

**NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

May 27, 2025

The North Ogden City Council convened on May 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Ogden Public Safety Building at 515 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 May 22, 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 timestamps 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 Dalpiaz	Council Member
Chris Pulver	Council Member Zoom
Christina Watson	Council Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
Dave Espinoza	Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager
Katie Gerard	Human Resources Director
Scott Hess	Community and Economic Development Director
Dylan Hill	Public Works Inspector
Jason Reney	Water Superintendent

VISITORS:

Phillip Swanson	Jason Westbroek
Kevin Burns	Susan Kilborn
Sandra Cochran	John W. Hansen
Brenda Ashdown	Marc Hansen
Ricky Hatch	Reed Miller
Zach Ward	Kerry Wangsguard
Dave Shupe	

0:00:19 Mayor Berube called the meeting to order, and Council Member Watson offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION

1. 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

0:02:40 Ricky Hatch, Weber County Clerk/Auditor, provided a detailed presentation on election processes and upcoming changes. He began by expressing appreciation for the City's partnership and highlighted the challenges of managing elections independently due to their complexity.

He discussed Utah voter turnout trends, noting a significant drop between 1984 and 2012, but an increase in voter participation since 2015 due to mailing ballots to all active registered voters. Presidential and gubernatorial elections consistently see higher turnout, with 2020 being a peak year.

Ricky then reviewed the four pillars of election integrity, all of which are audited before, during, and after each election in public view:

- Voter Records – Maintained by County Clerks, while the State manages the system's security. The Lieutenant Governor's Office audits the County voter list maintenance quarterly.
- Ballot and Envelope Security – Each envelope has a unique control number. If a voter requests a replacement, the original is invalidated to prevent duplicate voting.
- Signature Verification – Up to five previous signatures are used for comparison. If there's a mismatch, the voter is contacted through a "cure process." All staff performing verification receive annual forensic training, and their decisions are audited.
- Ballot Processing – Envelopes are processed in teams of two, following strict chain-of-custody rules. Any discrepancies in reconciliation halt the process until resolved. Equipment used for scanning and tabulating ballots is not connected to the internet, has no wireless capability, and is manually updated and audited.

Ricky emphasized voter responsibility, encouraging voters to keep their addresses current via vote.utah.gov and to use services like USPS Informed Delivery. Voters can also track the status of their ballot throughout the process.

Ricky then highlighted recent changes in state election law:

- Ballots must now be received by 8 PM on Election Day, not just postmarked.
- House Bill 300 changes how voters receive ballots: starting in 2029, voters must opt in to receive a ballot by mail. If they don't, they'll have to vote in person.
- Voter verification will shift from signature-based to ID-based. After 2029, voters must include the last four digits of their state ID or Social Security number on their ballot envelope. If omitted, a copy of their ID must be included instead.

Ricky concluded by showing a preview of the updated ballot envelope layout and invited City officials and the public to contact his office with questions or schedule tours to observe the election process firsthand. He stressed transparency and encouraged feedback to help improve security and trust.

In response to questions from Mayor Berube, Ricky clarified that ballots placed in official drop boxes by 8 PM are considered received on time and confirmed that the use of Social Security numbers remains valid for voter verification even if a driver's license is on file. He acknowledged concerns about the security of Social Security numbers and stated they are recommending validating both ID numbers and signatures.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

0:10:51 No conflict of interest was disclosed.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

0:11:01 Council Member Pulver motioned to approve the May 6, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Dalpiaz seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously

ACTIVE AGENDA

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:21:09 David Shupe, a Liberty City resident and North Ogden City business owner, Coldwater Animal Hospital, addressed the Mayor and City Council to express frustration over recent damage to his business property. He explained that after spending over \$9,200 to resurface and restripe his parking lot, a City vacuum truck accessed the property and caused damage while addressing what he believes may be a sewer or drainage issue on the west side of his lot. He acknowledged Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager Dave Espinoza for cleaning up part of the mess, but emphasized that the situation is unfair and unacceptable. David stated that if the City caused the damage, they should take responsibility and repair it promptly. He concluded by noting that he has experienced multiple instances where he feels the City has not acted as a good neighbor, and he brought this to the Council's attention as part of his civic duty.

0:23:52 Sandra Cochran, a North Ogden City resident, expressed appreciation for the development of the City's Facebook comment policy and voiced general support for its content. Her main concern was the appeals process outlined in the policy, which assigns final decisions to the two most senior Council Members. She noted that one of those members does not use Facebook and suggested that someone more familiar with the platform might be better suited to help make those decisions. She clarified that no offense was intended and thanked the Council for their work.

0:25:18 Reed Miller, a North Ogden City resident, expressed concerns about election integrity in Utah. He criticized comments made by Ricky Hatch regarding election security, stating that despite claims of transparency and strong practices, the public has been denied access to key election records, particularly after the 2020 election involving Blake Moore and Andrew Badger. He claimed that requests for audit records were blocked by the Lieutenant Governor's office and that evidence was destroyed after the legal retention period. Reed also criticized the State's continued use of the ERIC system for voter registration maintenance, alleging it is unreliable and mismanaged. Lastly, he referenced a Judicial Notice issued to the State requiring improvements in voter registration accuracy. He urged the public to be cautious and not take assurances from election officials at face value.

5. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-08,
ANNEXING 19.560 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 1050 EAST 2400 NORTH**

0:29:45 City Manager Jon Call provided an overview of the area near Barker Park and the Cold Springs Trout Farm, showing a field where a new private road is being proposed. This 30-foot private road would provide access to the Fish Farm property, which is still in Weber County but may be annexed in the future. Although annexation and zoning (R-1-10) are part of the current discussion, the subdivision layout is not yet being approved. Jon asked for Council feedback on whether a 30-foot private road is appropriate and if a development agreement would be acceptable to preserve Fish Farm access long term.

Scott Hess, Community and Economic Development Director, clarified that the proposed private road would serve three shallow lots, which would be limited in development due to the City's private street ordinances. While North Ogden doesn't commonly use private roads for single-family homes, similar developments do exist. Any final plan would likely require a development agreement outlining trade-offs and justifications. Approval of R-1-10 zoning does not imply approval of the presented layout.

Council Member Dalpiaz noted potential issues with power line clearances in the proposed layout and asked that future plans account for required spacing. Staff confirmed that multiple configurations have been explored, and final plat approval will go through the Planning Commission.

Council Member Watson asked about the status of the Fish Farm access road. Staff explained it is a 30-foot-wide private lane, partially in the County and not maintained by the City. Property owners have considered gating the lane. The City does have a sanitary sewer line running under it and would need continued access. Staff indicated the road is too narrow for City adoption under current standards without major changes to surrounding properties.

Council Member Barker asked whether the zoning needed to be addressed. Mayor Berube and City Manager/Attorney Jon Call clarified that the zoning is included in the ordinance and that, consistent with past practice, zoning (R-1-10) is approved concurrently with annexation. The ordinance specifies that the entire area will be zoned R-1-10.

0:35:46 **Mayor Berube opened the Public Hearing**

No public comment was received.

Council Member Barker motioned to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Dalpias seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.

Council Member Dalpias motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-08, annexing 19.560 acres of land located at 1050 EAST 2400 North. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

0:39:48 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call presented a revised Social Media Policy developed with input from Council Member Pulver and citizen Susan Kilborn. The policy outlines what types of comments can be restricted under First Amendment guidelines, such as those that are obscene, incite violence, constitute true threats, or violate privacy or copyright laws. It also allows reporting of discriminatory content to the platform, relying on their rules rather than City enforcement. There was discussion about how appeals should be handled when a comment is removed. Jon proposed using the two most senior Council Members, but concerns were raised about the Council Members' legal expertise and availability. Mayor Berube suggested having the Mayor and legal counsel involved instead, emphasizing the importance of clear legal review and limiting Council involvement to strategic issues. There was general agreement that removals would be rare and only for extreme cases.

It was noted that the policy should state the City is not obligated to respond to social media comments, and users should consider contacting Council Members by email or phone. The Council discussed how to make the policy visible, with examples like Kaysville City linking it directly on Facebook.

The Council considered how to flag spam or fraudulent content and agreed that citizens could alert Staff, but would not make final decisions. After refining the appeal process, the Council agreed that the Mayor should handle appeals, possibly with input from legal counsel.

Council Member Pulver motioned to approve the adoption of a Social Media Policy. Council Member Dalpiaz seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

7. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-09, AMENDING NORTH OGDEN CODE TITLE 11-9M-10: ANIMALS AND FOWL, AND 14-1-10: ANIMALS TO REMOVE INCONSISTENT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHICKEN COOPS**

1:07:40 Scott Hess, Community and Economic Development Director, presented proposed amendments to land use ordinance Title 11-9-10 and related sections concerning animals and fowl. The changes were prompted by concerns from Staff and the public regarding inconsistencies in how the ordinance was written and administered. Under the current code, strict setback requirements effectively prevent most residents from keeping backyard chickens. Staff and the Planning Commission recommended removing references to “coops” in sections applying to large animals, thereby limiting the stricter setbacks to barns, pens, and corrals, which typically apply to larger lots. For backyard chickens, coops would now be treated as accessory structures, requiring them to be placed no closer than 25 feet from any dwelling on an adjacent lot. The City would still honor existing nonconforming situations where one home is built after a chicken coop is already present. The requirement to obtain a chicken permit would be removed, as it has never been enforced, and a related fee will also be removed from the Consolidated Fee Schedule. Additionally, new construction standards would prohibit the use of scrap or dilapidated materials for coops and require the use of weather-resistant materials.

Council Member Dalpiaz asked about small lot zones, specifically R-1-5, where the 25-foot setback may still be problematic. Scott clarified that the Planning Commission recommended excluding backyard chickens in these smaller zones, but a separate ordinance and public hearing would be required due to State noticing requirements.

Council Member Barker motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-09, amending North Ogden Code Title 11-9M-10: Animals and Fowl, to remove inconsistent distance requirements for chicken coops. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-10, AMENDING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ANIMALS THAT CAN BE KEPT IN A HOME

1:16:03 Scott Hess, Community and Economic Development Director, presented updates to Title 14 of the City Code to align it with recent amendments made to Title 11 concerning backyard chickens. The changes include referencing Title 11 for all rules governing backyard chickens in residential zones, allowing for easier enforcement and future code adjustments.

Mayor Berube asked for clarification regarding the number of animals permitted, noting inconsistencies in previous versions of the code that referenced different limits.

City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained that Section 14-1-7 currently allows four animals total, while Section 14-1-10 previously limited it to two or three dogs or cats, creating confusion. The proposed ordinance clarifies that a household may have up to four animals, with no more than three being dogs or cats. He noted that violations are rare but cited one past case involving a resident keeping ten huskies. Service and therapy animals are excluded from the limit, provided they are certified.

The Council briefly discussed whether to change the total number of allowed animals, but agreed to keep the limit at four for now.

Council Member Dalpiaz motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-10, amending the maximum number of animals that can be kept in a home. Council Member Watson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-11, AMENDING NORTH OGDEN CODE TITLE 11-19-3: DESIGN AND LOCATION OF PARKING SPACES, TO REDUCE DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVE AISLES IN PARKING LOTS ADJACENT TO WASHINGTON BOULEVARD AND OTHER STREETS NOTED AS COLLECTORS OR ARTERIALS IN THE NORTH OGDEN GENERAL PLAN

1:21:32 Scott Hess, Community and Economic Development Director, presented an amendment to North Ogden City Code Title 11-19-3, which clarifies parking lot design standards, specifically the difference between drive aisles and permanent parking stalls. The revised ordinance, now aligned with the Planning Commission's recommendation, requires permanent parking areas to remain at least 20 feet from the front property line, while drive aisles may be as close as 14 feet. This provides flexibility for older developments or constrained lots, while preserving safety and pedestrian access with space for a park strip, sidewalk, and buffer to prevent vehicle overhang onto walkways. Mayor Berube asked about enforcement of such standards on private property, expressing concern about vehicles improperly parking in drive aisles. Scott acknowledged enforcement would be challenging without complaints, as the ordinance mostly serves as a visual and functional buffer and is typically only enforced through code complaints.

Council Member Dalpiaz supported the Planning Commission's recommendation and suggested that the business owner, Jason Westbrook of Big O Tires, consider marking areas with paint to discourage parking in drive aisles. Jason Westbrook agreed to take reasonable steps, such as red curbs and striping, though he noted that signage and markings are often ignored.

The Council expressed appreciation for the willingness to comply and clarified that effort and intent to prevent violations were key.

Council Member Watson motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-11, amending North Ogden Code Title 11-19-3: Design and Location of Parking Spaces, to reduce distance requirements for drive aisles in parking lots adjacent to Washington Boulevard and other streets noted as collectors or arterials in the North Ogden General Plan. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING A VERIZON WIRELESS TOWER LOCATION REQUEST AND LAND LEASE ON PROPERTY OWNED BY NORTH OGDEN CITY

1:30:19 Scott Hess, Community and Economic Development Director, presented a request from Verizon Wireless to lease City-owned property in North Ogden for the installation of a new cell tower. Two potential sites were identified: one at the southern end of the Equestrian Park and another near the northern edge of the same parcel, just before the Green Waste Pit. The northern location may be slightly lower in elevation and might require a taller tower, but both sites offer good coverage potential and are located out of the way. The purpose of the tower is to improve service in areas with poor coverage, particularly west of Mountain Road, and to support increased demand for wireless connectivity, which can affect public safety operations.

Scott noted that cell towers typically cover about a one-mile radius and that any new tower would be required by City ordinance to allow co-location, enabling other providers like AT&T or Cricket to use the same tower. Lease payments to the City could range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars per month, depending on negotiations. Scott asked the Council for general support to move forward with site assessments and for Staff to begin drafting an agreement with Verizon, to be brought back for formal approval, including potentially declaring the site as surplus. The Council expressed no objections, and Mayor Berube authorized Staff to proceed with negotiations and further evaluation.

**11. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 08-2025,
AMENDING THE CONSOLIDATED FEE SCHEDULE**

1:34:47 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call reviewed proposed updates to the City's Consolidated Fee Schedule. Key changes included the removal of Fire Marshal Fees at the request of Council Member Barker, since the Fire Department collects those directly. Several police-related fees were slightly increased to better cover administrative costs and encourage ordinance compliance, such as nuisance abatement.

The chicken license application fee was removed, aligning with earlier ordinance changes. Significant updates were also made to the Aquatic Center's pricing, including a \$0.50 general admission increase and the addition of merchandise sales like goggles and T-shirts. A new pilot program allows patrons to reserve four shaded tables for \$20 for two hours. Staff tested the concept and found interest in reserving seating instead of claiming space hours in advance. Special event fees now also include a "market rate" charge based on cake and amenity costs.

Other adjustments addressed impound fees, eliminating livestock impounds (now handled by the County), and increasing fees for video clearances and administrative services.

Utility fees were updated to reflect cost increases, solid waste fees rose due to tipping fees, while water fees reflect non-pumping operational costs. Sewer fees increased due to Central Weber's rate adjustments, not City-imposed changes.

Previously approved impact fees were added to the schedule for implementation on July 1. Fire Department impact fees were updated, although discussions are ongoing about whether the City will continue to collect those on their behalf.

Lastly, Jon noted that some outdated items remain in the fee schedule, such as City maps and cookbooks, and Staff will review these with Department Heads. Mayor Berube added that further revisions may come, particularly regarding business licenses, based on Council suggestions.

Council Member Watson motioned to adopt Resolution 08-2025, amending the Consolidated Fee Schedule. Council Member Delpias seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Delpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

12. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 09-2025 IDENTIFYING THE CITY'S PLANS TO ENTER THE TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PROCESS

1:44:20 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call informed the Council of a new State requirement mandating notification to the County and State by June 1 if the City plans to proceed with a Truth in Taxation hearing. Although the law doesn't specify the method, Staff recommended passing a resolution to formally declare the City's intent, ensuring compliance.

The proposed Truth in Taxation hearing is scheduled for August 12, which will be a budget-focused meeting with no unrelated agenda items, per updated State law. This meeting would serve as the official public hearing for the budget, including any proposed tax increase. A second meeting on August 26 is also anticipated, allowing further public input and possible budget adjustments.

Mayor Berube clarified that no tax increase percentage needs to be declared yet, only the intent to hold the hearing. Final rates will be set after receiving property tax data from the County, expected in June. Council Member Barker noted that in past years, the final budget wasn't typically adopted on the same night as the Truth in Taxation hearing, and Jon confirmed the new process would involve at least two public hearings to give time for public feedback and Council deliberation.

Council Member Watson motioned to approve Resolution 09-2025, identifying the City's plans to enter the Truth-in-Taxation process. Council Member Dalpias seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

13. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE MOUNTAIN ROAD CORRIDOR PRESERVATION PROJECT**

1:48:46 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call presented a funding agreement related to the Mountain View Corridor project. The City is seeking to acquire right-of-way for roadway development in three key sections:

- North of the Green Waste Pit
- South of North Ogden Divide Road
- Along the western edge near Long Bench

The current agreement secures approximately \$1.2 million in funding from the County through the Weber Area Council of Governments (WACOG), with the City providing a \$280,000 match using transportation impact fees. This funding will allow the purchase of roughly one-third of the needed right-of-way.

Jon explained that County officials preferred spreading the funding over several years to ensure other communities also had access to corridor preservation funds. Two more funding phases are anticipated in future years.

Some verbal commitments have been made by key property owners, indicating that if the City purchases the right-of-way, the owners would install the road and utilities themselves, although nothing has been put in writing.

Mayor Berube raised the importance of securing written agreements if infrastructure commitments are part of the understanding. Jon confirmed that formal purchase contracts, including any such terms, will return to the Council for approval. The City plans to begin acquisition in the middle section of the corridor, which is critical for emergency access and potential fire station placement. The other sections involve more complex land ownership situations, and the City will prioritize based on owner readiness and willingness to install infrastructure.

Council Member Dalpias motioned to approve the local transportation funding agreement for the mountain road corridor preservation project. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	excused
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

14. COUNCIL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Mayor Berube – Finance Department

1:54:48 Mayor Berube presented a financial update through April 2025, covering approximately 83% of the fiscal year. He began by highlighting positive news regarding a 24% increase in monthly sales tax revenue, which brought the City to 3.7% or about \$132,000 above the year-to-date budgeted amount. While the reason for the spike is not fully known, potential causes include early large purchases, possibly influenced by tariff concerns. Staff emphasized that a single month doesn't indicate a trend, but continued growth would be a strong positive sign.

City Manager/Attorney Jon Call noted the City's share of sales tax from local businesses had increased to 41%, much higher than the usual mix of roughly one-third local and two-thirds State-allocated revenue. This shift likely reflects higher local sales but also a reduced share from the State pool.

Mayor Berube then reported on general City finances, acknowledging the financial statements were prepared under Jon's oversight before the Finance Director began full-time status. Overall, revenues were tracking well, with some categories, such as building permits, already exceeding 90% of projections. He noted some departments, such as Administration, were slightly over budget, but no significant irregularities were found.

Mayor Berube also requested that a transfer be made to the Youth Council budget related to chocolate sales, which had not yet been processed.

Interest income in the general fund appeared high, but Jon explained this was due to pending accounting adjustments that would be corrected with the Finance Director's support. Mayor Berube concluded that City expenses are controlled, revenues are stable, and the City maintains strong cash reserves and a solid balance sheet to address future needs.

b. Council Member Pulver – Public Works Department

2:03:06 Council Member Pulver provided an update focused on several Public Works items. He noted significant progress on the 1700 North Water Line Project, particularly the stretch from 530 East to 700 East, which is now mostly complete and in the final stages. He also mentioned that the City made it through the spring runoff season without major issues, although some minor water concerns were observed. The most significant water-related challenges appeared to stem from Pineview, not City infrastructure.

Council Member Pulver also addressed public confusion regarding ongoing fiber optic installations in neighborhoods. Residents have been unclear about what work is permitted on private property versus public rights-of-way. He emphasized the importance of clear communication and suggested residents would benefit from updates via email or social media.

Mayor Berube added that 400 East has been coned off in preparation for a new turn lane, responding to long-standing safety concerns. City Manager/Attorney Jon Call confirmed that Rocky Mountain Power is currently relocating lines, and construction on the turn lane is expected to begin soon, with completion anticipated in July.

Mayor Berube shared that he and City Staff have been monitoring lawn repairs in areas impacted by utility work and emphasized that contractors will be asked to ensure lawns are restored properly.

c. Council Member Watson – Administration and Recreation Departments

2:06:54 Council Member Watson reported that a new General Office Assistant has been hired and will soon begin work, filling a previously vacated position. She also noted that this past weekend was the opening weekend of the North Shore Aquatic Center and acknowledged that Leisure Services Manager Justin Rasmussen likely had a very busy weekend managing the event. City Manager/Attorney Jon Call added that attendance was strong at the Aquatic Center, with about 1,000 visitors on Monday and 400 on Saturday, indicating a successful opening.

Mayor Berube thanked Council Members who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Orton Park and praised the Parks Department for their excellent work. He described the park as a significant upgrade and encouraged residents to visit, calling it beautiful and a point of pride for the City. He noted the City is nearing completion of park upgrades Citywide, with some work still to be done.

d. City Manager/Attorney Jon Call – Capital Projects

2:08:30 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call provided a comprehensive update on the City's Capital Projects. The 2550 detention basin project is expected to be completed by June 30, and while there have been funding delays from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the City may receive federal funding through a congressional earmark.

Oaklawn Park's playground replacement is scheduled for fiscal year 2027, with Mountain View Park next in line.

Work at the Aquatic Center is progressing, including SCADA system installation and future upgrades like new Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) drives, a new playground (to be installed after pool closure), and a new pool liner in the spring. These improvements are funded through previously approved RDA funds.

For Barker Park, \$200,000 is budgeted for final design plans, which will prepare the City to phase construction. Jon noted that road maintenance remains an ongoing priority, with a plan to present a prioritized project list and construction schedule once funding is confirmed, likely starting in spring.

Mayor Berube emphasized the need for Council discussion on using impact fees for park funding, including Barker Park. Council Member Barker supported the idea of using a portion, not all, of impact fees to maintain flexibility for other park development needs.

Mayor Berube raised concerns about public misunderstanding regarding the new Water Works Experience, clarifying it is a water table experience, not a splash pad. Jon agreed to publish a post with visuals to help clarify expectations.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

2:13:49 Kerry Wangsguard, a North Ogden City resident, urged the City Council to take a more proactive approach to attracting high-quality, revenue-generating commercial businesses, specifically what he called "destination" businesses like Chick-fil-A or Olive Garden. He emphasized that North Ogden residents, including his own family, frequently travel to other cities for these types of businesses and that similar establishments in North Ogden would attract not just locals, but also patrons from surrounding communities. Kerry criticized the idea that cities should passively wait for businesses to approach them and argued instead for targeted marketing to desired companies. He suggested using the success of existing businesses in North Ogden (like McDonald's or Smith's) as data to help pitch the City to prospective retailers and restaurants.

Mayor Berube responded by affirming the importance of Kerry's point and shared that Olive Garden had previously shown interest in locating in North Ogden. However, the deal did not move forward because the private property owner couldn't make the required parking and space layout financially viable. Mayor Berube noted that cities are limited in what they can do unless they choose to purchase and develop land themselves, an option that would require additional funding, such as higher property taxes. Nonetheless, he agreed with the importance of seeking out strong commercial partners and thanked Kerry for his input.

2:20:36 Susan Kilborn, a North Ogden City resident, offered a lighthearted and positive public comment. She jokingly claimed that she and her husband were largely responsible for the City's recent sales tax increase, crediting her April birthday gift and a new car purchase in May, both made locally. She expressed appreciation for Council Member Pulver, calling him her "superstar of the night," and praised the entire City Council, City Manager/Attorney Jon Call, and the Mayor for their supportive stance on social media. Susan emphasized her active role in local online groups and stated that she and others regularly defend the City and its employees from unfair criticism. She concluded by expressing pride in the Council's efforts.

2:22:56 Phillip Swanson, a North Ogden City resident, expressed appreciation to the Mayor, Council, and Department Heads for their hard work during the budget process.

16. **MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

2:23:38 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call reminded everyone that the candidate filing period for the upcoming election begins Monday and ends at 5:00 p.m. on Friday. To be eligible, individuals must file by the deadline. He noted that the City will post an updated list of candidates each evening after 5:00 p.m., including that day's and the previous day's filings. He asked that people avoid calling during the day to ask who has filed, as updates will only be provided at the end of each day.

2:24:24 Council Member Dalpiaz thanked Weber County Clerk/Auditor, Ricky Hatch, for his presentation and for the audits, as well as the checks and balances Weber County does.

2:24:42 Council Member Barker expressed support for City Staff in light of upcoming budget-related benefit changes. He acknowledged that while the City is reducing contributions to employee 401(k) or 457 plans, the intent is to increase overall compensation, particularly helping Staff with more immediate financial needs. He noted this change may impact long-term employees more than newer ones, but emphasized the Council's appreciation for all employees.

Mayor Berube added that the reduction in retirement contributions was necessary to fund proposed salary increases within budget constraints. He reiterated that while the change is difficult, the goal was to prioritize take-home pay that Staff can use now, and he believes employees recognize the Council's strong support.

17. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED MEETING FOR REASONS PERMITTED UNDER §52-4-205(1)(D) REGARDING STRATEGY SESSIONS TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY**

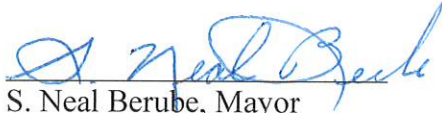
Council Member Watson motioned to move into a closed meeting for reasons permitted under §52-4-205(1)(d) regarding strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property. Council Member Dalpiaz seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.


Council Member Watson motioned to adjourn the closed meeting and reconvene in the public meeting. Council Member Dalpiaz seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Cevering motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.


S. Neal Berube, Mayor


~~Rian Santoro~~ Joyce Pierson
Deputy City Recorder

June 24, 2025
Date Approved