

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 6, 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, Marlene Stowe, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Lenza Wilson arrived at 6:11 p.m. Council member Chad Lyman arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Terence Tontlewicz, Tara Woolsey, Fred Spencer, Julie Brugger, Victory Crawford, Ben Welch and Lacy Welch.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2025 MEETING

Council member Stowe moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe 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

ESCALANTE HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL DONATION

Mayor Torgersen said this item may need to be tabled due to no one from the Football program being present. Council member Orme said we have money in the budget, but she feels like we need specific details about what they need. **Council member Orme moved to table this item until the next meeting on May 20, 2025. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter and Orme voting aye.**

ESCALANTE HIGH SCHOOL - VOLLEYBALL DONATION

Tara Woolsey explained that the Volleyball Team is attending a camp this summer, and each

participant will be paying for a portion of it. Ms. Woolsey said they are also doing fundraising and asking for donations to help pay for the camp. **Council member Stowe moved to donate \$500.00 to the Escalante High School Volleyball Team. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye.**

CANYONS OF ESCALANTE RV PARK – HOT AIR BALLOON EVENT SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2025

BEN AND LACY WELCH

Council member Wilson arrived at this time.

Mr. Welch explained their plans for a small balloon festival in September, aiming for six balloons. Mrs. Welch said they would like to involve the local schools, with a tethered hot air balloon at the elementary and high school. Mr. Welch said they would like to launch from the rodeo grounds with the preferred landing being at the airport. Mr. Welch said they have talked to landowners to get approval to land on their property if needed. Mr. Welch said they will have sponsorship opportunities for businesses and the city. Mr. Welch explained there may be a need for a crew of 4 to 5 members for each balloon that could be community members. **Council member Porter moved to support the Hot Air Balloon Event. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

AARON J. KERR – USE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR AA MEETINGS

Mayor Torgersen said Mr. Kerr is not in attendance tonight but is asking to use the community center once a week for AA meetings. City Recorder Steed said the Innovation Center has a conference room that might work better for the AA meeting. **Council member Wilson moved to allow Mr. Kerr to use the old Community Center for AA Meetings schedule dependent. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

TENTATIVE BUDGET

Council member Lyman arrived at this time.

City Recorder Steed explained the 2026 Tentative Budget (attached). City Recorder Steed said she received notice that the city received the Pickleball court grant from the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation in the amount of \$180,000.00 and explained the 2026 budget will need to be amended to reflect the project. **Council member Orme moved to approve the 2026 Tentative Budget as presented. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

City Recorder Steed reported on the Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference and thanked the Council for sending her.

City Recorder Steed explained it is the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks week and asked the mayor to sign the proclamation recognizing it. City Recorder Steed said it is also Teachers Appreciation week and thanked Council member Orme and all teachers.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT**BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner said since the last meeting there has been a major structure fire and three vehicular accidents, which involved over 220-man hours. Mr. Weppner mentioned a warning from the State fire marshal regarding insurance companies canceling policies and increasing liability for fire departments. Mr. Weppner explained the challenges faced during recent fire incidents, including the depletion of resources and the need for better communication to prevent future incidents. Mr. Weppner emphasized the importance of calling 911 immediately upon spotting smoke to ensure a quick response.

Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department discussed burning down the stables at the rodeo grounds, and they feel it is not wise to burn it down due to the lack of water and potential complaints from residents.

COUNCIL REPORTS**MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN**

Mayor Torgersen said after the last meeting Julie Brugger asked her to give updates on projects. Mayor Torgersen said we had our final walk through at the Clinic and they should finish in about two weeks. Mayor Torgersen said she is not sure when Wayne Community Clinic will be able to get the Dental moved over to the new building. Mayor Torgersen said the equipment for the wellness center will be here towards the end of May.

Mayor Torgersen said the city has received the Pickleball grant.

Mayor Torgersen said the annual Splash Pad Day event will be the first Friday in June. Mayor Torgersen said there will be hotdogs, snow cones, music, and games.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman said the County is anticipating starting the chipseal job on May 19, 2025.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter thanked the Council for sending him to the Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference. Council member Porter said he learned a lot at the conference.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe reported on the Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference. Council member Stowe said she learned a lot and met a lot of people.

Council member Stowe said she and City Recorder Steed attended a zoom meeting on America 250-year celebration. Council member Stowe said it was extremely helpful, and the city will need to create a resolution for the America's 250 years celebration to be eligible to receive a \$1,500 grant.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Lyman 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

Council member Orem moved to go into the executive session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual at 6:31p.m. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe, Wilson, Porter and Lyman voting aye. Present at the executive session were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Stowe, Lyman, Porter, Wilson, Orme, City Recorder Steed, Public Works Employees Daryl Griffin, Terry Olsen and Brent Pickering.

Council member Wilson moved to go out of the executive session back into the regular session at 8:00 p.m. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Porter, Stowe, Wilson and Orme voting aye.

Council member Porter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 05/20/2025