

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 15, 2025
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 joined electronically.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Melyssa Holbrook, Fred Spencer, Bob Hartman, Karen Munson, Julie Brugger, Lawrence Barnes, Peggy Griffin, Elaine Baldwin and Terence Tontlewicz.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2025 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ELAINE BALDWIN

Ms. Baldwin said she has been asked by the County Commissioners to organize America's 250-year celebration, starting January 1, 2026, and encouraged each town in the county to participate. Ms. Baldwin explained there is state funding available for banners and other community projects, with a maximum of \$1,500 per town. Ms. Baldwin invited volunteers from Escalante to join the committee and said they plan to have one in person meeting followed by Zoom meetings. Ms. Baldwin informed the Council about three large events planned for different areas in the county. Mayor Torgersen said someone from the City Council will be on the committee and she will contact Ms. Baldwin as soon as possible with who that member will be.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

KAREN MUNSON – CITY EMPLOYEES INSTALLING SHADES FOR THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Ms. Munson said they asked the Arts Festival if they could use their shades for the park and are now asking if the city employees could help put them up. Council member Porter said he is concerned about guaranteeing the employees' availability. This item was discussed at length and Mayor Torgersen explained the City employees have helped the Arts Festival in the past hanging the shades. **Council member Porter moved to have the public work department put the shades up if they are available. There was no second.**

Council member Orme amended the motion to have the City employees help put the shades up with the available resources the City has. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.

KAREN MUNSON – TEMPORARY BILLBOARD NEXT TO THE MOHR CHRISTENSEN PARK GATE

Ms. Munson explained she contacted City Recorder Steed requesting permission to hang a temporary billboard next to the Mohr Christensen Park gates, and was told she would need permission from the City and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). Ms. Munson said she got approval from Matt Rhodes with UDOT and is now asking for City permission. **Council member Porter moved to allow Ms. Munson to put the billboard up at the Mohr Christensen Park by the gates. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Porter, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

REVIEW GREASE TRAP ORDINANCE

Council member Wilson explained this ordinance (attached). This item was discussed, and Council member Wilson will add to the ordinance "written record of disposal available to the city upon request." City Attorney Huntington suggested changing the Class C Misdemeanor to an infraction. **Council member Porter moved to move forward with this ordinance adding a written record of disposal available to the city upon request, changing the Class C Misdemeanor to an infraction and schedule a public hearing on June 17, 2025. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

REVIEW ORDINANCE 5.08.040 AMENDMENTS -ALCOHOL IN CITY OWNED BUILDING OR CITY PREMISES

Council member Wilson asked if the ordinance should read no person should consume or possess any alcoholic beverage inside a city-owned building or if it should say in city-owned buildings and on city premises. This item was discussed at length and the council agreed to make these changes to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations. **Council member Wilson moved to move forward with this ordinance adding and on city premises and schedule a public hearing on June 17, 2025. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

REVIEW ORDINANCE 08.04.050 C2A, C4C AND 7A – SEWER IMPACT FEES, CONNECTION FEES AND BASE RATE.

City Recorder Steed suggested changing the sewer impact fees to \$500.00 and the connection fees to \$1,000 but emphasized the need for a capital project study to determine the necessity of these fees. City Recorder Steed also proposed increasing the sewer base rate from \$27.00 to \$30.00 to better fund maintenance and projects. City Recorder Steed suggested consulting with Rural Water and Engineer Richard White for assistance with the study and rate changes. **Council member Orme moved to move forward with this ordinance and schedule a public hearing on June 17, 2025. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

REVIEW ORDINANCE 10.06 AMENDMENTS - BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

City Recorder Steed said this ordinance would transition from a five-member board to a one-member appeals authority, with Kayden Figgins the County Planner as the potential appointee. **Council member Orme moved to move forward with this ordinance and schedule a public hearing on June 17, 2025. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT – PURCHASE TRAILER FOR STORING FIREWORK’S.

Mr. Weppner explained the Fire Department has found an 18’ enclosed trailer for \$5,500.00 to store the fireworks in. Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department is requesting approval to purchase the enclosed trailer plus \$250.00 for some minor repairs. **Council member Wilson moved to purchase the trailer for storing the fireworks for \$5,500.00 plus \$250.00 for repairs. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Porter, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed reported on the Records Institute and Academy she attended last week highlighting the impact of legislative changes on small towns and thanked the council for sending her.

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 not been on any calls.

Mr. Weppner said they are still struggling with radios the city purchased, and they need to be reprogrammed again. Mr. Weppner said the issue is Statewide.

Mr. Weppner explained 506 has asked the Fire Department to drive the ambulance when needed.

Mayor Torgersen asked Mr. Weppner if he was able to discuss using the stables at the rodeo grounds for fire training. Mr. Weppner said they will need to take a closer look at them to see if it

is something they will be able to do. Mr. Weppner said one concern is manure and nails. City Recorder Steed said Heather Dunton has contacted the County to help remove the manure.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN

Mayor Torgersen had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman had nothing to report at this time.

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 had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Stowe 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 Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

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

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 05/06/2025