

May 2025 City Council

The Fountain Green City Council's rescheduled meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in the Fountain Green City Hall, 375 N. State Street.

Attendance – Kerry Farnsworth, Alyson Strait, Rod Hansen, Kim Johnson, and Jacob Littlefield.

Presiding – Mayor Mark Coombs

Pledge

Public Comment. No public comment was made.

1. Minutes.

Kerry Farnsworth motioned to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2025, City Council meeting as written. Seconded by Jacob Littlefield. A roll call vote was taken: Kerry – yes, Alyson – yes, Rod – yes, Kim – yes, and Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the March 20, 2025, city council minutes had not been approved.

Kim Johnson motioned to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2025, city council meeting as written. Seconded by Rod Hansen. A roll call vote was taken: Rod – yes, Kim – yes, and Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

2. Cell Tower.

Mayor Coombs thanked the public for attending the Public Meeting last month to discuss the proposed cell tower. In reviewing the information:

The Mayor confirmed that APC is the company that will be moving forward with the proposed installation of the cell tower.

Discussion Summary –

Connectivity Issues and Community Benefit:

- Councilmembers and residents shared concerns about poor cell phone and internet service in parts of the city.

- One resident noted that cellular internet had failed at his residence. He also emphasized the potential for internet cost savings.

- The tower would generate an annual income for the city, estimated at \$16,000 to \$20,000.

Community Concerns: Health, Safety, and Proximity –

- A resident expressed concerns regarding:

- *Potential impacts to water quality and the health of vulnerable individuals, such as children with autism.

- *There's a lack of conclusive research due to limited funding and access.

- *The proximity of the proposed site to homes, especially given EMF signal strength within a 400-yard radius.

- Councilmembers noted that no evidence currently links cell towers to water contamination.

Site Location Discussion: Upper vs. Lower Water Tank –

- There were some residents and councilmembers wondering if APC would consider moving the tower to the upper water tank, so that it would be further away from homes.

The Mayor explained:

*The lower tank is more favorable because the ground is flat, making it more stable and cost-effective for tower construction.

*The upper tank slopes significantly, and the only viable corner (northwest) would require costly construction for stability.

-City Officials agreed to ask APC to consider the upper tank despite the logistical challenges.

Legal Limitations –

-Federal law prohibits cities from denying cell tower applications outright.

-Cities may regulate tower placement but cannot prevent installation if basic requirements are met.

-Lawsuits against cell tower companies for health-related claims are now barred due to lack of scientific evidence.

-If the city declines the proposal, private landowners may sign a contract with a cell tower company, which:

*Removes city control over location.

*Forfeits potential revenue.

*Could place the tower closer to residential homes than the city's proposed site.

Kerry Farnsworth motioned to move forward with the cell tower and contact APC if they would consider installing the tower at the upper tank. Seconded by Kim Johnson.

A roll call vote was taken: Kerry – yes, Allison – yes, Rod – No, Kim – yes, Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

3. R6 Updates.

Shay reported on the following:

-The Utah League of Cities and Towns put together an annual calendar, outlining notice requirements for Elections and Truth in Taxation, along with other noticing requirements throughout the state.

-The Outdoor Recreation Initiative offers grant opportunities for community parks and recreation projects. Currently, Fountain Green does not have a project in progress, but it is recommended to begin early preparations. This includes identifying potential donors and community partners. Collecting letters of support. Securing accurate engineers' estimates and preparing site plans.

-In regard to biking/walking trails. Shay stated that the Utah Trail Network has developed a Master Trail System that includes requirements for developing the trails. He will forward the information to city officials.

-R6 has grant money that is available for elderly citizens who want to stay in their homes. It covers things like remodeling bathrooms, and more. There are brochures and pamphlets that Shay will bring to the next meeting. City Officials want to make sure this information gets to the qualified residents. Michelle will include it in the next city newsletter.

-CIB Funding. Discussion on current CIB funding. Shay explained that funding is low, however, critical infrastructure projects (water) are still being funded. Loan options under USDA may exist, but interest rates may be high. City Officials agree that protecting the City's long-term infrastructure is one of the highest priorities, but funding is a challenge.

4. Library Report.

Alyson gave the Library Report for Taryn.

-Moving closer to becoming certified.

-The Library Board is scheduled to approve the updated library policy and procedures on June 12th.

- They are launching a passport program as part of the Summer Reading Challenge.
- A Library Water Party is planned at the park on August 7th. Michelle will check with the City insurance to make sure bounce houses are covered.

5. Planning Commission Report.

- Three permits given: Detached Garage, House, and House addition.
- They are trying to finish up their fee schedules.
- Still trying to find a new member.
- Will hold a public hearing next month regarding Land Use changes.
- The Mayor thanks Planning Commission members for their time, especially those who attended the R6 Summit.

6. Fire Department Report.

- Had to address the fire that rekindled down at the city pit.
- Were able to respond quickly to a shed fire. Average response time is 7-10 minutes, which is great for a volunteer department.
- The Department made it through the ISO audit and will hopefully maintain the score (4) that they have right now. Todd explained, that a "4" is about the best score that they can get with such a small department.
- *They're goal for the next cycle is to keep better records.

7. Police Report.

Mayor Coombs had not received the report from the county.

8. Dance Hall Floor.

Alyson Strait motioned to accept the bid from Davenports for \$17,470 (with upgraded finish) along with an extra \$1,000 to fix the trip hazard in the entryway. Seconded by Jacob Littlefield. A roll call vote was taken: Kerry – yes, Alyson – yes, Rod – yes, Kim – yes, and Jacob – yes. Motion carried.

9. Fraud Risk Assessment.

- The annual fraud assessment was reviewed.
- Fountain Green City scored 355 points out of 395.
- Discussion on adding a fraud hotline to the city website.
- Improve score through training and documentation.

10. 2025-2026 Tentative Budget.

Rod Hansen motioned to approve the FY 2025-2026 Tentative Budget for \$801,972. Seconded by Alyson Strait. A roll call vote was taken: Kerry – yes, Alyson – yes, Rod – yes, Kim – yes, and Jacob – yes. Motion carried.
Copies of the budget are available in the office for the public to review.

11. Water In the Basement of the DUP.

The Council discussed the water in the basement of the DUP building. It appears to be coming through the cellar door on the north side of the building, probably due to the grade of the slope next to the building, forcing runoff from the north, east, and west sides.

Action Items:

- The City will evaluate and address the slope around the building, making sure the sprinklers are redirected away from the building.
- Downspouts from the building's roof need to be extended or piped further from the building to prevent water from pooling near the foundation.

12. Recap of the City Cleanup.

The annual city cleanup raised several concerns this year, leading the Council to question the sustainability and effectiveness of the current setup.

Issues Noted:

- Early Delivery of Containers: The two containers placed near the maintenance shed were dropped off Friday night instead of Saturday morning. As a result, they were already half full by the time city staff arrived Saturday morning.
- Unauthorized Dumping: Residents disregarded instructions and dumped unauthorized items. Some dumped materials at the base of the containers and drove off, expecting Curt to clean up after them.
- Entitlement Attitude: Some residents expected city workers to pick up items from their homes or demanded services beyond what was offered.
- Non-Resident Usage: There is concern that individuals outside of Fountain Green are using the cleanup services at both the dumpsters and the burn pit.
- Overfilled Containers: Containers were improperly loaded. Making it difficult to close the back door and requiring additional labor to compress the contents.
- Backhoe Issues: The backhoe has had repeated flat tires, causing delays, which was especially inconvenient during a burial on Saturday.

Cost Concerns:

- The city uses approximately 6-7 containers.
- Costs roughly \$500 for each container.
- The total estimated cost last year was nearly \$7,000.

Discussion Outcomes:

- Council members noted that the cleanup event has evolved from a community-side volunteer effort (focused originally on State Street) into a general dumping opportunity, often abused.
- While the annual cleanup does help keep the city clean, the Council is concerned about increasing costs and its misuse.
- Some towns, like Moroni, have adopted stricter measures-such as requiring proof of residency before allowing dumping.

Proposed Changes:

- Suspend Dumpsters for Next Year: Council proposes skipping dumpsters next year and reassessing the community response.
- Maintain Burn Pit Access: Continue to operate the burn pit, but limit usage to twice a year-spring and fall.
- Increased Oversight: Require at least two city representatives to be present at the burn pit to monitor and direct dumping.
- Explore Enforcement: Consider citations or enforcement for illegal dumping or ignoring directives.
- Improve Communication: Communicate expectations and rules regarding cleanup events to the public in advance.

13. Public Works Truck.

The Council discussed the upcoming expiration of the lease on the city's Public Works truck. Options presented included:

- Extending the current lease for one additional year,
- Entering into a new three-year lease for a replacement truck, or
- Purchasing a new truck outright.

City Officials agreed that the most cost-effective option should be pursued. Curt was asked to get estimates from vendors through state contacts for all makes of trucks.

After the discussion, they agreed to move forward with purchasing a truck outright rather than continuing with a lease.

Rod Hansen moved to proceed with purchasing a city truck and getting bids for different makes. Jacob Littlefield seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Kerry-yes, Alyson-yes, Rod-yes, Kim-yes, and Jacob-yes. Motion carried.

14. Cemetery Policy.

Presentation: Curt and Alyson presented the proposed updates to the cemetery policy.

Key Policy Changes Discussed:

1. Notice of a burial must be made no later than 72 hours prior.

2. Holiday Weekend Burials:

*In the event a holiday falls on a Monday or Friday, the Saturday will be observed as a Holiday.

2. Headstone Apron and Ornamentation Rules:

*Concerns were raised about headstones being placed before burials and the complications that create issues for staff.

*To maintain consistency and prevent damage, ornamentation must be attached to the concrete apron surrounding the headstone.

*Any items not attached to the apron violate policy and will be subject to immediate removal.

Enforcement Plan Regarding Ornamentation Placement:

1. Violations will be addressed by placing flyers on graves in violation (particularly around Memorial Day).

2. The item removed will be set between the cemetery shed and fence for later pickup.

3. Policy updates will be shared via:

*The City Website

*July's Newsletter

*Signage at the Cemetery

*If necessary, direct letters to known violators.

Council members discussed the importance of maintaining clear, enforceable rules while being respectful of varying grieving practices. They agreed it is the city's responsibility to uphold cemetery maintenance standards on city property.

Alyson Strait moved to approve the updates to the cemetery policy, specifically revising the section on obstructions to read: "Any ornamentation must be attached to the concrete apron. Any ornamentation not attached to the headstone apron will be subject to immediate removal." Jacob Littlefield seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Kerry-yes, Alyson-yes, Rod-yes, Kim-yes, and Jacob-yes. Motion carried.

15. City Report.

General Updates:

- Curt reported that it has been busy, with much of the focus on cemetery preparations and park maintenance ahead of Memorial Day.
- Water meters are read, and water samples have been taken.
- There have been two burials with another cremation scheduled.

Cemetery Work:

- At least two hours a day over the past three weeks have been spent at the cemetery, watering, grave prep, and sod installation.
- All graves have been sodded. Zack has been mowing. Curt will help him next week to prepare for Memorial Day.
- Spraying for weeds is scheduled for May 21st, for both the park and the cemetery.
- A water break in the culinary system caused a temporary shutdown.

Equipment and Maintenance:

- Trailer Jacks were installed to make equipment loading easier and safer.
- Concrete slab removed from the park (where the drinking fountain was located)
- Suggested purchase of an electric jackhammer and portable generator, as the city does not have either, but both are increasingly needed for maintenance and repairs.

Signage and Equipment Orders:

- " No Animal "signs for the park have been ordered.
- Decals for the mini-excavator and tractor are ready.

Water System Issues:

- A contractor allowed a subcontractor to tie into the city water system on a Saturday without authorization, causing weekend work and extra oversight.
- A reminder was made that Saturday work must be pre-approved.
- Future improvements will be needed to revamp the water system tied to the old fire station and the grass strip to the north when the building is sold.

Road and Asphalt Work:

- Christensen crews began saw-cutting patches and are expected to complete patching by the end of the week.
- Chip sealing is expected to start before Ryan's tournament on June 6-7.

Road Settlement & Trench repair Concerns:

1. Dip on 400 South-
 - A noticeable road dip was reported on 400 South near the Oliver's house, likely from a settled utility trench, the original contractor should be contacted for proper correction.
2. Trench Settlement on 200 North-
 - A separate sunken trench in the new subdivision on 200 North is still under contractor warranty.
 - The city has contacted the homeowner multiple times, most recently this week with no response.
 - The homeowner is responsible for the issue since it happened after the lot was purchased.
 - Despite assurances from the contractor that it would be repaired once asphalt production began, no action has been taken.
 - The city will notify the homeowner that if the work is not completed before the chip seal project begins, the city's asphalt contractor will do the work, and the homeowner will be billed.
3. Liability & Communication-

- Emphasis was placed on ensuring proper trench compaction and follow-up, particularly before chip sealing.

- For future cases, certified letters will be used to formally notify and document communication with property owners or contractors regarding repair deadlines.

Cemetery Headstone Condition & Restoration Discussion:

1. Observation-

- Several Headstones, particularly older ones, are tilted or leaning.

- This not only affects appearance but increases the risk of damage from mowing equipment and raises safety concerns.

2. Responsibility-

- Per city policy, headstones are considered personal property.

- Maintenance and repair are the responsibility of the lot owner, their heirs, or the party who placed them.

3. Concerns-

- Youth groups were suggested as possible helpers, but it was agreed that this work is too delicate and potentially hazardous for untrained volunteers.

- Some headstones are so old or weathered that inscriptions are no longer legible, and they may require professional handling.

- The presence of leaning or loose stones makes mowing more difficult and riskier.

4. Ideas & Next Steps:

- Laura could reach out to known families of affected headstones to notify them of needed repairs.

- Look for grant opportunities or preservation programs that could assist with handling the older headstones.

- Possibly tie it into the cemetery mapping project grant previously applied for, expanding it to include restoration needs.

Community Service Coordination – Tree Work & Park Maintenance

Purpose:

In preparation for Lamb Days and general park improvements, the city is coordinating with local church wards to help with two key projects:

1. Tree limb removal (especially around the ball diamond and the west side of the park)
2. Painting picnic tables, which are currently peeling badly.

Key Details & Plans:

1. Outreach-

- Stake Presidency has been contacted to help coordinate with the three Fountain Green Wards.

- Bishops will be contacted to organize youth and adult volunteers.

2. Tentative Dates-

- Workday scheduled for June 21st.

- *Adults will clear branches, haul debris; youth to paint the tables.

3. Logistics-

- Reserve chipper and lift once the date is confirmed.

- Main Focus: Trees on west side of the park, playground area, and a few problem pine trees.

- Debris will be taken to the burn pit.

- Volunteers to bring chainsaws and safety gear.

Sewage Backup Incident – City Hall Basement

Incident Overview-

- The City Hall experienced a sewage back up in the basement, initially reported by a library staff member after noticing the toilet about to flood over.

- Despite plunging efforts, the issue worsened – sewage began backing up on the floor.

Cause Identified-

- The sump pumps were running but not ejecting sewage due to a disconnected pipe.

- Acidic condensation from nearby furnaces had corroded the pipe system, a common issue with modern HVAC systems.

- The stainless-steel lid of the pump chamber had overheated, indicating prolonged pump activity with no discharge.

Response & Cleanup-

- The situation was addressed with emergency cleanup, Power Plus.

- CJ Walker Plumbing was called to assess the situation.

Long-Term Solution-

- Plan to install limestone filtration to neutralize furnace acids before the water enters the sump system.

Rocky Mountain Power Pole Installation:

- Rocky Mountain Power installed a new power pole at the entryway to the city shop yard, located where the asphalt and gravel meet.

- The pole was placed without prior notice to the city, creating concerns about obstructing the snowplow access and future building plans.

- When contacted, Rocky Mountain Power claimed they had a valid easement and were proceeding with the installation.

- The purpose of the new pole is to address power issues at a nearby residence.

- *The city requested that the pole be moved at least 40 – 50 feet east to avoid interfering with the driveway, but RMP stated they prefer 90-degree alignments for pole placement.

- A request was made to delay further work until Blue Stakes could be contacted for safe excavation clearance.

- Follow-up with Keven Staley. It was noted that underground options were not being pursued due to cost and design preferences.

16. City Bills.

Alyson Strait motioned to pay the city bills. Jacob Littlefield seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Kerry-yes, Alyson-yes, Rod-yes, Kim-yes, and Jacob-yes. Motion carried.

17. Miscellaneous

Golf Cart/ATV/OHV safety:

- City Officials agreed to issue a reminder via newsletter/website about the Utah Law that requires everyone to go online to get a certificate.

- Will notify sheriff's office to increase patrols.

Equipment Needs:

- Discussion/Consensus: A van lift would be more versatile than a boom truck.

Elections & Candidacy Declaration:

- Filing period: June 2-6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Candidates must answer legal questions, verify registration, and submit conflict of interest disclosures.

-Candidate packets will be available by next week.

Park & Recreations Projects:

-Meeting with Jones & DeMille:

*Scheduled for Monday at 1 p.m. to discuss the Park Improvement Project.

-Sidewalk Project:

*Begins July 1, pending UDOT submission and approval

-Sidewalk leading to concession stand:

*Forms being set Friday; concrete pour planned for Saturday (weather permitting). -13.6 yards of concrete needed.

*If excess funds exist the project will expand west of the ball diamond for additional seating.

Downtown Safety & Crosswalk Concerns:

-Yeti's Grill has closed.

-Concerns over the crosswalk by Beck's

*Poor visibility and compliance: Cars not stopping for flag-waving children.

*Suggestions: Install signage in the road, flashing lights, and paint no parking zones in front of the store for better visibility.

*Council will speak with UDOT to explore options

*Ask Beck's employees not to park near the crosswalk area.

*Public safety emphasized, especially with children crossing during summer months.

Ordinance Enforcement

-Multiple ongoing enforcement issues:

*Motorhome and abandoned cars at Linda Larson's former property must be removed by June 20th.

*Old City Hall property is being addressed for cleanup due to potential fire hazard.

*Unlicensed Dogs: Owners must register by June 1 or face citations.

*City Officials are committed to enforcing existing ordinances more rigorously to avoid legal risks and improve safety.

-Upcoming Items

*Public Hearing for the FY2026 Budget

Scheduled for June

Must last at least 30 minutes

*Tax Increase Hearing:

Scheduled for August

*Budget Approval:

To follow public hearing in June.

Kerry Farnworth motioned to adjourn the meeting. Alyson Strait seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Kerry-yes, Alyson-yes, Rod-yes, Kim-yes, and Jacob-yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourns at 10:50 p.m.


Michelle Walker, City Recorder

