



## **NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

June 10, 2025

The North Ogden City Council convened on June 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Ogden City Public Safety Building at 505 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 June 5, 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/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6fc1hQ/videos> or by requesting a copy of the audio file from the North Ogden City Recorder.**

### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                  |                |         |
|------------------|----------------|---------|
| S. Neal Berube   | Mayor          | excused |
| Ryan Barker      | Council Member | excused |
| Blake Cevering   | Council Member |         |
| Jay D Dalpias    | Council Member |         |
| Chris Pulver     | Council Member |         |
| Christina Watson | Council Member |         |

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Jon Call       | City Manager/Attorney                       |
| Rian Santoro   | City Recorder                               |
| Scott Hess     | Community and Economic Development Director |
| Peter Brown    | Finance Director                            |
| Casey Hunsaker | City Treasurer                              |
| Bryce Nelson   | Administrative Services Manager/IT Manager  |
| Paige Hamblin  | Police Records Supervisor                   |
| Dylan Hill     | Public Works Inspector                      |
| Brian Eynon    | Chief of Police                             |

### **VISITORS:**

|                 |                |               |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Phillip Swanson | Brenda Ashdown | Susan Kilborn |
| Kevin Burns     | Reed Miller    | Kurt Illum    |
| Sandra Cochran  | Doug Myler     | Bryce Elstrom |

**0:00:12** City Manager/Attorney Jon Call called the meeting to order and excused Mayor Berube and Council Member Barker. Council Member Cevering offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

#### **1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON WHICH COUNCIL MEMBER WILL PRESIDE OVER THE MEETING AS MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

**0:02:10** Council Member Cevering motioned to nominate Council Member Dalpias as Mayor pro Tempore.

**Voting on the motion:**

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Council Member Barker</b>   | <b>excused</b> |
| <b>Council Member Cevering</b> | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Dalpias</b>  | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Pulver</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Watson</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |

**The motion passed unanimously**

### **PRESENTATION**

#### **2. VICTIM ADVOCATE SERVICES**

**0:03:02** Maria Cabrera, Victim Advocate, presented a report on victim services provided during the third and fourth quarters as part of her program requirements. She clarified that the figures shown represent approximately 75% of her actual caseload due to reporting limitations. During this period, 52 victims were served.

Demographic information of the victims included:

- One Asian
- One Black/African American
- Two Hispanic
- 41 White/non-Latino, and seven unreported

Gender identification and age distribution showed:

- 21 male
- 29 female
- Two unreported.
- Nine victims aged 0-12
- Four aged 13-17, two aged 18-24
- 25 victims aged 25-59
- 12 victims aged 60 and over

Types of victimization included:

- 10 adult physical assaults
- 4 adult survivors of childhood abuse
- 1 burglary
- 7 child physical abuse cases
- 19 domestic violence cases
- 13 identity theft, fraud, or financial crimes
- 8 vehicular-related cases (including hit-and-runs)
- 7 stalking or harassment incidents
- 21 cases involving criminal mischief, protective order violations, or theft

Many victims experienced more than one type of victimization.

Maria provided various services, including initial contact with information on the criminal justice system, victims' rights, and notifications. She offered ongoing follow-ups depending on court needs and circumstances. Eight referrals were made to victim service programs, one involved interpretive services, and several were given criminal and civil justice system assistance.

She verified criminal justice events 91 times, completed 17 victim impact statements, assisted eight with restitution, and provided 67 instances of prosecution interview advocacy or accompaniment. Law enforcement interview advocacy or accompaniment services were provided 42 times.

Ten instances of criminal advocacy/accompaniment included attending appointments with victims or connecting them to other service providers.

During follow-up questions, Maria explained that contact with victims varies case-by-case, and support is offered even years after the initial incident, depending on the needs. Council members expressed appreciation for her work and the vital support she provides.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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### **3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

**0:09:46** No conflict of interest was disclosed.

### **ACTIVE AGENDA**

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**0:10:39** Doug Myler, a Roy resident and member of NUHOPE Suicide Prevention and Awareness Coalition, spoke to the Council about the organization's mission to provide resources, raise awareness, and assist communities in suicide prevention and postvention efforts. He emphasized that men ages 20 to 65 are among the most at-risk groups and noted that Utah has the sixth highest suicide rate in the nation.

Doug highlighted recent outreach events, including a successful car show, and explained that New Hope offers support through community engagement, resource tables, ribbon-tying events, and a sister support group called Legacy, run by a couple who lost their son 35 years ago. This group focuses on postvention support for survivors of suicide loss. He mentioned that the coalition includes partnerships with organizations such as Weber Human Services, Intermountain Healthcare, Hope Squads, and Weber-Morgan Health. Doug offered to share contact information and expressed a desire for increased volunteer participation, especially from North Ogden residents, to assist with events and expand community reach. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

**0:14:00** Kurt Illum, a North Ogden resident, addressed the Council with three items. First, he extended an invitation on behalf of his wife to attend a small celebration for the U.S. Army's 250th birthday on Saturday between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. at their home, located at 805 E. 3300 N. The event will include sheet cake, chairs, and shade, and all are welcome.

Second, he raised concerns about speeding and traffic safety on 3300 North near his home. He noted increased construction activity in the area and reported that large trucks and other vehicles are not consistently stopping at signs or driving safely, especially considering the proximity to Bates Elementary School and a nearby park. He also mentioned that even school buses often travel too fast in the area. Kurt suggested the City review traffic conditions there to better protect the many children in the neighborhood. Lastly, he discussed issues related to off-leash dogs.

He explained that he owns a pit bull/Dalmatian mix that is well-trained but protective, and off-leash dogs approaching them present a danger. He shared an experience where a

police officer responded to a call about an off-leash dog but did not stop to follow up. Kurt urged the City to give more attention to this issue, enforce existing ordinances, and consider resource planning to better address off-leash dog concerns. He emphasized that friendly dogs are not friendly to everyone and asked the Council to take these concerns seriously before an incident occurs.

**0:19:02** Bryce Elstrom, a North Ogden resident, addressed the Council regarding the proposed budget and road funding discussions. He referenced past Council meetings and noted that around 2016-2017, the City implemented a \$3 transportation utility fee that generated approximately \$1.2 million before it was discontinued following a legal ruling that classified it as a tax. At that time, the funds were absorbed into the general property tax revenue without being earmarked specifically for road projects.

Bryce expressed concern that the current proposal to raise property taxes by 30-40% similarly lacks safeguards to ensure the funds will be used solely for transportation purposes. He urged the Council to establish clear goals, targets, and accountability measures to prevent these funds from being redirected by future Councils. He emphasized the importance of transparency and suggested that any future changes in allocation should require additional public input.

Additionally, Bryce commented on the proposed compensation adjustments for City Staff. While he acknowledged the importance of retaining employees and praised the professionalism of City Staff based on his limited interactions, he questioned whether a 10% increase across some positions is appropriate, especially for employees hired within the last six months who would presumably have been brought in at market rate. He concluded by encouraging thoughtful consideration of both fiscal accountability and compensation practices.

**0:24:23** Susan Kilborn, a North Ogden resident, addressed the Council to thank a previous speaker for raising the issue of off-leash dogs. She shared that she has personally been bitten twice and finds it difficult to manage such situations while also trying to protect her two small dogs.

Susan proposed the idea of a split shift for animal control officers, pointing out that most off-leash dog incidents she witnesses occur after 5:00 or 7:00 p.m., when many assume enforcement is unavailable.

She also acknowledged the recent candidate filing deadline and thanked those who stepped forward to run for Mayor and City Council.

She expressed appreciation for their willingness to serve during a time of important issues and encouraged a respectful and energetic election season. Susan concluded by thanking them again for their civic commitment and wishing everyone a good evening.

5. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-12  
ADOPTING COMPENSATION INCREASES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**

**0:27:07** City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained the State law requirement to adopt an executive employee compensation schedule either before or at the same meeting where the City budget is adopted. This is the second year of implementing this requirement, which arose after concerns in another Utah city where large employee bonuses were given without public awareness.

Jon clarified that North Ogden City does not provide bonuses or deferred compensation to executive Staff. The only additional benefit outside of salary is a vehicle or stipend for some employees, and there are no increases to those stipends this year. The compensation schedule displays salary ranges rather than specific salaries, with a focus on positioning employees between the low and high range, ideally progressing toward the midrange based on performance and experience.

He emphasized that even though the market study might show a 13% range increase for a position, it does not mean the employee receives a 13% raise. Instead, salary adjustments are based on the individual's placement within the range and other factors such as years in the role, performance, and qualifications. The budget allows for merit-based raises between 3% and 10%, depending on those factors. High performers are likely to fall near the top of the midrange.

It was noted that department heads do not typically receive higher-end compensation within their salary ranges, and raises for department heads tend to vary similarly to those of other City employees. Additionally, some department heads may be earlier in their tenure or still developing the full range of qualifications for their role, which influences their placement on the scale.

Council Member Watson reiterated that the market study used to determine salary ranges is comprehensive and designed to keep compensation competitive with similar cities. The intent is to retain employees and avoid losing talent to better-paying cities, which can result in costly turnover and training expenses.

**0:36:13** Public Hearing was opened.

**0:36:53** Reed Miller, a North Ogden resident, asked for clarification regarding the executive compensation schedule, specifically whether the stated 3% to 10% salary increase would be in addition to the salary ranges shown on the schedule.

City Manager/Attorney Jon Call responded that the 3% to 10% increases are not added on top of the schedule amounts but fall within the newly adjusted low-to-high salary range.

**0:38:10 Council Member Cevering motioned to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.**

**Council Member Cevering motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-12, adopting compensation increases for municipal officers. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion.**

**Voting on the motion:**

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Council Member Barker</b>   | <b>excused</b> |
| <b>Council Member Cevering</b> | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Dalpias</b>  | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Pulver</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Watson</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER ADOPTING ORDINANCE 2025-13, ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET**

**0:38:47** City Manager/Attorney Jon Call presented the latest version of the City budget and discussed the implications of potentially proceeding with the Truth in Taxation process. The process hinges on whether the Council wishes to increase property taxes, especially to fund approximately \$1.2 million in road projects. However, the certified tax rate has not yet been provided by the County due to technical delays, though the City must still proceed with budget planning.

The Council agreed to first review and discuss expenses, followed by public comment, and then a discussion on revenues.

Major expense changes discussed included a \$252,289 draw from the fund balance due to increased insurance costs, primarily driven by a rise in Workers' Compensation claims and adjustments to insurance budget errors from the prior year.

Other changes include reduced Cherry Days revenues and expenses due to the City not hosting a carnival, a planned \$1.2 million transfer to capital improvements for road funding, and a reallocation of grant and RDA/CDA project funds due to project timelines. Several Council members expressed concern about the proposed omission of the traditional \$300,000 contribution to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIP). Council members highlighted that skipping this annual contribution could set a precedent that hinders future planning and investment, particularly in projects like the McGriff Park bathroom upgrade. There was consensus that while more money is being injected into capital projects now, it's being immediately spent, leaving nothing reserved for other long-term capital needs beyond roads.

Council members also debated whether to use a property tax increase or a transportation utility fee to fund road improvements. Council Members Dalpias and Watson leaned toward a utility fee due to its flexibility and clearer tracking for road-specific use. They also noted that it may be easier for residents to absorb incrementally through monthly bills than a large property tax increase. Council Member Pulver supported the fee for its flexibility and ability to be waived for low-income residents, arguing it more accurately reflects road use compared to property value.

Concerns were raised about using rainy day funds to balance the budget, with Council member Dalpias noting this had not occurred in recent years. City Manager/Attorney Jon Call clarified the rainy day fund would still be within acceptable limits, projected at 27% of annual expenditures, within the State-mandated range of 5% to 35%.

In conclusion, the Council sought additional clarity on whether excess year-end funds should be automatically directed to road projects or preserved in CIP. They recognized the need for additional revenue to support necessary infrastructure upgrades and balance rising expenses, including increased insurance costs and operational needs. The Council emphasized the importance of formally earmarking such funds and continuing discussions on how to sustain long-term infrastructure investment, with a final decision on tax or fee implementation pending certified rate data from the County.

#### **1:25:56 Public Hearing was opened.**

**1:26:43** Phil Swanson, a North Ogden City resident and member of the Citizen Budget Subcommittee, stated that while the Subcommittee was not unanimous, the consensus had shifted in support of implementing a transportation utility fee.

The Subcommittee's main concern was ensuring transparency and accountability of the funds, which is more achievable with a fee than with allocations from the general fund.

Phil emphasized that fees provide a clear, trackable path for revenue and expenditures, similar to other City fees such as impact and vehicle registration fees. He noted the potential risk of relying on fluctuating income sources like interest earnings, which have been absorbed into the general fund and used for balancing the budget, something he warned against repeating.

Phil shared that both Mayor Berube and the Subcommittee support increasing the sales tax revenue estimate to 5.5% based on historical trends, which could reduce the need to pre-program fund balance use. He encouraged a 3.3% increase in property tax to support road funding, combined with the \$67,000 from the Cove subdivision, if the City pursues the utility fee route. He also voiced concern about the City's continued subsidy of the Aquatic Center, questioning whether it should take priority over infrastructure. Speaking personally, Phil felt the pool's lower entry costs do not justify asking fixed-income residents to pay fees for essential services like roads. He concluded by urging the Council to raise the Aquatic Center fee to \$11.50 to redirect those funds toward critical infrastructure, stating, "We can live without the pool if we had to. We can't live without roads."

1:34:52 Brenda Ashdown, a North Ogden City resident, provided public comment in opposition to several points raised by Phil Swanson. She cautioned the Council against significantly increasing the sales tax estimate, referencing an article she had recently read that forecasted sales tax revenues would likely flatten. She suggested a more conservative approach, such as increasing projections by 3.5% rather than doubling them, due to concerns about the overall stability of the economy.

Regarding property tax, Brenda expressed frustration that it would be difficult to track increases designated for roads. She stated that in her view, even a simple budget should allow for clearly tracking such revenue without difficulty. She questioned why an ordinance change would not be required prior to adopting a property tax increase or a new transportation fee, and sought clarification about whether approving the budget without that change was procedurally correct.

Brenda also voiced concern about the fairness and sustainability of implementing a transportation utility fee. Speaking as someone on a fixed income, she acknowledged that she might qualify for relief from the fee but worried that exempting residents like her could lead to increased costs for others. She questioned whether the City would end up raising the fee in the future to compensate for the exempt households.

Additionally, she noted that her City utility bill had already nearly doubled and that the proposed \$15 fee, while it may seem minor, represented a significant increase when viewed in that context. She closed by stating that while her opinions may not be popular among her demographic, she felt it was important to express her concerns.

**1:38:42** Kevin Burns, a North Ogden City resident, shared his opposition to implementing a transportation utility fee, stating his preference for a tax instead. He disagreed with the earlier assertion that fees are more appropriate, emphasizing that most fees, such as those for car registration or pool entry, are optional, as individuals can choose not to participate in those services. In contrast, the proposed transportation fee would be mandatory for all residents, without an opt-out option, which he felt fundamentally distinguishes it from traditional fees.

Kevin questioned whether alternative revenue sources, such as sales tax or other general revenues, could be used to support road maintenance, noting that North Ogden roads are used by more than just its residents. He pointed out that regional traffic, especially from Ogden Valley, also contributes to road wear.

He acknowledged City Manager/Attorney Jon Call's earlier presentation, which demonstrated a clear and organized method for tracking funds and budget categories. Referencing this, Kevin expressed confidence that Staff are capable of maintaining transparency and accountability with tax revenues. He concluded by echoing a previous speaker's sentiment that if the City is unable to track designated funds, broader changes would be needed.

**1:40:35** Sandy Cochran, a North Ogden City resident, expressed strong opposition to implementing a transportation utility fee and voiced her support for funding road needs through a property tax increase instead. She stated that throughout the entire Budget Committee process, she consistently favored the tax approach and did not waver in that position.

Sandy recounted a recent HOA meeting where she discussed the City's potential tax and fee increases with fellow residents. She shared that the reaction was overwhelmingly negative, with people concerned about being financially burdened from multiple directions. She emphasized that regardless of how the City frames the changes, residents perceive it as being "hit left and right" with added costs.

She also criticized the tone of some previous comments made during discussions, which she felt implied that residents might not notice the fee or that it could be quietly implemented. Sandy strongly warned against this approach, stating that the Council must be transparent and respectful toward the citizens who elected them.

**1:42:31** Council Member Pulver motioned to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Watson seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.

**1:43:14** City Manager/Attorney Jon Call presented the revenue estimate, the transportation utility fee, and the property tax rate. He emphasized that while no formal adoption would occur during this meeting, decisions made would shape the budget presented at the next meeting.

Regarding sales tax, the Council discussed whether to raise the projected revenue. Council Member Dalpias supported a modest increase based on recent trends, suggesting a conservative adjustment below the 5.5% recommended by the Citizen Budget Subcommittee. Council Member Pulver proposed using increased sales tax revenue to cover a \$300,000 shortfall and using a property tax increase to address the remaining \$252,000 budget gap. He noted the long-term need to stabilize the property tax “leg” of the budget structure, which has lagged behind inflation.

Council members debated the merits of using a transportation utility fee versus a property tax increase for road funding. Several supported the fees' transparency and legal restrictions, which ensure funds are used exclusively for roads. Others raised concerns about affordability and public perception. Staff noted the fee could be adjusted to accommodate income-based waivers, though doing so could shift the cost burden slightly.

A consensus appeared to form around increasing the sales tax estimate to 5.5%, implementing a transportation utility fee to generate approximately \$1.2 million for roads, and adopting a property tax increase, likely in the range of 10-15%, to cover contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund and replace use of fund balance. Staff agreed to return with clear rate options at the next meeting once the certified tax rate is available.

The Council also revisited the Aquatic Center's subsidy. While some Council members supported gradually increasing entrance fees to reduce the financial burden, others felt the pool is an important City amenity and preferred keeping fees competitive with neighboring cities. The idea of targeting a future \$11-\$11.50 fee was raised but not finalized for this season.

In conclusion, no formal action was taken, but the Council provided direction for Staff to return with refined property tax scenarios and updated figures based on a 5.5% sales tax projection, a transportation utility fee, and inclusion of capital project funding in the final budget.

**2:05:33** Council Member Cevering motioned to recess the City Council meeting and convene in the Redevelopment Agency (RDA). Council Member Watson seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.

7. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-14  
ADOPTING THE RDA FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 FINAL BUDGET**

**2:20:32** City Manager/Attorney Jon Call reviewed the updates to the RDA (Redevelopment Agency) section of the budget. He highlighted several adjustments, including \$24,000 allocated for Placer AI software, a correction to a previous \$360,000 line item due to an error in the Casselle software system, and a revised total reflecting the accurate figure. He also noted the \$115,000 designated for a turn lane project, which has been deferred to the next fiscal year to avoid disrupting the area during the July 4th parade. Additionally, the Placer AI expense is being moved from the general RDA budget to the CDA (Community Development Area) portion.

**2:21:32** **Public Hearing was opened.**

**2:22:36** **Board Member Cevering motioned to close the Public Hearing. Board Member Pulver seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.**

**2:23:21** Jon Call briefly highlighted the implementation of Placer AI software as one of the more exciting additions to the budget. He explained that the tool would provide valuable data on visitor patterns related to City facilities like parks and the Aquatic Center, for example, tracking where people go before and after visiting these sites. This data will help the City better understand commercial impacts, traffic patterns, and community behavior, informing decisions about economic development and infrastructure. Board Member Cevering acknowledged the significant work the Council and Staff have done over the past eight months on the RDA and budget planning.

**2:25:03** **Board Member Cevering motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-14, adopting the RDA fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Board Member Pulver seconded the motion.**

**Voting on the motion:**

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Board Member Barker</b>   | <b>excused</b> |
| <b>Board Member Cevering</b> | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Board Member Dalpias</b>  | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Board Member Pulver</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Board Member Watson</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Board Member Pulver motioned to adjourn the RDA meeting and convene in the regular City Council meeting. Board Member Watson seconded the motion.

8. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 10-2025, AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC TREASURERS' INVESTMENT FUND (PTIF)**

2:26:45 Casey Hunsaker, City Treasurer, presented a housekeeping item involving a resolution required by State code to update authorized users of the Public Treasurer's Investment Fund (PTIF). The resolution removes former Finance Department employees Jami Jones and Bryce Nelson and adds Finance Director Peter Brown, City Manager/Attorney Jon Call, and himself as City Treasurer to ensure proper and current access.

Council Member Dalpias asked whether the delay in updating access created any risk for the City. Jon Call responded that while technically former Staff still had authorization on record, they lacked active passwords, so there was no known breach. He confirmed the resolution would secure the account moving forward and ensure continued access in the event of Staff absences or turnover.

**Council Member Watson motioned to approve Resolution 10-2025, authorizing the Public Treasurers' Investment Fund (PTIF). Council Member Cevering seconded the motion.**

**Voting on the motion:**

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Council Member Barker</b>   | <b>excused</b> |
| <b>Council Member Cevering</b> | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Dalpias</b>  | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Pulver</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |
| <b>Council Member Watson</b>   | <b>aye</b>     |

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## 9. COUNCIL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### a. Council Member Dalpias— Police Department

**2:29:56** Council Member Dalpias provided a report on the North Ogden Police Department. He announced that Lieutenant Jason Child will be retiring, with his last day set for June 12. Applications for his replacement have been received both internally and externally, with testing scheduled to begin the following week. Additionally, he noted that the annual North Ogden Police Department golf tournament will be held on Friday, June 13. The event supports the department's Sub for Santa program. While he expressed regret for not being able to attend, he wished participants a fun and successful event.

### b. Council Member Cevering – Building & Planning Departments

**2:32:10** Council Member Cevering delivered a brief report from the Planning Department. He shared that the Westates Development project, located just south of 1700 North, will undergo plat and site plan review at the next Planning Commission meeting. Northview Phase 10 will also move forward to plat review at that same meeting. Additionally, he announced that America First Credit Union has applied for a building permit and will soon begin construction at the corner of 2700 North and Washington Boulevard.

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**2:33:22** Sandy Cochran, a North Ogden resident, expressed concern over a recent social media post listing candidates running for office, noting that several names were unfamiliar to her and that those individuals had not been present at meetings or participated in any visible way. She questioned whether such candidates could reasonably expect community support if they did not demonstrate involvement or engagement with City proceedings.

**2:34:40** Kevin Burns, a North Ogden resident, urged the Council not to undervalue the importance of parks, especially as the City continues to develop apartments, townhomes, and reduce available open space. He acknowledged that parks often face cuts during budget discussions, such as reduced maintenance, but emphasized their significant value to the community given the changing housing landscape and growing population.

**2:35:39** Brenda Ashdown, a North Ogden resident, urged the Council to carefully consider its outreach strategy to ensure transparency and adequate public awareness regarding the potential implementation of the transportation utility fee. She noted that while the Council has indicated they would ensure residents are informed if a fee is introduced or increased, she questioned how that communication would effectively reach the broader public, given the low attendance at the meeting. She emphasized the importance of utilizing multiple communication channels, such as the City website, Facebook, and utility bill inserts, to reach those who may not receive mailed bills or attend meetings.

**2:37:19** Susan Kilborn, a North Ogden resident, expressed appreciation for the thoughtful discussion and honesty shown during the meeting. She commended the Council for their efforts and engagement. Susan then stated that she had numerous ideas for generating revenue at the pool and asked who she could speak with directly, emphasizing that she wanted to meet with someone genuinely interested in a conversation, not just a promise of a callback.

## **11. MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

**2:38:38** Council Member Dalpias acknowledged Brenda's earlier remarks regarding the transportation utility fee. He agreed that effectively communicating the new fee to residents is a challenge and emphasized the importance of public notice, the City website, and email notifications. He proposed including a one-page summary or map in utility bills, if feasible, to show which roads are scheduled for work in the first year. If a physical insert isn't possible, he suggested at least including a direct link in the utility bill to detailed information online. He also mentioned the plan to invest approximately \$3 million annually in road improvements and to provide updated maps as they become available.

City Manager/Attorney Jon Call supported the idea and added that as part of the fee and study process, communication strategies will be included and coordinated by Katie Gerard, the HR Director, with assistance in creating a dedicated webpage for public access to the information.

**2:41:49** Council Member Pulver expressed concern that trails near Barker Park could become overgrown without proper maintenance and noted the lack of recent discussion or planning for that area.

He suggested utilizing the City's volunteer groups more effectively for maintenance, emphasizing that since the park is City-owned, volunteers could be organized to help with upkeep.

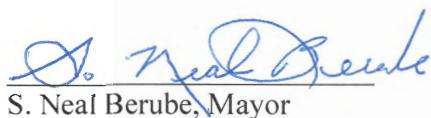
City Manager/Attorney Jon Call responded that the issue falls under the Parks Department and agreed to bring it up in the next Staff meeting.

**2:43:19** Council Member Watson addressed Susan Kilborn, stating that as the Council liaison for Recreation and the Aquatic Center, she would reach out to her directly. She expressed interest in discussing Susan's ideas further.

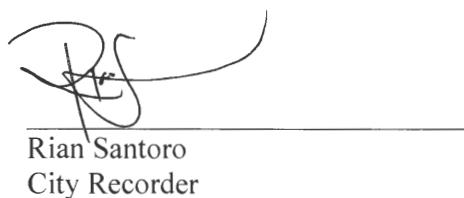
**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Cevering motioned to adjourn the meeting.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**



S. Neal Berube, Mayor



Rian Santoro  
City Recorder

7/8/25  
Date Approved

