflicts. The UDOT representatives spoke about the importance of a City vision for Main Street. The results of a speed study on Main Street were presented and announced a traffic signal for the Aggie Boulevard / Mill Creek intersection on Highway 191 would be installed in early 2025. Safe Driving tips concluded the presentation, including a plea to drive alert, focused, calm, sober and buckled. Interim City Manager Everitt asked about bicycle safety and Beard brought UDOT's interest in facilitating active transportation infrastructure. He mentioned the City's downtown plan would inform planning for bicycle parking, bike lanes and trails. Councilmember Topper asked about the level of service for pedestrians. Black said the next step in the process would be the City's assessment of priorities and communicated them to UDOT. He announced a work session in the Fall with stakeholders to assess implementation of enhancements over five years regarding walkability, bicycle traffic and commerce on Main Street. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd thanked Beard and Marchant for the information. It was announced the results of the study are available on the City's planning department webpage.

Administrative Services Update:

Interim City Manager Everitt reviewed the annual audit and stated that, overall, the report was positive. He noted a few items at the closeout of the fiscal year and presented his response to the findings in the audit, which included an occurrence when the fund balance exceeded the allowable limit due to delays in transfers of revenues to other funds, such as the road fund. Everitt said the City was on track to be compliant this year. He also noted a finding that accruals needed to be timelier regarding posting in the proper fiscal year; he said the City had been working to accrue expenses properly. He concluded by stating that the next audit would be completed in September. Everitt also noted the end of the year reconciliation would be completed in August when tax revenue data is available, and he anticipated the final numbers would be very close to what was budgeted. He said the fund balance was healthy. Councilmember Myers asked for clarification about the unrestricted fund balance versus encumbered funds to designated to be transferred.

Consent Agenda—Approved

Councilmember Wojciechowski moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: a letter of commitment for the Utah State University (USU) Extension Healthy Utah Program, approval of minutes for the July 9, 2024, regular meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$2,785,213.33. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Wojciechowski voting aye.

City Manager Updates: Interim City Manager Everitt announced one of the pool pumps at the recreation center had failed and been repaired. He said the new aquatics manager was hired. Everitt reported on Walnut Lane and stated the initiative to relocate residents was complete and the removal of the trailers was in process. He reminded the public that the open enrollment for trash and recycling was in effect. He concluded by stating the City had been working with residents in the Mountain View neighborhood regarding traffic impacts during the Kane Creek Boulevard reconstruction.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd reminded the public about the ice cream social at the museum. She announced an upcoming meeting of the housing authority.

Councilmember Wojciechowski announced work on overdose awareness and recovery, and proposed vision services at the Moab Free Health Clinic. He reported on a meeting of the Moab Area Watershed Partnership, and the Rim-To-Rim five-year plan for its \$5.2 million grant for flood mitigation work. He reported on the Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency audit and said so far, no algae have been reported in Kens Lake.

Councilmember Topper reported on an active trails interlocal agreement and said he participated in a public event to discuss the property tax. He also reported on a solid waste district meeting.

Councilmember Myers reported on a meeting of the Community Renewable Energy board and mentioned a Giv Group affordable housing project. She said she attended the free concert series and had been conducting research on the impacts of the proposed property tax.

Councilmember Taylor reported on a meeting of the Emergency Medical Services board and indicated a loan would be sought to cover expenses during lean months. He said he attended the property tax event and the free concert series.

Mayor Langianese reported progress on the City Manager interview process. She also said she participated in a meeting with the Utah League of Cities and Towns resort communities' group to discuss the upcoming legislative session. She said transient room taxes were a concern as well as possible legislation regarding short term rentals. She brought up the Houses Act proposed by Senator Lee. She concluded by announcing an August 6 Truth in Taxation hearing regarding the proposed property tax.

Adjournment: Councilmember Wojciechowski moved to adjourn. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder