



City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

ATTENDING: Mayor Ren Hatt, Council Members; Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster; Employees; Edward Bennett, Julie Spadafora, David Wilson, Loni Meadows, Bryan Meadows, Janet Smoak; Planning Commission; Stephanie Crabtree, Citizens Tamara Ekker, Chalyn Francis, Edward Korycan, Scott Ryan, Candice Cravins, Dylan Keele, Kenny Fallon, Karen Bodily; Lochner: Thorsen Milton; Jones & DeMille Engineering: Wyatt Hansen

CONDUCTING: Mayor Ren Hatt, the meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

ABSENT: Bo Harrison asked to be excused

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Pledge of Allegiance as directed by Ben Lehnhoff

1. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

2. Discuss/Approve/Deny policy cash in lieu of employees who have adequate alternative health insurance

Mayor Ren Hatt introduced the topic, explaining that it had come up during the budget hearing and in previous discussion. He suggested that the policy would likely offer a percentage of the benefit package value as cash to employees who have adequate alternative health insurance. The Mayor mentioned that some places offer nothing, while others offer up to 75 cents on the dollar or even a full swap.

Council member Guy Webster expressed support for implementing the policy, noting that it would affect city staff more than the council. He suggested looking at what cities of similar population size are doing.

City Manager Edward Bennett offered to send out a request through the Utah City Manager Association to gather information from cities of similar size and staff.

David Wilson mentioned that he had seen 100% offers in private sectors but noted that as a city staff member, it wouldn't benefit him personally.

Loni Meadows recalled a previous employee who received a flat rate of \$1000 for full-time and \$500 for part-time.

The council agreed to (A.I) for a range between 50% and 75% of the benefit package value. Mayor Ren Hatt said he would draft a policy and run it by the necessary authorities, including the trust representative, to ensure its feasibility.

The Council decided to have this subject as a discussion item not action.

3. Discuss/Approve/Deny the community benefit agreement with A-1 Lithium

Mayor Ren Hatt presented the community benefit agreement with A-1 Lithium, which had been under negotiation for several months. Key points of the agreement include:

- A-1 Lithium would employ 55 full-time employees.
- The city would help with zoning and permitting within legal boundaries.
- A-1 Lithium would contribute \$100,000 annually to the city budget for infrastructure upgrades, community facility construction, wastewater and sewer systems, and medical and emergency services, and medical and emergency services.
- An advisory committee will be created to help steer the spending of the funds.
- The company would hold quarterly transparency meetings.
- The agreement includes language about creating internships through the school systems.

Guy Webster expressed support for the agreement, noting that it would benefit the city and its citizens.

MOTION: Guy Webster made a motion to approve the community benefit agreement with A-1 Lithium. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ken Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

4. Discuss/Approve/Deny funding for softball as a city sponsored youth sports league

Loni Meadows proposed switching \$500 from the volleyball budget to fund girls' softball for the first year. She explained that volleyball was being used as a high school fundraiser, so the funds could be reallocated to softball. The initial focus would be on local play, not traveling to other communities. Guy Webster expressed strong support for investing in youth activities.

MOTION: Guy Webster made a motion funding for softball as a city sponsored youth sports league. Larry Packer seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ken Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

5. Discuss/Approve/Deny lease of city ground for Airbuild

Mayor Ren Hatt introduced the topic of leasing city ground near the sewer pond to Air Build for a one-year proof concept. Edward Bennett explained that Air Build's process involves taking dirty water, running it through algae pods and ultraviolet light to capture carbon from the air, clean the water, and produce biochar as a fertilizer byproduct. The Mayor noted that this project came from Inland Port and EDC Utah, with potential for job creation.

MOTION: Kent Nelson made a motion to approve lease of city ground for Air Build. Ben Lehnhoff seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ken Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

6. Discuss/Approve/Deny scope of work agreement with Lochner

Thorsen Milton from Lochner presented the scope of work for a pavement maintenance project at the airport. Key points included:

- The project is 95% FAA funded, 2.5% state funded, and 2.5% locally funded.
- The total cost is around \$300,000, with the city's portion being about \$8,000.
- The project involves crack sealing, fog sealing, and remaking portions of the apron.
- This maintenance will bridge the gap until a larger rehabilitation project in a couple of years.

MOTION: Larry Packer made a motion to approve scope of work agreement with Lochner. Ben Lehnhoff seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ken Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

7. Announce Public Hearing for the Tentative 2025-2026 Budget

Mayor Ren Hatt announced that a public hearing for the tentative 2025-2026 budget would be held on May 28, 2025, at 7 p.m. He noted that the tentative budget had been sent to the council for approval and would be available for the public to view at city hall.

8. Announce Public Hearing for Adoption of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Ren Hatt announced that a public hearing for the adoption of the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget would be held on June 18th at 7.p.m. He explained that this hearing would take place after the tentative budget had been available to the public for at least 10 days following the initial public hearing. The Mayor noted that during this meeting, they would both hear public comments and potentially adopt the budget for the following fiscal year.

9. City Council, Mayor, and/or Employee comments and concerns

Mayor Ren Hatt shared that he had been invited to speak on a panel at Harvard's Kennedy Business Center about rural governance. He also mentioned plans to form committees during the summer for local events, cemetery management, and city beautification.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the filing period for running for office is June 2nd through June 6th, encouraging civic engagement.

Larry Packer gave a shot out to the Public Works Department for their efforts in managing the current water improvements and street work.

David Wilson reported on the TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) operation results and mentioned up coming electric vehicle charging stations in town.

Janet Smoak announced the postponement of the Friendship Cruise celebration to August and mentioned a summer children's drop-in day program organized by Candice Cravins to be held at the museum.

10. Discuss/Approve/Deny Consent Agenda

- Financial Report February 2025
- Financial Report March 2025
- Payment Approval Report May 2025
- Treasurer Report April 2025
- City Council Regular Meeting Minutes April 8, 2025
- City Council Special Meeting Minutes April 29, 2025

MOTION: Kent Nelson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ben Lehnhoff seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Ken Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

11. Closed Session, if necessary, pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-205

There was no closed session held.

12. Adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

MOTION: Guy Webster made a motion to adjourn. Kent Nelson seconded the Motion. **VOTE:** Ken Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

Ren Hatt, Mayor

Julie Spadafora, City Recorder

Approved: _____