



Regular Town Council Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Meeting Location: Dutch John Community Center 530 South Blvd.

Public Access

Meeting access is available electronically. See <https://dutchjohn.gov/pages/calendar> for more details.

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

- Called to order at 7:30pm

2. Roll Call

Minutes:

- Council & Town Members: Butch Johns, Amy McDonald, Al Pulham, Harriet Dickerson, Rachel Albritton, Allen Parker (online)
- Public: Jared Marquis, Warren Hatch, JayDee Guymon, Kerri and Frank Nakamura

3. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

- Al moved to accept the consent agenda with correction to minutes applied. Harriet second. All in favor.

a. Minutes of meeting: May 28, 2025

Minutes:

- Regarding minuted related to the airport overlay, Butch amended the original statement provided in the May 28th meeting. Planning and Zoning will provide a recommendation to the Town Council on the airport overlay. They will not give the overlay an approval. The minutes should be updated to reflect this.

b. Business Licenses: Bruce Hoskisson, Jackson Pyles, Rhett Kelton, Eli Koles

c. Expenditures: Vouchers List

Minutes:

- Al expressed appreciation for the purchase for the cemetery. It works and everything is working again.

d. Correspondence:
4. Committee / Staff Reports
a. Mayor's Report

Minutes:

- CIB Grant Request - Clinic building architects build cost
 - The town needs to increase the amount requested in the proposal. The architect sent an email with the cost for architecture and plan designs. Plans show an estimated cost greater than originally anticipated and the proposal should be updated to reflect that. .
 - Received the audit report to add to the application.
- TRT Information
 - Butch attended online
 - The state appears to have a lot of control on how this money is used (as opposed to the County).
 - About a third of what goes to the county can be used for advertisement.
 - Amy asked if there is a TRT board. Butch said yes. Now, there is a board and not a chamber.
- The town did not receive the cemetery grant.
- A cost estimate was received to remodel the community center. The estimate is approximately \$300k. This topic will need to be added to the agenda next month for discussion. Butch has a correction from last meeting's discussion on updating the zoning maps. The zoning map will not be updated. Rather the future use zone map in the General Plan will be updated.
- Members of Senator Curtis' staff were here yesterday. General discussion on Town.
- RDA
 - No decision made yet on public works land. More discussion is needed first.
 - The meeting scheduled with RDA and developers has been postponed, but Butch and Amy did have a conference call with them yesterday. Al asked what developer were on the call. Kurt Smith was on the call, but neither Amy or Butch could recall the name of the development company he was a part of. Allen Parker will be the Towns main point of contact regarding the development process.
 - Al raised concern once again that the RDA is selling land with no parameters around a time frame for development. Harriet agreed.

b. Volunteer Fire Department
c. Planning and Zoning
d. Building and Grounds
e. Cemetery
f. Freedom Festival: July 5, 2025

Minutes:

- EMS, Fire district, BLM and USFS have all volunteered to help with fireworks.
- JayDee asked about purchasing the temporary food permit.
- JayDee believes what made it successful last year was the advertising and he's planning on taking the same steps this year. Harriet said that there will also be an effort to get fliers out to the local campgrounds.
- Al asked about tables. JayDee is pretty sure that many of them came from the community center. Some came from the church.
- JayDee has the propane tanks.

- Grilled and Glazed from Vernal donated a substantial amount of food last year and JayDee is going to follow up with them to see if they are willing to do the same this year.

5. Public Comment

Minutes:

- No public comment

6. Old Business

a. Cemetery Grant - Discussion and Possible Action

Minutes:

- The Town was not awarded the grant.
- Butch recommends moving forward with having Unitah Engineering survey the cemetery because this is an issue for the Town. The \$3500 would come from the general fund instead. The survey would be for the individual plots to insure accuracy.
- Amy made a motion that the Town has the cemetery surveyed for about \$3500 from the Towns discretionary fund. Harriet seconded. All in favor.

7. New Business

a. Ordinance Adopting a Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Minutes:

- Kerri wanted to clarify that this ordinance is the tentative final budget, not just the tentative budget. Its a small but significant difference.
- The town attorney has reviewed it and has no issues.
- Al questioned the employee budget. Amy clarified all of the line items and the budget estimates at the max end. Butch further emphasized that this is for multiple people, not just one individual.
- Harriet made a motion to approve and adopt the final tentative Budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. Amy seconded. All in favor.
 - Harriet Dickerson: Yes
 - Al Pulham: Yes
 - Amy McDonald: Yes
 - Butch Johns: Yes
 - Sandy Kunkel: absent (excused)

b. Ordinance Adopting a Tax Levy Pursuant to Section 10-5-112 of the Utah Code on Real and Personal Property Within the Town of Dutch John, Utah Made Taxable by Law for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Subject to Further Action as Required by Section 59-2-919 of the Utah Code

Minutes:

- Harriet made a comment - based on some peoples perception / opposition against this. She acknowledges that the Town should have gone through this process when the Town Incorporated but they didn't. She believes that now is as good a time as ever to adopt this moving forward.
- Al expressed concern about public opposition to the proposed property tax changes, noting that many Town residents are not supportive. He also observed the lack of input from secondary homeowners, which he finds troubling. Additionally he does not personally support the measure. While he understands the intent behind the property

tax, he questions the realism of the Mayor's vision, believing it is out of alignment with the Town's actual capacity for growth. He further noted that his term on the Council ends this year, though he will continue to be a part-time resident of the Town. He emphasized that if the commitments made regarding the use of these tax funds are not realized within the next 5–10 years, he will be deeply disappointed in the Mayor and Town Council who are advocating for the change. He concluded by saying there are no hard feelings.

- Amy acknowledges that this is a heavy decision. Moving forward, it is difficult to operate on volunteers only.
- Amy asked Kerri for clarification on the tax rate. Kerri reminded the Council that rates are revenue driven. The Town has declared that the rate is based on \$100k. The rate per resident may fluctuate over time to meet this value. The only way that the Town can make more then \$100k is that the town has to go through the Truth in Taxation process again, or there needs to be enough new growth.
- Harriet asked why this isn't something the residents get to vote on. Butch reminded the Council that according to Utah state law, property tax is not something that needs to be voted on.

Amy made a motion to adopt a Tax Levy Pursuant to Section 10-5-112 of the Utah Code on Real and Personal Property Within the Town of Dutch John, Utah Made Taxable by Law for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Subject to Further Action as Required by Section 59-2-919 of the Utah Code. Harriet seconded.

- Butch Johns: Yes
- Harriet Dickerson: Yes
- Amy McDonald: Yes
- Al Pulham: No
- Sandy Kunkel: absent (excused)

Vote is 3 to 1. Ordinance passes.


8. Closed Session, if necessary* Pursuant to 52-4-20

9. Adjournment

Minutes:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

Contact: Amy McDonald (amcdonald@dutchjohn.org 801-243-1463) | Minutes published on 06/16/2025, adopted on 06/25/2025


Deputy Clerk