

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 17, 2025
PUBLIC HEARING/ELECTRONIC MEETING 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the regular 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 members Chad Lyman and Lenza Wilson were excused.

Also present were Lawrence Barnes, Wade Barney, Bill Weppner, Jerry Taylor, Monica Taylor, Tari Cottam, Dace Chynoweth, Pasley Chynoweth, Fred Spencer, DeEtte Spencer, Julie Brugger, Dixie Spencer, Kade Brooks, Kobbi Brooks, Declen Cottam, Soren Griffin, Ryker Wilson, Magnolia Apperson, Garin Apperson, Louise Eutropius, Pat Anderson Schwartz, Mark Saunto, Howard Hutchison and Meri Katz.

Loren Pena joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Orme moved to adopt the agenda by amending to move all the scheduled items to the beginning of the meeting. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme and Porter voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2025 MEETING

Council member Porter moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DEETTE SPENCER

Ms. Spencer said she noticed there are some yield signs on some of the back streets but not on all of them. Ms. Spencer said on their street the yield sign is low, and people ignore it. Ms. Spencer said there are no yield signs on the street by the Family Dollar store, and people are not yielding, and they are driving fast. Ms. Spencer said there is going to be an accident, and someone is going to get hit. Mayor Torgersen said the City is working on getting a yield sign on every street.

LAWRENCE BARNES

Mr. Barnes said the stop and yield signs came up a year ago, and he has noticed the city has been implementing more signs.

Mr. Barnes said regarding the new and existing Kazan Clinic, he would like to comment on how

nice it looks and how it blends. Mr. Barnes said the water retention pond was almost full of runoff during the storm. Mr. Barnes said he is glad the Clinic and Family Dollar store put in the retention ponds.

JULIE BRUGGER

Ms. Brugger asked when the Open House for the new Dental Clinic and Wellness Center will be. Mayor Torgersen said she will address this in her comments.

HOWARD HUTCHISON

Mr. Hutchison said he would like to see the city keep the Board of Adjustments in place to keep the costs down.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

ESCALANTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 6TH GRADE – DONATION FOR

WASHINGTON DC TRIP

DECLAN COTTAM

Mr. Cottam said he is a sixth grader at Escalante Elementary. Mr. Cottam said they are here today to ask for the City's support for the recent opportunity for him and his classmates to take a trip to Washington, DC, where they will learn about our country's history, government, and important landmarks. Mr. Cottam said this trip will help them understand what they learn in school in a fun and exciting way. Mr. Cottam said we are working hard to raise money, and we would be very thankful for any donation to help them go on this educational journey. Mr. Cottam said they are hoping to receive \$300 for each student.

SOREN GRIFFIN

Mr. Griffin said he is excited to visit places where important things in history have happened and the Whitehouse.

RYKER WILSON

Mr. Wilson said it is fun with friends to go on a school trip. Mr. Wilson said riding the subway is fun and exciting

KADE BROOKS

Mr. Brooks said he is excited to try new food.

MAGNOLIA APPERSON

Ms. Apperson said she is excited to explore the museums, learn about the government and walk through the monuments.

Mayor Torgersen asked how many students will be going. Tari Cottam said they have twelve students. Mayor Torgersen asked how much the city has donated in the past. City Recorder Steed said \$100.00 per student. Council member Orme said \$100.00 is great but what is the total every student will need to raise. Tari Cottam said it costs \$900.00 per student. Council member Orme

said the \$900.00 includes everything for the trip for one week and would like to see if the city has a little more to donate. Mayor Torgersen said she appreciates them coming in early and that they are working on fundraisers and not coming in at the last minute to get money. Ms. Cottam said they will also be willing to do some community service for the donation. **Council member Porter moved to Donate \$100.00 per student to the 6th Grade Class for the Washington DC trip.**

Council member Orme amended the motion to donate \$200.00 per student for the Washington DC trip. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter and Orme voting aye.

GARFIELD MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION – SPONSORSHIP

Mayor Torgersen explained that the City has sponsored a table at the Garfield Memorial Health Care Foundation dinner in the past for \$320.00. **Council member Porter moved to donate \$320.00 for a table at the Garfield Memorial Health Care Foundation dinner. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye.**

WADE BARNEY – VETERANS FLAG DONATION FOR CEMETERY

Mr. Barney said he would like to start off by saying Mayor, Councilman, he appreciates all that they do for the city and for the people here. Mr. Barney said he is approaching the city today as a member of the American Legion. Mr. Barney said the members have been buying flags for the Veterans at the cemetery and putting them on their graves. Mr. Barney said the High School and Turn About Ranch have helped them in the past by putting the flags out. Mr. Barney said he is approaching the city to ask for donations to purchase flags due to the American Legion not having any funding. Mr. Barney said they put around 172 flags up for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and they need help. Mr. Barney said they would also like to ask the city if they could store the flags and other items for them. This item was discussed at length. Council member Orme said this would be a good project for the 6th Graders. **Council member Orme moved to purchase and replace half the flags for the Veterans' plots at the cemetery. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

JERRY TAYLOR - ROADS

Mr. Taylor said he is grateful to be here tonight and what a treat it was to have the sixth graders come in. Mr. Taylor said, as you know, they will approach the County, and he is sure the County will give them money. Mr. Taylor said Washington, DC is very special to him. Mr. Taylor said he has spent a lot of time there, representing our county. Mr. Taylor explained one of the things he was able to do last February/March was he was able to place the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Mr. Taylor said it was very touching and what an honor. Mr. Taylor said that if there is anything we can do to help the youth in our community to learn about our capital, he is more than happy to be able to do that.

Mr. Taylor said the Garfield Memorial Healthcare Foundation, chair of that board is sitting on the back row. Mr. Taylor said it is not only important to buy a table, but it's important that we have people able to show up and to bid on some of the stuff that's there to help Garfield Memorial Hospital. Mr. Taylor said we really should look at what the Garfield Memorial Healthcare Foundation does and start something for our own clinic to help them make money.

Mr. Taylor said we could do that as a community.

Mr. Taylor said the reason he is here is because he lives at 180 East Taylor Lane. Mr. Taylor said the reason he lives on Taylor Lane is 650 South is hard to cross and hard to maintain when it storms. Mr. Taylor said the road was a county road until the city annexed it in. Mr. Taylor said a few years ago Richard White did a study on the road to put a crossing at the wash, but nothing was done. Mr. Taylor said at the time he was willing to help with the cost of it. Mr. Taylor explained that since it did not get done, he paid Brown Brothers to put in Taylor Lane. Mr. Taylor said he is here to ask that the city looks at chip sealing the road from Center Street just past Ryan Crosiers home that serves that road and serves about six or seven different homes. Mayor Torgersen said Council member Lyman talked to Jay Brooks with the County and he will look for more oil in September and the City will chip seal the road. Council member Porter said what we really should do with that crossing is put a cement forge there to protect our water line. Council member Porter said we have tried different things but over the years we have learned the only way to really fix it is to put a cement forge in. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Porter moved to upgrade and chip seal 650 South and look into a cement forge for crossing the wash. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, and Orme voting aye.**

APPOINT APPEAL AUTHORITY

This item will be discussed after the Public Hearing.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mayor Torgersen said she would like to look at insurance for employees, spouses, and families. This item was discussed, and the Council would like to schedule a work meeting to review it. **Council member Porter moved to move forward with a work meeting to review the employee benefits. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter and Orme voting aye.**

ESCALANTE CITY FEE SCHEDULE

This item will be discussed after the Public Hearing.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Orme moved to open the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Orme and Stowe voting aye.

ORDINANCE 2025-02 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-09 SEWER IMPACT FEES, CONNECTION FEES AND RATES

City Recorder Steed explained Ordinance 2025-02 Sewer Impact Fees, Connection Fees, and Rates.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

ORDINANCE 2025-03 AMENDING ORDINANCE 10.06 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS TO AN APPEAL AUTHORITY

Mayor Torgersen Explained Ordinance 2025-03 Board of Adjustments to the Appeal Authority.

LAWRENCE BARNES

Mr. Barnes said he is the current vice chair of the Board of Adjustments (BOA). Mr. Barnes said he was looking through the change of appeal authority and he assumes this would be one person that lives outside Escalante. Mr. Barnes said for the audience many do not know or have not heard about the BOA, we handle cases and zoning issues that have been problematic or unresolvable by either the Planning Commission or the City Council. Mr. Barnes explained that he heard a case on a person who had a preexisting building that was non-conforming and that in fact the BOA found that it could be an additional dwelling that they did not have on their property. Mr. Barnes said another one he dealt with was a corner lot and the discrepancy between the city address and the county address where the front of the property is. Mr. Barnes said this affects the property due to the setbacks which in this case were resolved by the BOA. Mr. Barnes said he would like to discuss why the council does not want the Appeal Authority to be a local person and put it in the hands of an outside person. Mr. Barnes said he does not understand why the city would not want to keep the BOA and keep it parallel with the Planning and Zoning and City Council, why take one third of our determining body and put it elsewhere. Mr. Barnes said he is concerned about losing local control, and there were words in the ordinance about conflict of interest. Mr. Barnes said the Planning Commission, City Council and BOA are all local people, so we do recuse ourselves from votes when we have interest in the item. Mr. Barnes said he is concerned about that. Mr. Barnes said he also looked for the fees in the ordinance. Mr. Barnes said the BOA is \$50.00, but he did not see a fee for the Appeal Authority. Mr. Barnes said he would like answers to why we would not have local control and the fees.

MARK SAUNTO

Mr. Saunto said he has some of the same concerns as those of Mr. Barnes. Mr. Saunto said he was hoping to get something from the board about what made you look at the changes. Mr. Saunto asked what your thoughts are about why you are doing this. Mayor Torgersen explained the Council will address all the questions during the regular session before they vote on this item. Mr. Saunto said there is also a part stating that if the single board member does not understand they can get a decision from the City Council and then make their final judgement. Mr. Saunto said is it not the job of the appeal authority to understand the planning documents and make their judgement decision on that. Mr. Saunto said he does not understand why they would go to the Council for their decision. Mayor Torgersen explained that the Council will answer his questions and concerns after the public hearing is over and before they vote on the item. Mr. Saunto asked why the council would not answer the questions at this time. City Attorney Huntington explained that the Council will listen to the questions and concerns and answer them in the regular meeting.

PAT ANDERSON SCHWARTZ

Ms. Schwartz said her concern is loss of local control. Ms. Schwartz said that once we lose it, we cannot get it back. Ms. Schwartz said we already have something in place, so why is there a need to change it.

LOUISE EUTROPIUS

Ms. Eutropius said her concern is the Authority serving until they are removed died or resigned. Ms. Eutropius asked why this change is taking place and how does it help the people of Escalante.

ORDINANCE 2025-04 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2008-02 ALCOHOL IN CITY OWNED BUILDINGS OR CITY PREMISES

Mayor Torgersen explained Ordinance 2025-04 Alcohol in City Owned Buildings or City Premises.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

ORDINANCE 2025-05 ADOPTING ORDINANCE 8.20 GREASE TRAP REQUIREMENTS

City Recorder Steed explained Ordinance 2025-05 Grease Trap Requirements.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

ORDINANCE 2025-06 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-01 BUSINESS LICENSE PROVISIONS

City Recorder Steed explained Ordinance 2025-06 Business License Provisions.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

RESOLUTION 2025-07 ADOPTING THE 2024-2025 REVISED BUDGET

City Recorder Steed explained Ordinance 2025-07 the 2024-2025 proposed Revised Budget.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

RESOLUTION 2025-08 ADOPTING THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Mayor Torgersen explained Ordinance 2025-08 the 2025-2026 proposed Budget and said the Council has worked on this item for the last few months.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Orme moved to close the public hearing at 6:54 p.m. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme and Porter voting aye.

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2025-02 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-09 SEWER IMPACT FEES, CONNECTION FEES AND RATES

Mayor Torgersen asked the Council if there was any need for further discussion on this item. **Council member Orme moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-02. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe and Porter, voting aye.**

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2025-03 AMENDING ORDINANCE 10.06 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS TO AN APPEAL AUTHORITY

Mayor Torgersen said she has a list of questions and concerns from the Public Hearing. Mayor Torgersen said local control, fee schedule reasons and term limits. Council member Orme said she understands the lack of understanding and loss of local control. Council member Orme

said first she feels the Appeal Authority is someone you can go to when there is an unresolvable issue that has already been to the Planning Commission and City Council. Council member Orme said this is an opportunity to resolve and appeal items. Council member Orme said the Planning Commission and City Council are all local people, and it is sometimes difficult to stay objective, so it is a good opportunity to have someone come in and hear the appeals. Council member Orme said on the term limit she feels it is good because the Council would not be able to change the Appeal Authority whenever they want to and this will help with trust and make it fair for everyone. Attorney Huntington said as far as why this item has come forward is due to the state asking Cities to look at going to an Appeal Authority instead of a BOA. City Recorder Steed explained the fee for the Appeal Authority will be in the fee schedule and the Council will have to determine what it is. Council member Porter said he likes the thought of having the Appeal Authority be an individual that does not live in Escalante due to fairness and no conflicts of interest. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Porter moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-03. Council member Stowe seconded the motion.**

Council member Orme amended the Motion to add the Appeal Authority must have some kind of qualifications in land use understanding. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2025-04 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2008-02 ALCOHOL IN CITY OWNED BUILDINGS OR CITY PREMISES

Mayor Torgersen asked the Council if there was any need for further discussion on this item. **Council member Orme moved to adopt Ordinance 2005.04. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter and Orem voting aye.**

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2025-05 ADOPTING ORDINANCE 8.20 GREASE TRAP REQUIREMENTS

Mayor Torgersen asked the Council if there were any questions or need for further discussion on this item. **Council member Porter moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-05. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Orme and Stowe voting aye.**

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2025-06 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-01 BUSINESS LICENSE PROVISIONS

Mayor Torgersen asked the Council if there was any need for further discussion on this item. **Council member Orme moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-06. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

DECISION ON RESOLUTION 2025-07 ADOPTING THE 2024-2025 REVISED BUDGET

Mayor Torgersen asked if there were any questions on the revised budget or if they needed further discussion. **Council member Stowe moved to adopt Resolution 2025-07. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Porter and Stowe voting aye.**

DECISION ON RESOLUTION 2025-08 ADOPTING THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

Mayor Torgersen asked if there were any questions on the proposed budget or if they needed further discussion. **Council member Stowe moved to adopt Resolution 2025-08. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Porter, and Stowe voting aye.**

APPOINT APPEAL AUTHORITY

Council member Orme said she would like to have a work meeting on this item.

Council member Orme moved to table this item. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme and Porter voting aye.

ESCALANTE CITY FEE SCHEDULE

City Recorder Steed explained the fee schedule and the fees that were changed in accordance with the ordinances above. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Orme moved to amend the approved fees tonight and schedule a work meeting to review all other fees. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Orme and Stowe voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS**ADMINISTRATIVE**

The Administrative department had nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT**BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner said since the last meeting they have been called on three incidents. Mr. Weppner said one incident was helping 506, they also had a structure fire and a fire at mile marker 110 on Highway 12 at 11:30 at night. Mr. Weppner said the fire at mile marker 110 is at the far East end of the County and is on Federal Land. Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department is questioning why they were called out on it because they do not have authority to fight on Federal or State Land. Mr. Weppner said the city should be concerned that they were called out and took the Fire Department out of the area.

COUNCIL REPORTS**MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN**

Mayor Torgersen said we are working on putting together an Open House for the new Dental Clinic and Wellness Center. Mayor Torgersen said the City is partnering with Wayne Community Center and working on a date and time for the Open House. Mayor Torgersen explained the City will put the information in the newspaper. Mayor Torgersen said it is a nice facility for the public to use. Mayor Torgersen said the City will come up with a fee for the Wellness Center and passcodes to access it.

Mayor Torgersen said she would like to do something for the 911 day of service. Mayor Torgersen explained that the 911 day of service is encouraged nationwide. This item was discussed, and the City will look at doing the 911 day of service on Friday September 12 or

Saturday September 13 followed by a potluck in the park.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter said he is letting people know the irrigation water is getting close to being turned off, and the city will have to run the well. Council member Porter said the water is safe to drink but will be yellow due to the iron in it.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme said the State is requiring the City to do some things to come into compliance with the regulations at the landfill. Council member Orme said the landfill was surveyed today for the fence and the City will let the State know we are working towards the requirements.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Stowe moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme and Porter voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member Orme moved to go into executive session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual at 7:39 p.m. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye. Present at the executive session were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Stowe, Orme, Porter, City Attorney Huntington and City Recorder Steed.

Council member Porter moved to go out of the executive session and back into regular session at 7:53 p.m. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.

Council member Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 7/1/2025