

**NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

February 4, 2025

The North Ogden City Council convened on February 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at North Ogden City Hall at 505 East 2600 North.

Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on January 30, 2025.

Notice of the annual meeting schedule was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on December 11, 2024.

Note: The time stamps indicated in blue correspond with the recording of this meeting, which can be located on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6fclhQ/videos> or by requesting a copy of the audio file from the North Ogden City Recorder.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

S. Neal Berube	Mayor
Ryan Barker	Council Member
Blake Cevering	Council Member (excused)
Jay D Dalpias	Council Member
Chris Pulver	Council Member
Christina Watson	Council Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
Rian Santoro	City Recorder
Scott Hess	Community and Economic Development Director
David Espinoza	Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager
Bryce Nelson	Administrative Services Manager (Zoom)

VISITORS:

Kevin Burns	Stefanie Casey (Zoom)
Sandy Cochran	Susan Kilborn (Zoom)
Phillip Swanson	Rod (Zoom)

0:00:00 Mayor Berube called the meeting to order and Council Member Dalpias offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance

CONSENT AGENDA

1. CALL FOR CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

0:01:46 No conflict of interest was disclosed.

ACTIVE AGENDA

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:02:29 Phillip Swanson, a North Ogden City resident, informed the Council that Casey Kunimura, a resident and member of the 442nd All-Japanese Regiment, will be turning 100 this month. He requested that the City consider issuing a proclamation or other form of recognition to honor Mr. Kunimura's distinguished service, emphasizing the significance of recognizing World War II Veterans while they are still with us. Mayor Berube responded by requesting additional background information, which Phillip agreed to provide within the next few days. The Council acknowledged the importance of recognizing Mr. Kunimura's contributions.

3. DISCUSSION ON POLICY FOR SNOW REMOVAL ON CUL-DE-SAC LOTS

0:03:41 The City Council discussed potential changes to the snow removal ordinance, focusing on defining "promptly" and addressing citizen concerns about snow storage, particularly in cul-de-sacs. A citizen sought clarification on their responsibilities for clearing sidewalks, especially during extreme snowfall. The Council debated whether to introduce a specific timeframe for snow removal but acknowledged the challenges of enforcement, as by the time warnings are issued, the snow may have melted or been plowed multiple times. Concerns were also raised about residents throwing snow into the street, which Police Officers have been addressing as a traffic safety issue. Council Member Dalpiaz suggested considering exceptions for problematic cul-de-sacs, but there was no strong consensus on implementing such a policy. Council Member Pulver noted that most cities do not specify a timeframe for "promptly," making it a common standard. The Public Works Director explained that designated snow storage areas in newer developments don't always align with actual plowing practices. Other suggestions included allowing the Public Works Director to grant exceptions in unusual circumstances and prioritizing snow clearance in areas identified as Safe Routes to School.

However, the Mayor and Council emphasized the importance of ensuring safety for all pedestrians, not just students. Ultimately, the Council decided not to specify a timeframe for "promptly" and to leave the ordinance as it is, without the proposed 48-hour requirement or additional exemptions.

4. **DISCUSSION ON POLICY AND CONCERNS SURROUNDING CODE ENFORCEMENT AND RULES REGULATING PRIVATE PROPERTY**

0:31:39 The Council discussed the challenges of enforcing codes and safety regulations. Concerns were raised about businesses causing traffic hazards, with Council Members emphasizing the need for proactive enforcement of life and safety issues rather than reactive responses. The Council discussed the importance of educating the public on enforcement policies and ensuring consistency when addressing complaints. Discussions included the impact of street and parking issues on safety, with Council Member Pulver stressing the need to prevent accidents before they happen. Mayor Berube directed Staff to define key safety concerns and identify proactive enforcement measures. The Council acknowledged limited resources and the necessity of prioritizing enforcement based on severity.

Another key topic was property maintenance, particularly landscaping requirements. Some properties repeatedly change ownership without proper landscaping, leading to discussions about strengthening ordinances and potential penalties. Council Members debated whether landscaping should be required at the time of sale and how to balance beautification with practical enforcement.

Regarding fines and penalties, The Council debated whether existing fines are effective in motivating compliance, with some properties consistently paying fines without addressing violations. Mayor Berube pointed out that fines should be structured to correct behavior rather than being a minor inconvenience for violators. Council Members acknowledged that different financial situations affect how individuals respond to fines and agreed to explore adjustments that would create stronger incentives for compliance. The discussion concluded with a directive for Staff to refine policies on code enforcement, safety prioritization, and property maintenance. Staff will return with recommendations for ordinance changes and enforcement strategies, ensuring the City's approach is fair, effective, and focused on improving safety and community standards.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1:28:27 Sandy Cochran, a North Ogden City resident, addressed the Council regarding public concerns and confusion surrounding the responsibilities of the City concerning a specific business, Tri-City Exchange, and its operational challenges. She noted that there has been significant discussion on social media, with residents expressing various opinions on what actions the City should take, including installing a lit crosswalk, increasing police presence, or even assisting the business in relocating. She emphasized that such measures would involve taxpayer funds and questioned whether it was appropriate for the City to allocate resources for these purposes.

Sandy suggested that the Council hold an open discussion to clarify the City's role and responsibilities, as many residents appear to misunderstand what the City can and should do. She also referenced past concerns about the business owner's financial struggles and differing public opinions on whether the business was seeking community support appropriately. While she acknowledged the business's importance, she reiterated that North Ogden should not be expected to bear the financial burden of relocating it. She encouraged the Council to address these issues publicly to ensure that residents have a clear understanding of the City's obligations and limitations.

In response, Mayor Berube acknowledged the importance of the discussion and noted that, as residents become more aware of code violations, they will likely begin asking what enforcement actions the City will take. He confirmed that the issue has been on the City's radar for several years but that no proposed solution has yet been accepted by the Council.

1:32:46 Phillip Swanson, a North Ogden City resident, raised a concern regarding the effectiveness of the City's code enforcement. He questioned whether it is worth having certain codes, such as those related to property maintenance, if the City is unwilling to invest in the necessary personnel and resources to enforce them. He highlighted an example of a neighboring property with overgrown weeds and emphasized the importance of considering whether it's worth having codes that cannot be properly enforced due to resource limitations. Phillip referenced past instances, such as outdated laws about walking barefoot in parks, to illustrate how some codes may be outdated or irrelevant if they aren't actively enforced.

He encouraged the Council to evaluate whether enforcing certain codes is a priority and, if not, consider removing them from the books.

The Mayor responded by noting that many Cities face similar challenges, with some using sworn officers for code enforcement. He acknowledged the issue of balancing

having ordinances on the books for potential enforcement versus the reality of enforcing them only when a problem arises.

The Mayor also mentioned the Chief's request for additional Code Enforcement Officers and indicated that a combination of approaches might be considered in the future.

1:36:24 Kevin Burns, a North Ogden City resident, shared his concerns regarding the handling of non-emergency calls and traffic issues along Washington Boulevard. He raised a concern about using the emergency 911 system for non-emergency issues, particularly code enforcement matters. Burns emphasized the burden on the Dispatch Center, which serves multiple entities, and suggested it might be more efficient for residents to contact their local City directly for code enforcement issues during regular business hours. He expressed concern about overloading 911 Dispatchers, who are already dealing with staff shortages.

Kevin also addressed the ongoing issue on Washington Boulevard, particularly regarding Tri-City Exchange operating in the area. He proposed considering this as a weekly event rather than a regular business operation, which might allow for better management, including hiring professional traffic control rather than relying on volunteers without authority. Kevin noted that parking issues in the area are a concern, and he was surprised that UDOT had not intervened, given their jurisdiction over State roads. He also compared the situation to Big O Tires' previous parking issues and suggested the City might be overlooking more severe problems in the vicinity. Kevin further suggested that, if treated as an event, the business could be subject to additional regulations, such as obtaining a mass gathering permit from the Health Department, which would require amenities like restrooms, hand washing stations, and trash receptacles. He encouraged the City to think creatively when addressing these ongoing concerns.

1:40:06 Susan Kilborn, a North Ogden City resident, expressed concern over the verbiage in the City's snow removal ordinance, mentioning that she is particular about grammar. Although she had already raised the issue with someone at the meeting and planned to discuss it further with Jon, she felt no need to elaborate on it during the public comment. Susan also discussed the Tri-City Exchange, noting that it is not a 501(c)(3) corporation and, therefore, must adhere to all applicable business laws. She mentioned that multiple agencies are currently investigating the organization on matters outside the City's jurisdiction. She agreed with previous comments from Sandy and Kevin about the safety concerns related to the Tri-City Exchange, as she frequently passes by the location and finds it concerning.

1:42:45 Stefanie Casey, a North Ogden City resident, shared concerns regarding safety issues related to parking on her street, particularly during the North Pole event. She expressed agreement with previous comments about the Tri-City Exchange and noted the dangers of driving on Washington Boulevard, where she finds it concerning due to pedestrians running out without caution.

Stefanie then highlighted a specific issue on her street, where parking is allowed on both sides despite posted signs indicating "no parking during events." She emphasized the safety risks posed by parked cars, including blocked access for emergency vehicles and the danger posed by children running out between parked cars in poorly lit conditions. While she and her neighbors are not bothered by parking in front of their homes, she urged the City to either enforce the "no parking" signs, as they are meant for safety, or remove the signs altogether. Stefanie also noted that when she and others try to inform drivers about the potential for tickets, they are often met with verbal hostility. She called for a resolution to the parking issue, either by enforcing the existing rules or removing the signs.

6. MAYOR/COUNCIL/COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS

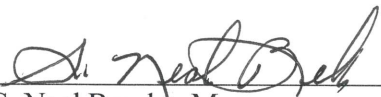
1:45:57 Council Member Delpias shared a concern raised by a resident about the intersection of 550 East and 2600 North, where a fatal accident occurred last year. The resident reported that the crosswalk at this location is poorly lit, which led to an incident where his wife nearly hit three pedestrians while turning. Council Member Delpias acknowledged the ongoing concern and suggested that brighter lighting might help improve safety, especially on the side of the intersection where the lighting is less effective. He mentioned that he would follow up with the Police Chief for updates on the issue.

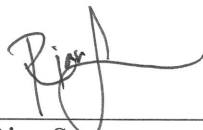
City Manager/Attorney Jon Call provided an estimate for the cost of installing a streetlight, citing the recent installation of lights on Washington Boulevard, which cost about \$18,000 each, with a lower cost of approximately \$8,800 for a recent installation, though that involved a wooden pole rather than a decorative one.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.


S. Neal Berube, Mayor


Rian Santoro
City Recorder

2/25/25
Date Approved

