

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025
PUBLIC MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Blaine Porter, Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman arrived at 6:29 p.m.

Also present were Terry Olsen, Tara Woolsey, Paula Shakespear, Krystal Gurr, Hayden Taylor, Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Fred Spencer, Terence Tontlewicz, Sandra Holcomb, Randy Holcomb, Steve Witzdam, Page Witzdam, Jared Dunton, Julie Brugger, Nancy Porter, Elaine Lott, Garin Apperson, Haylee Apperson, Paige Collett, Victory Crawford, Lawrence Barnes, Greg Shakespear and Emilee Lott.

Roger Carter, Megan Haws and Ashley Coombs joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Orme moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2025 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Orme moved to open the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Orme, Wilson, and Stowe voting aye.

RESOLUTION 2025-01 – ESCALANTE CITY 2025 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

Council member Porter explained Resolution 2025-01. Mayor Torgersen asked if there were any questions or concerns from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Stowe moved to close the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. Council member

Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Porter and Wilson voting aye.

DECISION ON RESOLUTION 2025-01 – ESCALANTE CITY 2025 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

Council member Wilson said on page two the initial development of springs, initial construction of a pipeline from the springs to the City and initial construction of the City water distribution system needs to be changed from 1890s to 1935-1936. **Council member Porter moved to adopt Resolution 2025-01 Escalante City 2025 Water Conservation Plan with changing the dates on the top 3 items on page two to 1935-1936. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Wilson and Porter voting aye.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

RJ'S TRUCK STOP INC. – LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSENT – 80 EAST MAIN

Mayor Torgersen explained this Local Authority Consent is for the new owners of the Phillips 66. **Council member Wilson moved to approve the Local Authority Consent for RJ's Truck Stop Inc. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

SPONSORSHIP BANNER \$1000.00 – RIDING CLUB

City Recorder Steed explained she contacted Justin Porter with the Riding Club about getting a banner for the city to have displayed during the 24th of July rodeo. Council member Orme said she would like to stick with the \$750.00 event donations. Jared Dunton explained the bronze, silver and gold sponsorship. **Council member Orme moved to donate \$750.00 to the Riding Club for a sponsorship banner. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Porter and Wilson voting aye.**

MAGNOLIA'S KITCHEN - LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSENT – 280 EAST MAIN

Council member Orme moved to approve the Local Authority Consent for Magnolia's Kitchen. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.

SANDRA HOLCOMB – MOQUI SUCCESS PROGRAM \$500.00 DONATION

Ms. Holcomb said at this time the High School has this program and it is a success. Ms. Holcomb explained the program aims to improve students' academic performance and provide incentives for personal goals. Ms. Holcomb said she would like to implement this program into the Elementary School and is asking the City to donate \$500.00 to help with the prizes for the students. **Council member Stowe moved to donate \$500.00 to the Moqui Success Program. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY – 10 NORTH 300 EAST

Mayor Torgersen explained her efforts in acquiring the old elementary school property from the School District. Mayor Torgersen said she has negotiating terms that ensured the district would have to buy it back at a fair market value if the City purchased it and decided to sell it in the future. Mayor Torgersen said she is concerned about the property's condition and the potential for it to become an eyesore if not properly maintained. Mayor Torgersen said she would like to purchase the property so the City would have control over it. Mayor Torgersen said if the City purchases the property we could turn it into a community park, with plans for pickleball courts and other recreational facilities, with the hope of securing grants for the projects. **Council member Wilson moved to purchase the old Elementary School Property from Garfield County School District. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

COMMUNITY PARK PROJECT

Mayor Torgersen said during the last City Council meeting the Council made a motion to move forward with a grant to place Pickleball Courts at the old Mohr Christensen Park but she feels where we are purchasing the School District Property this would be a better location. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Stowe moved to move forward with the grant for pickleball courts at the old Elementary School property. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

Council member Lyman arrived at this time.

OPEN AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT TRAINING WITH ESCALANTE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND ESCALANTE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE DISTRICT BOARD.

Roger Carter with Five County Associations provided an Open and Public Meetings Act training for the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission and the Escalante Cemetery Maintenance District.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed said the budget and financial reports are available for review.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said since the last meeting the Fire Department has assisted 506 with some carry-outs and providing drivers for the ambulance.

Mr. Weppner said they have received all the new turnouts and distributed them to the Fire Fighters. Mr. Weppner said they are keeping some of the best used turnouts for future members.

Mr. Weppner said they are still Lacking some of the hose supply they ordered with the grant money.

Mr. Weppner said they are still having issues with the paging system.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN

Mayor Torgersen said next year is Escalante's 150-year celebration. Mayor Torgersen said she feels that the community's 150th year celebration should be a city-sponsored event, potentially involving decorations and activities around the 24th of July.

Mayor Torgersen said she would like to have some work meetings to start working on the 2025-2026 budget. This item was discussed and City Recorder Steed will schedule a work meeting for March 18, 2025.

JARED DUNTON GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Deputy Dunton reported things have been slow on the East side of the County but the West side has been busy with traffic. Deputy Dunton said things at the Sheriff's office are good and they are happy with their schedules.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman said he and Council member Wilson discussed the ongoing work on the water tank road, including cleaning out the pond, redoing the ditch and putting in a culvert.

Council member Lyman said he has contacted the Utah Division of Transportation (UDOT) and Garfield County road crew about chip sealing our roads this year. Council member Lyman said the County has been helpful and he appreciates them.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe said she would like to look at fixing up the Old Community Center so the City can rent it out for events. Council member Stowe said Mayor Torgersen has been in contact with Callie Ward from Garfield County to help us look for a grant. Council member Stowe said we need to take out the old carpet and replace the windows.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Porter moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Lyman, Wilson and Porter voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session needed at this time.

Council member Orme moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Stephanie Steed, MMC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 03/18/2025