

EMIGRATION CANYON

EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

JULY 14, 2025

Unified Fire Authority Station 119
5025 E Emigration Canyon Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Emigration Canyon Council will hold a meeting at **7:00 PM** on the **14th day of July 2025** at the Emigration Canyon Fire Station, 5025 E Emigration Canyon Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108 as follows:

***** Portions of the meetings may be closed for reasons allowed by statute. Motions relating to any of the items listed below, including final action, may be taken.***

7:00 PM – PUBLIC MEETING

1. Call to Order and Determine Quorum
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognize Visiting Officials
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per person)**
Comments should be limited to no more than three (3) minutes per person unless additional time is authorized by the Governing Body.
5. **STAKEHOLDER REPORTS**
 - A. Unified Police Department (UPD) – ***Detective Dawn Larsen***
 - B. Unified Fire Authority (UFA) – ***Chief Bryan Case Excused – No Report***
 - C. Salt Lake County Animal Services – ***Gary Bowen***
6. **PROJECT UPDATES**
 - A. Engineering Project updates – ***Tamaran Woodland, Engineering Manager***
7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes
 1. September 24, 2024 City Council Meeting
 2. June 24, 2025 City Council Meeting
 3. June 24, 2025 City Council Workshop Meeting
8. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS** - *None*
9. **PRESENTATION ITEMS** - *None*
10. **COUNCIL BUSINESS:** (Discussion/Motion)
 - A. Discussion Regarding Evacuation Plans – ***Brian Buckhout, Emergency Planner***
 - B. Discussion on Noise Control in the Canyon – ***Detective Dawn Larsen***
 - C. Dark Sky License Plate Initiative Updates – ***Council Member Catherine Harris***
 - D. Dogwalker Discussion Updates – ***Council Member Catherine Harris***

- E. House Bill 48 Updates – ***Council Member Catherine Harris***
- F. Healthy Utah Designation Updates – ***Council Member Robert Pinon***
- G. Road Striping Updates – ***Mayor Joe Smolka***
- H. Discussion and Potential Decision Regarding Franchise and MET Taxes – ***Mayor Joe Smolka***

11. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATES (Discussion/Motion)

12. COUNCIL REPORTS

A. Council Member Brems

- 1. Unified Police Department (UPD) & Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA)
- 2. Emigration Canyon Planning Commission
- 3. Community Renewable Energy Program

B. Council Member Harris

- 1. Unified Fire Authority (UFA) & Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA)
- 2. Watershed Plan

C. Council Member Pinon

- 1. Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD)
- 2. Utah Broadband
- 3. Update on Possible High-Density Development

D. Deputy Mayor Hawkes

- 1. Website (www.emigration.utah.gov)
- 2. CodeRED
- 3. Association of Municipal Governments
- 4. Utah League of Cities and Townes

E. Mayor Smolka

- 1. Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD)
- 2. Landfill Council
- 3. Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) Transportation Committee
- 4. Council of Governments (COG)
- 5. Legislative Updates

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per person)

Comments should be limited to no more than three (3) minutes per person unless additional time is authorized by the Governing Body.

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

15. CLOSED SESSIONS IF NEEDED AS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE §52-4-205

- A. Discussion of the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual.
- B. Strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.
- C. Strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property.
- D. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and
- E. Other lawful purposes as listed in Utah Code §52-4-205

16. ADJOURN

ZOOM MEETING:

Topic: Emigration Canyon City Council Meeting

Time: July 14, 2025, 7:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87013454018?pwd=q91NDapMtS0iDb5mpiFbK1t7TM9r5A.1>

Meeting ID: 870 1345 4018

Passcode: 777539

Upon request with three (3) working days' notice, the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District will make reasonable accommodations for participation in the meeting. To request assistance, please call (385) 377-9466 – TTY 711.

Posted on: July 11, 2025



EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

JUNE 24, 2025, 6:00 PM

UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY STATION 119

5025 E. EMIGRATION CANYON ROAD, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84108

EMIGRATION CANYON JUNE 24, 2025 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES ****DRAFT MINUTES – UNAPPROVED****

Council Members Present:

Joe Smolka, Mayor
Jennifer Hawkes, Deputy Mayor
David Brems, Council Member
Catherine Harris, Council Member
Robert Pinon, Council Member

Council Members Excused:

Staff Present:

Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel
Diana Baun, City Recorder
Detective Dawn Larsen, Unified Police Department

Others Present:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joe Smolka, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. Discussion on Commercial Dog Walkers

Detective Dawn Larsen and the council addressed ongoing concerns related to dog walkers, trail use, and responsible pet waste management in the canyon area. Detective Larsen explained that Middle Fork Trail, which is Forest Service land including its parking area, had seen more use lately, especially by commercial dog walkers who have fewer places to go as restrictions increase in nearby canyons like Neff's and Millcreek. Larsen noted that the Forest Service had been stepping up outreach to dog walkers in the area, informing them of rules and restrictions.

EMIGRATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR JOE SMOLKA, DEPUTY MAYOR JENNIFER HAWKES,
COUNCIL MEMBER CATHERINE HARRIS, COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT PINON,
COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID BREMS

Council Members David Brems and Catherine Harris clarified the exact location of Middle Fork Trail and other popular spots like Pinecrest and the “Tall Grass” area, pointing out that some access points cross private property. Council Member Harris reminded everyone that much of the trail access depends on the cooperation of private landowners and that misuse, including dog waste left behind, could jeopardize future access. Council Member Hawkes added that she had heard from other communities like Alta that had enacted stricter restrictions on dogs to protect watershed areas, suggesting that Emigration Canyon should learn from how other jurisdictions handle similar issues.

Cameron Platt, the city’s legal counsel, confirmed that the council had authority to regulate commercial dog walking activities, such as limiting the number of dogs per handler, as long as it was tied to a rational basis like protecting water quality or trail safety. The group discussed that while the county code generally allows up to three dogs before requiring a kennel license, the city could adopt its own ordinance to address local concerns more specifically.

Detective Larsen reported some improvement with commercial dog walkers being more mindful and following guidelines, but acknowledged that pet waste left behind remained an ongoing issue, consistent with what she had observed in other areas like Millcreek Canyon. Council members discussed practical solutions to help mitigate this, including installing dog waste bag dispensers and trash receptacles at popular trailheads to encourage proper cleanup. They agreed that clear signage would be needed to remind visitors that access depended on respecting both private and public lands and that violations could lead to restrictions.

Council Member Hawkes suggested researching what other canyons and cities are doing and offered to contact Millcreek Canyon to learn about their odd/even dog day rules and management practices. Council Member Harris emphasized the need to approach this thoughtfully, proposing that the city develop cohesive design guidelines for signage and facilities to maintain a consistent look across the canyon.

Mayor Joe Smolka summarized the next steps, which included researching the costs for dog waste stations and trash pickup, developing unified signs to educate trail users, and gathering comparable policies from other canyons. The council tentatively planned to revisit the issue in a July or August meeting once this information was compiled, with an emphasis on balancing public access with responsible stewardship to maintain the canyon’s recreational opportunities.

B. Discussion on Recognizing Residents for Outstanding Community Awareness

Council Member Robert Pinon introduced the idea of developing a formal method for recognizing residents who go above and beyond in serving the Emigration Canyon community. He shared an example, without naming the individual, of a resident who recently helped prevent a significant fire and suggested that moments like this deserved consistent acknowledgment. He proposed creating a process for recognizing exceptional contributions, whether through a certificate, token, or other meaningful gesture, and emphasized that any recognition should be handled respectfully, especially for cases involving sensitive circumstances.

Mayor Smolka, Council Member Harris, and Council Member Hawkes all agreed that recognizing residents' efforts was important. Council Member Harris pointed out that regular recognition already occurs in organizations like the fire authority and that even small gestures of sincere thanks can have a powerful impact. Council Member Hawkes suggested exploring options beyond a paper certificate, such as a commemorative coin or a symbolic gift, to make the recognition feel more special. Council Member Harris cautioned, however, that any recognition should be checked with recipients first, as some people may prefer to avoid public attention.

Cameron Platt, the city's legal counsel, explained the formal options available. The council could issue individual resolutions each time or adopt a standing resolution outlining a clear process for nominating and recognizing residents. He also clarified how confidentiality could be maintained for sensitive cases, with recognition handled more discreetly by the mayor or a small delegation of council members.

There was consensus that the city should keep the process flexible but thoughtful, starting with certificates that could be easily personalized and delivered, while leaving open the possibility of using other forms of recognition like shirts or small mementos in the future. Several council members emphasized that the delivery should feel personal and meaningful. Council Member Brems noted that during community-wide emergencies, like the flooding, there had been many instances where recognition would have been appropriate but logistically challenging; having a simple system in place would make it easier to show gratitude when needed.

The discussion concluded with agreement that the mayor and Council Member Pinon would move forward immediately with a first example of this new recognition, delivering it quietly and respectfully to the resident who recently contributed in a significant way. The council agreed this would serve as a starting point to refine the approach and eventually develop a consistent policy for future recognitions.

C. Discussion on Restrictions for Bicycle Traffic in Construction Zones

Mayor Joe Smolka and the council addressed growing safety concerns about bicyclists passing through an active construction zone in the canyon. Mayor Smolka noted that there had been repeated incidents of cyclists running the construction lights and even entering hazardous work areas, including one case where a cyclist fell into an open trench but fortunately was not seriously injured. He explained that he had spoken with the construction contractor, who confirmed that the situation was creating real safety risks for both workers and riders.

Council Members Hawkes, Brems, and Pinon shared mixed observations, acknowledging that while some cyclists followed the signals, others frequently ignored them — a problem compounded by the lack of concrete barricades and the use of cones, which made it easier for cyclists to weave through restricted areas. Council Member Pinon pointed out that the current lane setup and signal timing were challenging for some riders, especially slower cyclists who struggled to clear the zone before the light changed.

Mayor Smolka outlined several options for improving safety, including potentially restricting bicycle access through the construction zone either entirely or during working hours. He mentioned that electronic signs could be updated to inform cyclists of any new restrictions. However, Council Member Hawkes strongly cautioned against moving forward without first engaging cycling groups and other stakeholders, noting that similar restrictions proposed in the past drew significant backlash and media attention. She emphasized that other canyons could not easily absorb the overflow of cyclists if Emigration Canyon were suddenly closed, and that the city needed to be mindful of how its decision might affect the broader community.

Council Members Brems and Harris agreed that a full closure was likely unnecessary and would generate a strong negative response, given that the construction segments were only about 1,500 feet long. Brems suggested exploring whether the contractor could reduce the length of the active work area to shorten waiting times, though Mayor Smolka pointed out that the construction plan was based on larger 1,500-foot sections. Council members agreed that better communication with the cycling community would be essential, particularly ahead of the upcoming micro-paving work in August, when the canyon would need to be fully closed to bicycles for a few days.

Cameron Platt clarified that any restriction would need to be carefully defined, whether it was a full closure or just restricting passage through the construction area during work hours. Council Member Pinon suggested that improving the physical barricade system might help by making it harder for cyclists to slip through the work zone unsafely.

Before closing this topic, the conversation shifted briefly to the condition of the existing bike repair station at the fire station, which several council members noted was worn out and not easily visible. Council Member Pinon proposed replacing it with a newer, more functional version, and Council Member Hawkes suggested coordinating placement with planned updates to crosswalk striping and landscaping at the site. She emphasized that the crosswalk should be repainted in the correct location during the micro-paving work to ensure better safety and functionality for all users.

Mayor Smolka concluded the discussion by reiterating that more input and stakeholder outreach would be needed before any final decisions were made about restricting bicycle access during construction. The council agreed that the issue would be brought back for a decision at a future meeting, giving staff time to gather additional information, coordinate with cycling groups, and develop clear communication plans to manage the impact on the community.

3. Adjourn

Council Member Brems moved to adjourn the June 24, 2025 Emigration Canyon Council Workshop Meeting. Council Member Harris seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

The June 24, 2025 Emigration Canyon Council Workshop Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

The June 24, 2025 City Council Meeting Workshop Minutes were Approved by the City Council on the 14th day of July 2025:

ATTEST:

Joe Smolka, Mayor

Diana Baun, City Recorder

DRAFT



EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 24, 2025, 7:00 PM

UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY STATION 119

5025 E. EMIGRATION CANYON ROAD, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84108

EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2025

****DRAFT MINUTES – UNAPPROVED****

Council Members Present:

Joe Smolka, Mayor
Jennifer Hawkes, Deputy Mayor
Catherine Harris, Council Member
Robert Pinon, Council Member
David Brems, Council Member

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel
Diana Baun, City Recorder
Dawn Larsen, Unified Police Department
Bryan Case, Unified Fire Authority
Tamaran Woodland, Engineering Manager

Others Present:

1. Welcome and Determine Quorum

Mayor Joe Smolka, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and determined a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Recognize Visiting Officials

Chris Harding, County Auditor, shared information on getting electronic notices for Property Taxes with links to additional information on the specific taxing entities and how to find those. He encouraged residents to sign up for e-notices and shared a card with a QR code that goes to the following link: <https://www.saltlakecounty.gov/enotices>

4. Public Comments

EMIGRATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR JOE SMOLKA, DEPUTY MAYOR JENNIFER HAWKES,
COUNCIL MEMBER CATHERINE HARRIS, COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT PINON,
COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID BREMS

Janet Haskell from Killians Lane. She asked about the upcoming elections, what they will look like and potential locations for in-person voting. She also recognized Council Member David Brems, who will be the next mayor, noting she believes that is a good thing and voicing her support based on his experience. She shared that she has heard that when his position is vacated the city will potentially be filling it by appointment. She vehemently disagreed with that, but council members assured her that is how Utah Law works. To her, appointment means someone is unable to finish their term and it's temporary, but that it's not appropriate for a full four year term. The council and legal counsel corrected her and noted the position would only have two years left on the term. She continued by noting she believes the residents should be voting for that position, and that the council "voting" they are essentially stealing the residents' right to vote.

Cameron Platt shared that any vacancy created is governed by state law, which requires the council to meet and interview candidates who have submitted their candidacy. He clarified the council does not just choose someone, qualified residents apply and the council interviews all those who apply, selecting someone from that group to fill the remainder of the term. He also noted the interviews have to be done in a public meeting so residents can see the whole process, noting that the residents have elected the council, and their elected representatives will then choose from the pool of applicants.

Ms. Haskell stated that was unconstitutional and that it wasn't right.

Mr. Platt noted this is the process throughout the state and multiple council members added that is the procedure for many states throughout the country.

Ms. Haskell asked about other options.

Mr. Platt responded the seat is not currently vacant, as Council Member Brems has not been elected and declared the mayor, which would then create the vacancy.

Ms. Haskell suggested the city have another election after the vacancy occurs, and Mr. Platt responded that is not allowed. Municipalities are created by the State, which gives the state control over certain functions, elections being one of those functions.

Council Member Catherine Harris noted her recognition that there are more candidates running for the current position in the election than there are seats, suggesting the council would potentially take that into consideration.

Ms. Haskell then asked for information on a potential primary race.

Diana Baun responded that when there are three or more candidates for one position, that triggers a Primary Election, which will be on August 12, 2025 to narrow the race down to the top two candidates, which then move to the General Election.

Council Member Hawkes asked to have the primary election information and candidates sent for her to add to the website. Diana Baun responded that information was all contained in the Certified Candidate List that was sent earlier in the month.

Naomi Keeson, a resident of the Skycrest neighborhood, addressed the council to express her frustration and that of her neighbors regarding the Municipal Services District's handling of the culvert replacement project in their area. She explained that she had sent an email on behalf of the entire neighborhood to the MSD on Friday the 13th, outlining collective concerns raised during a neighborhood meeting attended by all directly impacted property owners, except those who were out of town. Naomi emphasized that the concerns she relayed were not hers alone but reflected the input and consensus of the entire group affected by the project. She stated that no response was received until just an hour before the current meeting, which she found suspicious. Naomi was dissatisfied with the tone and substance of the response, noting that it framed the concerns as solely hers rather than recognizing that they came from the whole neighborhood. She explained that residents held a range of views about the culvert replacement—some supported it while others questioned its necessity—but all agreed on the need for clear communication, fair treatment, and a genuine opportunity to have their concerns addressed. Ms. Keeson highlighted specific requests that residents felt had been ignored. The neighborhood asked for an independent cost and time estimate for the road closure required by the project, noting that the MSD's consultant had projected four days, but the community believed an independent estimate was reasonable and not uncommon for a project of this type, especially when it involves cutting off 14 households' access to their homes. She added that there appeared to be no contingency plan if the work extended beyond the four days and that the offer to house affected residents in hotels did not address broader concerns about how delays might be handled. She further explained that the neighborhood had asked for an in-person meeting with the directly impacted property owners on their properties to review how construction easements and temporary impacts would affect their yards and landscaped areas. Naomi described how the temporary easements depicted in the design plans extended significantly—up to 35 feet—beyond the culvert's footprint into areas that are used and maintained by residents. She expressed frustration that the MSD refused to conduct a proper survey, citing complicated meets and bounds as the reason, which residents found unacceptable given the potential impacts on their property. She stressed that the neighborhood was not fundamentally opposed to the project but expected a more transparent and respectful process. She explained that residents only became aware of the project details after discovering plans online and had been the ones to initiate contact with the MSD, which had yet to proactively engage with them on site. She concluded by reiterating that the neighborhood deserved better communication and more meaningful involvement in decisions that directly affect their homes and property use.

Robert Macfarlane, who resides on Emigration Canyon Road, urged the council to consider conducting proper surveys of existing road easements before moving forward with the project. He pointed out that the road easement dated back to 1930 and claimed that the current roadway alignment might fall outside the original easement, which could require additional land acquisition from homeowners. Macfarlane emphasized that widening the road could negatively affect property values, increase noise, and possibly compromise safety by encouraging higher vehicle speeds.

Council Member Robert Pinon clarified that the document Mr. Macfarlane had sent regarding easement alignments came from the tax assessor's website and may not be entirely accurate, but acknowledged that discrepancies in the property lines did exist. Macfarlane responded by explaining that he had verified parts of the data through local surveys and still believed there was a strong chance that the current roadway extended beyond its legal easement in some areas.

Council Member David Brems asked about the timing of a survey to confirm the easement situation, and Council Member Jennifer Hawkes questioned whether previous funds allocated for engineering had included this type of survey work. Mayor Joe Smolka noted that the topic was on the list for future discussion.

Lyska Emerson spoke next and reinforced the need for clear, unbiased data to assess whether the road expansion would truly address safety concerns or potentially worsen them. She referenced a previous effort known as ECRIC, which Council Member Hawkes explained had been a facilitated process involving various stakeholders to set goals for the canyon but did not serve as a formal engineering or environmental study. Ms. Emerson argued that ECRIC felt more like an opinion piece than a scientific analysis and requested that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for new engineering work be shared publicly so residents could review what questions were being asked and ensure the focus remained on solving real safety issues.

Jacob Steed added his perspective that research often showed that widening roads can increase safety risks rather than reduce them, and he shared concerns about the increased speed and volume of both vehicles and cyclists if the road were expanded. He also asked about the new policy to limit large groups of cyclists and inquired how such a limit would be enforced, including whether permits would be required. Council Members Hawkes and Brems, along with Cameron Platt, discussed that the council was still finalizing details about group size limits for cyclists and how permits for larger groups would be structured and enforced.

Jessica Steed echoed concerns about the cycling limits and asked for clarity about when group size restrictions would apply. She also raised ongoing issues with excessive noise in the canyon and requested an update on efforts to mitigate it. She asked to see the RFP documents related to upcoming engineering studies and expressed strong support for potentially restricting cycling during significant road construction to reduce congestion and safety conflicts. Jessica Steed also highlighted the difficulty of safely passing cyclists on narrow roads, especially for inexperienced drivers, and stressed the need for better awareness about the legalities of crossing the double yellow line when passing.

Kimberly Everson then addressed the council, describing how, in her view, the presence of cyclists already made the canyon less safe and that widening the road would likely attract even more cyclists, which could increase risks for both motorists and residents. She cited her own experience with cyclists riding unsafely, ignoring stop signs, and trespassing on private roads to avoid construction delays. Everson suggested that the group limit for cyclists should be as low as two to improve enforceability.

Lisa Fitzgerald, identifying as both a resident and a cyclist, spoke to share that many cyclists also worried that road straightening or widening would increase vehicle speeds and create more hazards for everyone. Fitzgerald emphasized the need to clearly define the overall goal of any road improvements to ensure they did not inadvertently increase danger for both cyclists and drivers.

Lyska Emerson reiterated concerns about cyclists disregarding construction zone rules and creating hazards for drivers and construction crews. Emerson proposed that cyclists be prohibited from using the road during active construction, citing past precedents for similar restrictions and emphasizing that this would help maintain safety and reduce traffic delays during the project.

Throughout the discussion, various council members and the mayor acknowledged the residents' concerns and indicated that surveys, permitting, and enforcement policies were still under consideration as the city worked to balance safety, property rights, and community interests in any future road improvements.

5. Stakeholder Reports

A. Unified Police Department

Detective Dawn Larsen provided the law enforcement update for the month of May, reporting that there were 34 calls for service and eight citations issued in Emigration Canyon. She noted a staffing change within the Unified Police Department, with Officer Curley having been promoted to sergeant and replaced by Officer Erickson, who would now cover Thursday through Saturday in 13-hour shifts. Detective Larsen herself would work Sunday through Tuesday, also on 13-hour shifts, ensuring officer coverage later into the day across most of the week. Millcreek officers would continue to handle any calls occurring on Wednesdays, which historically have the lowest call volume.

Among notable incidents, Detective Larsen mentioned a car-versus-bicycle accident near Pinecrest Canyon Road that resulted in injuries to two bicyclists, who were reportedly mostly unharmed. Officer Curley also encountered a vehicle that fled during a radar enforcement attempt, and a complaint of illegal dumping at the lower dumpsters was resolved when Officer Curley identified and required the responsible individual to clean up the site.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes raised concerns about enforcement regarding cyclists riding in large groups and impeding traffic, pointing out that enforcement is a key element in the safety strategy outlined in the ECRIC recommendations. She questioned whether sufficient enforcement was taking place, particularly for violations such as riding more than two abreast or blocking traffic. Detective Larsen explained that while enforcement is ongoing—particularly for running the construction light, which has resulted in multiple citations—the ability to cite cyclists for impeding traffic is limited by the necessity of witnessing the violation in progress. She also stated that nearly all citations issued for running construction lights were given to Emigration Canyon residents, not visiting cyclists.

Detective Larsen described the difficulty in managing large cycling groups such as the regular Thursday ride, particularly when the group exceeds 50 riders. She acknowledged that writing citations in those situations is nearly impossible without more officers on scene. Efforts are underway to address the issue by focusing on the event organizers, and she noted ongoing communication with cyclists to encourage compliance. In most cases, when cyclists are riding two abreast in restricted areas, officers use their intercom systems to instruct riders to move into single file, which generally results in voluntary compliance.

Council Member Hawkes shared a personal experience in which she encountered large packs of cyclists who were not yielding to traffic, speculating that an unpermitted organized cycling event may have been occurring. She emphasized that if enforcement is inconsistent or ineffective during routine occurrences, the situation is unlikely to improve regardless of infrastructure changes.

Council Member Catherine Harris asked for clarification about the legality of riding two abreast in various parts of the canyon.

Detective Larsen confirmed that cyclists are legally permitted to ride two abreast in areas with designated bike lanes, which in Emigration Canyon extends from the base of the canyon to the fire station. Beyond the fire station, where no designated bike lane exists, a posted sign requires single-file riding. Council Member Harris and Detective Larsen further discussed the nuances of the law, including that cyclists may use the full lane when no bike lane is present so long as they are not impeding traffic.

The council concluded that riding two abreast is legal under specific conditions, but impeding traffic remains a citable offense. They agreed that better understanding and enforcement of these laws, especially regarding group rides, would be necessary to address ongoing safety concerns.

B. Unified Fire Authority

Chief Bryan Case provided an update on the Unified Fire Authority's (UFA) recent activities and shared several important community safety notes. He reported that UFA had successfully graduated Camp 59, adding 33 new firefighters who were now actively serving in local fire stations. To continue strengthening staffing levels, UFA planned to begin another training camp in early August with the goal of hiring an additional 20 to 24 personnel, maintaining momentum on efforts that had been underway for the past 18 months. Chief Case also reminded the community about fireworks regulations, explaining that state-approved Class C fireworks could legally be sold from June 24 through July 25. He urged residents to review the fireworks restriction map available on the Unified Fire Authority's website and emphasized that legal discharge dates were limited to two days before, the day of, and one day after each major holiday—July 4th and July 24th. He noted that UFA currently had personnel and equipment assisting with wildfire response efforts in southern Utah. He also shared information about Team Rubicon, a volunteer group made up largely of former military personnel, that had offered to help with fuel reduction work in vulnerable areas. Chief Case explained that any request for Team Rubicon's services would need to go through the Municipal Services District

(MSD) and that the group could potentially help address dead wood and other fire risks along Emigration Canyon Road and similar areas.

Council Member Robert Pinon and Council Member Catherine Harris expressed interest in pursuing that opportunity, recognizing the potential benefits for fire mitigation along public roadways.

Chief Case then reported that UFA responded to seven calls for service in the past 30 days, including a water main break where crews proactively marked hydrants that would be affected, ensuring that future crews were aware of any inoperable hydrants. He described a vehicle fire that occurred on June 21 involving the engine compartment of a light-duty truck on Emigration Canyon Road, which the crew extinguished safely. He also detailed a carbon monoxide incident in Pinecrest where residents removed their CO alarms to stop them from sounding. The crew responded, confirmed a CO hazard, and educated the homeowners, advising them to vacate the home until their furnace could be repaired. He used this incident to remind all residents to trust their CO alarms and call 911 if they activate. Chief Case highlighted two notable incidents that demonstrated strong cooperation between residents and emergency services. The first involved a citizen who spotted suspicious activity and a small amount of smoke off the road. The citizen stopped to investigate and saw an individual carrying a gas can and burning trash up a trail. Fire crews and police responded, preserved evidence properly, and discovered that the individual was destroying evidence related to a crime committed in a city down the valley. The suspect was cooperative, and the case was turned over to the relevant police agency. Chief Case commended the citizen for acting quickly and responsibly. The second incident involved a fire at This Is The Place Heritage Park, near the canyon's entrance. Although no UFA units were dispatched, Salt Lake City Fire Department responded immediately with 11 units and effectively contained the fire. Chief Case confirmed that a downed power line was not the cause, but instead an ember from a recent Scout project involving wood cutting had sparked the fire. He praised the partnership with Salt Lake City Fire and thanked community members for their vigilance in alerting him and other officials to the situation.

In closing, Chief Case emphasized the importance of community members reporting suspicious activities or hazards promptly and reiterated UFA's commitment to partnering closely with residents to maintain safety throughout the canyon.

C. Salt Lake County Animal Services

Gary Bowen reported that there had been no Advisory Service Board meeting held within the past 30 days and that he had not received any significant notices or updates from the board during that time.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes briefly returned to address Chief Bryan Case with a follow-up about coordinating the chipping program data. She mentioned that there was already a list of names collected for those participating in the chipping effort and asked who should receive that information, noting that there were around 100 names so far. Chief Case confirmed that

coordination had typically been handled by another organizer working with Chief Wittison, and he encouraged continuing to gather names.

Council Member Catherine Harris noted that the number of participants was actually lower than the previous year and shared that Chief Wittison had indicated there was no issue with continuing to add more names. She also pointed out the need to collect not just names but also the number of hours worked and any money spent by residents participating in the program.

Council Member Hawkes mentioned that residents could submit those details through the website, although Council Member Harris said she had not yet been able to locate that submission option online and hoped it could be made clearer for participants.

6. Project Updates

None given, however Council Member Pinon brought up the water leak and asked about the structure nearby. Mayor Smolka responded that belongs to Enbridge and that he believes they are still working on it.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

- i. May 27, 2025 City Council Workshop Meeting
- ii. May 27, 2025 City Council Meeting

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes clarified that although she had not been present at that meeting, she believed a correction was needed regarding a statement about the location of significant safety concerns identified by the Emigration Canyon Road Improvement Committee (ECRIC) study. She explained that data had been pulled from accidents occurring over a five-year period, which showed that most accidents had actually occurred below the fire station, contradicting the statement that the upper Canyon posed the most significant safety concerns. She further noted that this analysis was part of a broader effort to review engineering plans and determine where safety issues were most prevalent, emphasizing that all identified hotspots were located below the fire station.

Council Member Catherine Harris then sought clarification about the source of the hotspots data in the general plan, questioning whether it matched the accident data Council Member Hawkes referenced. Council Member Jennifer Hawkes responded that they did not know the specific source in the general plan, as the engineers had handled that portion, but reiterated that their own analysis was based on local accident reports. Council Member Harris acknowledged the difficulty in defining hotspots given the small dataset, noting that some areas had only a handful of recorded accidents, which made the classification of a hotspot somewhat subjective. Council Member Hawkes added that the accident data at the time did not differentiate between types of accidents, such as those involving vehicles versus cyclists, and stressed the importance of classifying these incidents more accurately in the future.

Cameron Platt then reminded the council that the purpose of the minutes was to reflect what had been discussed during the meeting, regardless of whether any portion of the discussion was later determined to be misstated or incorrect.

Council Member Harris moved to approve the May 27, 2024 City Council Workshop and City Council Meeting Minutes as published. Mayor Smolka seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

8. Public Hearing Items – None

9. Presentation Items – None

10. Council Business

A. Dark Sky License Plate Initiative Updates

Council Member Catherine Harris provided an update regarding the Dark Sky license plate initiative, explaining that a small group of individuals hoped to reintroduce a bill to the state legislature next year to create a specialty Dark Sky license plate, similar to other themed Utah license plates such as the “In God We Trust” or the Arches plate. This effort had previously been attempted in 2021 and she has tried but was unable to reach the two main contacts involved in the group advocating for the plate. She also shared that the DMV had informed them it does not accept signatures for such initiatives. Instead, the group would need to gather pledges from at least 500 people who would commit to purchasing the license plate if it were approved and produced. Council Member Harris mentioned that the group was likely taking a few months off but planned to continue the effort later, noting that there was already a loose design for the plate that included the wording “Dark Sky Utah.” She clarified that the final design would still require legislative approval, which could lead to modifications. Mayor Joe Smolka agreed that any proposed design would ultimately need to be approved by the legislature and might be changed during that process.

B. Ordinance 2025-O-04, Open Burning in the City of Emigration Canyon

Cameron Platt presented an ordinance draft that stemmed from the previous council discussion about regulating alternate ignition sources during the drier months of the year. He explained that they had reviewed similar ordinances from other municipalities across the state and had consulted with Chief Bryan Case to determine suitable dates for the restrictions, recommending a period from May 1 to November 30 to align with the typical dry season. Cameron Platt emphasized that this draft was a starting point and could be amended by the council as needed, including any adjustments to the proposed dates.

Council Member Catherine Harris asked whether the dates proposed for these ignition restrictions matched those already in place for fireworks.

Cameron Platt clarified that the fireworks restrictions were handled differently, as state law specifies limited days when fireworks are permitted, and the city adjusts those restrictions based on conditions each year.

Council Member Harris also sought clarification about whether the draft ordinance would impact residents who burn trash on their properties due to the lack of garbage services.

Cameron Platt confirmed that under the current language, those residents would still be able to burn trash outside the restricted dates, and the ordinance would not prevent this use for properties without access to garbage services.

Council Member Harris then asked whether the ordinance language adequately addressed activities such as welding and the use of spark inhibitors. Cameron Platt pointed out that these activities were covered under subsection F3 of the draft. Council Member Harris raised concerns about whether the ordinance should specify a required safe radius when performing such activities, referencing past discussions where distances such as ten or fifteen feet had been considered. Cameron Platt explained that prescribing a specific distance could be problematic because conditions vary and a set distance might not always provide adequate protection from ignition hazards. Instead, the ordinance relied on a general prohibition if dry vegetation was nearby, which would allow law enforcement to apply a reasonable person standard when determining whether enforcement action was needed.

Chief Bryan Case supported this approach by referencing similar flexibility in the state's Stage One fire restrictions, emphasizing that common sense guidelines, such as avoiding any fire during windy conditions, should also be considered, even if not explicitly written into the ordinance.

Council Member Harris asked if the ordinance allowed for compliance with any broader fire restrictions imposed by state authorities outside the city's specified dates. Cameron Platt confirmed that subsection C of the ordinance provided that any stricter prohibitions issued by state or county officials would automatically apply, ensuring that residents remained subject to state-level fire restrictions when enacted.

Mayor Joe Smolka raised a question about potential numbering inconsistencies within subsection F4. Diana Baun reassured the council that any minor numbering or formatting errors would be corrected when the ordinance was finalized and integrated into the municipal code, noting that such minor scrivener's errors would not affect the ordinance's substance.

Council Member Harris moved to approve Ordinance 2025-O-04, regarding open burning in the City of Emigration Canyon. Council Member Hawkes seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

C. HB48 Updates

Catherine Harris explained that the bill remained under review by the Rules Committee and that no substantial progress or detailed information had been shared publicly at this point. She

clarified that the primary purpose of HB 48, which had already been passed and signed into law by the governor, was to create a wildfire fund. Additionally, the bill aimed to encourage communities located within the wildland-urban interface to undertake efforts to improve defensible space around properties and harden structures to better withstand wildfire risks. She noted that, as currently understood, the bill would likely impose a fee on homeowners who did not meet certain defensible space and structural hardening criteria. However, they emphasized that there remained considerable uncertainty about how the bill would be implemented in practice and expressed caution about speculating further due to the lack of clear guidance. Council Member Harris also acknowledged the efforts of Chief Bryan Case, Chief Wittison, and other representatives from the Unified Fire Authority who were working closely with the Rules Committee to ensure that critical details were addressed properly during the review process. She pointed out that one concrete requirement of HB 48 would be for all communities to enact ordinances that aligned with the 2006 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code. She confirmed that this would not pose an issue for Emigration Canyon, as the city had already adopted this code three years earlier.

D. Discussion and Updates Regarding Healthy Utah Designation

Council Member Robert Pinon shared that they had initiated a dialogue with the Healthy Utah program to begin the process of submitting an application for Emigration Canyon to receive a Healthy Utah designation. He explained that this designation would involve several projects aimed at promoting community-focused activities intended to enhance residents' well-being and that he would present more information about these projects as they were developed and as the application progressed.

E. Discussion on Road Re-Striping

Council Member David Brems suggested that narrowing the driving lanes to 10 feet could help address some issues related to road widening and align with the lane widths already used at the bottom of the canyon in Salt Lake City. Mayor Joe Smolka agreed with this idea, noting that narrower lanes could serve as an effective traffic-calming measure by encouraging drivers to reduce their speed, which in turn could help lower noise levels and create a wider shoulder, especially on uphill sections.

Council Members Catherine Harris and Robert Pinon expressed support for the idea, referencing studies and examples from other communities, such as Millcreek, where narrower lanes have helped drivers self-regulate their speed. Council Member Harris emphasized that traffic engineers had previously advised that the road was engineered for a 40-mile-per-hour speed limit, which meant a legal reduction of the speed limit was unlikely. However, lane narrowing could help indirectly by making drivers less comfortable speeding. Council Member Jennifer Hawkes reiterated this point, highlighting that previous studies concluded that drivers were already traveling within the engineered speed range and that simply lowering the posted limit would be unenforceable and burdensome for residents.

The council also discussed the quality of the road surface, particularly concerns about existing patches and uneven areas created by previous utility work. Council Member Pinon and Council

Member Hawkes stressed that the micro surfacing alone would not resolve these issues and that proper grinding and leveling might be needed beforehand to address hazardous cuts and depressions, especially within bike lanes. There was discussion about whether the micro surfacing could include targeted gravel placement or special surface treatments near driveways and shoulders to improve conditions for cyclists, although it was noted that practical limitations might prevent this.

Mayor Joe Smolka offered specific ideas for implementing the lane narrowing. For the area below the fire station, they proposed keeping the center line in place and moving the white edge lines inward to achieve 10-foot lanes, potentially creating wider uphill shoulders. There was some debate about whether to add a double white line to form a buffer zone, but Council Member Hawkes and others cautioned against overly complex striping in a canyon area, pointing out that additional markings could complicate maintenance and provide little practical benefit without physical barriers.

The conversation then turned to specific sections of the canyon. Gary Bowen, a resident, raised concerns about high vehicle speeds on the stretch from Sun and Moon campground to Pinecrest, arguing that excessive speeding already endangered cyclists in that area. The council discussed options for extending the narrower lanes throughout the canyon, including sections above Pinecrest, where additional shoulder space could be added on uphill portions to benefit cyclists. Council Member David Brems and Resident Jacob Steed supported adding more space on downhill sections as well, especially given the presence of deer and rough pavement that could pose hazards for cyclists. There was also a brief revisit of a longstanding question about whether to install a dedicated left turn lane at Pinecrest for uphill traffic. Council Member Harris questioned the lack of a turn lane, but Council Member Hawkes explained that two previous traffic studies had recommended against it due to safety concerns related to the hairpin turn and potential conflicts with cyclists.

As the discussion wrapped up, Cameron Platt and Diana Baun clarified that the striping plan was being drafted by the engineers and would be shared with the council for review to ensure all agreed-upon adjustments and corrections were incorporated, including proper placement of crosswalks, bike lane signage, and parking striping. Mayor Joe Smolka noted that once the final plan was received, the council could ratify it formally. Council Members agreed that this approach would help prevent errors like those encountered in earlier projects and ensure the restriping aligned with their traffic calming and safety goals.

F. Discussion on Tree Trimming

Mayor Joe Smolka brought up the issue of tree trimming on city property. He informed the council that they had sent photos of the trees in question to the city's insurance trust, which had recommended that the trees be trimmed because they were too close to a building structure and posed a safety risk. Council Member Jennifer Hawkes agreed that this was indeed a safety issue and confirmed that the mayor should move forward with arranging to have the trees properly trimmed.

G. Decision on Restrictions for Bicycle Traffic in Construction Zones

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes and Council Member Robert Pinon suggested that the placement of cones and barricades could be improved to prevent vehicles and cyclists from weaving in and out of work areas. Council Member Pinon recommended using tighter barricade spacing or adding caution tape to make it more visible and harder to bypass, noting that the concrete barricades used previously had been effective at preventing this. Others agreed, describing the current setup as an “attractive nuisance” and suggesting that future requests for proposals (RFPs) for construction work could specify the use of better barriers, such as water barricades, which are more cost-effective and already in use.

The conversation expanded into broader concerns about how construction zones are managed. Council Member David Brems pointed out the inconvenience caused when traffic was restricted to one lane around the clock, especially during non-working hours or on weekends when construction was not active. He recommended that, when feasible, contractors plan their work so that both lanes could be reopened outside working hours to ease traffic congestion and reduce hardship for residents and cyclists. Mayor Joe Smolka agreed that opening two lanes might not be practical during active construction weekdays but could be reasonable on weekends, depending on trench conditions and equipment placement. Council Member Pinon added that the use of steel plates might make it possible to reopen lanes overnight if piles of gravel or equipment were not obstructing the way.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes referenced how the Utah Department of Transportation handles similar construction situations by scheduling work at night to avoid closing roads during the day, though they noted that 24-hour work creates noise impacts that can be disruptive to nearby residents. This linked back to earlier concerns about the Skycrest area, where noise from prolonged construction has already been problematic.

The council also reflected on the severe traffic backup that occurred when Parley’s Canyon was closed for emergency roadwork recently, which caused significant congestion through Emigration Canyon. Council Member Harris raised the issue of improving communication and coordination with the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP) and the Unified Police Department (UPD) to ensure timely responses to such incidents. Detective Dawn Larsen confirmed they would follow up with UHP to strengthen the notification process, although Cameron Platt noted that a communication procedure was already in place and had been reviewed after a similar incident the previous year. Council Member Hawkes clarified that in this particular case, the unexpected closure resulted from a failed hot patch mix that required immediate repair, causing an unplanned delay that contributed to the congestion.

The council agreed that better coordination, planning, and practical measures like effective barricades, steel plates for covering trenches, and flexible lane management during non-working hours could significantly ease the impact of construction on residents and cyclists. They also acknowledged the need for clear communication protocols with law enforcement agencies to address sudden closures and emergencies that could further complicate canyon traffic.

11. City Attorney Updates

No updates at this time.

12. Council Member Reports

A. Council Member Brems

- 1. Unified Police Department (UPD) & Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA)**
- 2. Emigration Canyon Planning Commission**
- 3. Community Renewable Energy Program**

Council Member David Brems reported that the Unified Police budget had been passed and that the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA) had completed and passed an audit. Regarding the Emigration Canyon Planning Commission, He noted that the commission continued to work on several ordinances, including a new ordinance related to fence height regulations. Additionally, he stated that the request for proposals for the Community Renewable Energy Program had been issued and was open for responses.

B. Council Member Harris

- 1. Unified Fire Authority (UFA) & Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA)**
- 2. Watershed Plan**

Council Member Catherine Harris provided updates on the Unified Fire Authority (UFA) and the Unified Fire Service Area, noting that both budgets had been passed. She emphasized the importance of preparing for the upcoming Chipping Days, which were scheduled to begin on July 7 and continue for two weeks. She stressed the need for clear and repeated communication to residents, highlighting that residents must sign up in advance to have brush chipped, must stack brush piles properly without obstructing the road, and should understand that the material is chipped on-site rather than hauled away. Council Member Harris suggested sending out two CodeRED alerts—one in the coming week, another closer to the start date—and also proposed distributing information through the city's email list to maximize awareness.

Council Member Harris pointed out that tracking volunteer hours and funds spent was vital to maintain the community's Firewise certification, which now required increased local contributions of time and money each year. Council Member Jennifer Hawkes confirmed they would work to add a sign-up link, noting that a simple link might be more effective than a QR code given residents' mixed comfort levels with using QR codes. Council Member Harris said they would also share information directly with homeowners associations to help spread the word and would make sure residents knew to report their volunteer hours.

The council then briefly discussed emergency notifications, prompted by Council Member Brems referencing the recent Pine Valley fire and the use of a reverse 911 system there. Chief Bryan Case confirmed that various options for emergency notifications existed, ranging from CodeRED to door-to-door alerts and reverse 911 calls, but noted that while reverse 911 is helpful for landlines, cell phone users must proactively register their numbers for it to be

effective. Cameron Platt explained that procedures already existed requiring the Utah Highway Patrol to notify the Unified Police Department (UPD) when incidents like the Parley's Canyon traffic backup occur, but acknowledged that unexpected complications, like the recent road patch failure, could still create delays in response times.

In response, the council agreed on the need for better coordination and proposed setting up a tabletop exercise to practice evacuation planning. Chief Bryan Case recommended setting aside two hours for the exercise and suggested involving the Municipal Services District (MSD) to help facilitate it, ensuring broader support and resources. Mayor Joe Smolka and Council Members agreed that the exercise should be scheduled soon, potentially replacing upcoming staff meetings, and planned to coordinate with Chief Case to finalize the details.

Catherine Harris concluded their report by adding that work on the watershed plan was still pending due to scheduling conflicts and illness but would be resumed soon.

C. Council Member Pinon

- 1. Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD)**
- 2. Utah Broadband**
- 3. Update on Possible High-Density Development**

Council Member Robert Pinon reported that Pam with WFWRD was retiring and that he was serving on the committee responsible for finding her replacement. The search process had already begun, with sixteen résumés received so far, and he acknowledged that replacing her would be a significant undertaking. He also noted that during the recent WFWRD board meeting, it was announced that Herriman was petitioning to withdraw from the special district, citing community concerns that arose following a recent rate hike. A feasibility study would be conducted to examine the implications and logistics of Herriman's potential separation from WFWRD. When asked by Council Member David Brems about where Herriman would dispose of its waste if it left the district, Council Member Pinon said they did not yet have that information. Additionally, He shared that he had recently attended an event recognizing "Trash Persons Day," where they met with staff who provide waste and recycling services to Emigration Canyon. They expressed appreciation for the good service these workers delivered, including their support with trailers and dumpsters in the community. He confirmed that operations with WFWRD were continuing smoothly overall and that they remained actively involved.

Council Member Pinon stated that there were no updates to report on Utah Broadband and mentioned that the property identified for potential high-density development was now listed for sale. He said they had not received any further information from Chrissy at the city regarding that property, describing the lack of new developments as good news for now. Following this, Mayor Joe Smolka and Council Member Pinon agreed that the high-density development item could be removed from the agenda for the time being, with the understanding that Chrissy would notify them immediately if any new information arose so it could be revisited.

D. Deputy Mayor Hawkes

1. Website (www.emigration.utah.gov)
2. CodeRED
3. Association of Municipal Governments
4. Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT)

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes provided a brief update following the earlier discussion on Chipping Days communication. She confirmed they would add a feature to the website allowing residents to log their volunteer hours, which is essential for maintaining the city's Firewise certification. She said they already had the current online form for residents to sign up for chipping services and would share it directly with Council Member Harris, noting that new sign-ups continued to come in daily. Mayor Joe Smolka asked that the form be shared with everyone, but Council Member Hawkes clarified that the full list contained residents' private addresses and contact details, so only the blank form would be shared to protect that information. She also confirmed they would proceed with preparing two CodeRED alerts for Chipping Days, one to go out in the coming week and another closer to the start of the chipping schedule. Council Member Catherine Harris supported this plan and suggested they coordinate further the next day.

The conversation then shifted to the timing and effectiveness of CodeRED notifications during a recent emergency road closure caused by a major water line break. Mayor Joe Smolka noted that some residents had reported not receiving the alerts, and an audience member described the sequence of events, explaining they had been present when the break occurred and had helped block off lanes for safety. The audience member questioned the timing between the initial incident and when the CodeRED notification was issued, expressing that it felt delayed. Council Member Hawkes explained that emergency notifications cannot be sent prematurely; crews must assess the situation, ensure safety protocols like Blue Stakes are complete, and have accurate information before issuing an alert. She noted that for incidents like wildfires, the typical window for sending an alert can be 20 to 40 minutes after an event begins, depending on how quickly the situation is confirmed and response measures are in place. There was also a brief technical discussion about how the city's website updates. Council Member Robert Pinon asked if the city's website could push updates directly rather than mirror them, but Council Member Hawkes clarified that the technical limitations of their current hosting platform, Wix, required an older workaround. A council member also pointed out that the Municode site still displayed outdated website information, and Diana Baun agreed to investigate whether this was something she could correct herself or whether Municode support would need to handle it.

Council Member Hawkes concluded her updates by mentioning that she had nothing new to report from the Association of Municipal Councils and that the Utah League of Cities and Towns had not met recently and would not meet again in June or July. However, she noted the League had shared plans to offer training on conflict resolution for elected officials, recognizing the challenges of maintaining civil discourse in politics. She reminded everyone that the League's annual conference was scheduled for October 1 and 2 and would include this new training as part of the essential curriculum for elected officials.

E. Mayor Smolka

- 1. Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD)**
- 2. Landfill Council**
- 3. Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) Transportation Committee**
- 4. Council of Governments (COG)**
- 5. Legislative Update**

Mayor Smolka reported that the Municipal Services District (MSD) had hired a new IT Director and now had a dedicated traffic engineer on staff. He noted that the MSD's budget process was complete and they were fully prepared for the upcoming year. The MSD meetings were now being held in their new building's conference room. He also gave a brief update on the Landfill Council, stating that while overall revenue was not as far ahead as in past years, it remained ahead of budget projections, and expenses were tracking as expected. Regarding the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Mayor Smolka shared that the Transportation Committee had met the previous week and approved some board modifications for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These included significant cost increases for certain major projects, such as the I-15 corridor from Salt Lake City to Farmington, whose budget rose from about \$1.2 billion to \$3 billion, and another project with an increase of about \$500 million, reflecting the impact of rising material and labor costs.

Mayor Smolka added that during the recent Council of Governments meeting, the county attorney's office had given an informative presentation focusing on criminal activity, jail capacity, and improvements made over the years to address challenges related to jail space and operations. He highlighted how large and complex the district attorney's office is, noting its staff includes approximately 160 attorneys.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes added an update on legislative matters, noting that House Bill 295, which would provide lien authority to cities, was expected to be brought back for consideration. Council Member Robert Pinon then revisited a longstanding concern about addressing excessive vehicle noise in the canyon. He pointed out that although the council had discussed obtaining a noise measurement tool for enforcing compliance against non-compliant vehicles, no action had been taken yet. Detective Dawn Larsen explained that their lieutenant had researched the issue, found several complications, and consulted with the District Attorney's Office. Detective Larsen agreed to invite the lieutenant to the next meeting to discuss the findings and remaining obstacles in detail, and Mayor Smolka confirmed this topic would be added to the next agenda.

Jennifer Hawkes pointed out that the signage at the mouth of the canyon currently references a noise ordinance and states that it will be enforced, which they felt was misleading given that the ordinance was not actively enforced. Hawkes suggested either amending the signage or ensuring that enforcement efforts match what the sign promises. Council Member Pinon agreed, emphasizing that resident feedback and the recent community well-being survey showed noise as an ongoing issue that should be prioritized. Detective Dawn Larsen explained that any meaningful enforcement would require coordination with the health department and several officers because measuring vehicle noise legally is complex—factors like echoes from the canyon walls and the need for measurement on a straightaway complicate enforcement.

Council Member Pinon reiterated that specific areas of the canyon's geography, such as areas like Maryfield, could provide suitable spots for conducting accurate noise checks and noted that existing Utah laws already prohibit certain types of modified exhaust systems on motorcycles, which could also be enforced more actively. Mayor Smolka and the council agreed that the issue should be revisited and prioritized, acknowledging residents' concerns and the need for realistic and fair enforcement.

13. Public Comments

Janet Haskell raised concerns about the planned road restriping project, specifically the proposal to narrow the driving lanes to 10 feet wide throughout Emigration Canyon. She expressed worry that narrower lanes would make it more dangerous for drivers, particularly when trying to pass or safely avoid cyclists who frequently ride in groups. She argued that with obstacles such as cyclists and oncoming vehicles on winding canyon roads, a narrower lane could force drivers into more abrupt maneuvers, increasing risk.

Mayor Joe Smolka responded that the restriping was expected to take place in August and emphasized that narrower lanes are a well-established traffic calming measure that help reduce vehicle speeds. Council Member Catherine Harris explained that state law requires drivers to maintain a minimum three-foot distance from cyclists when passing, and that properly designed 10-foot lanes should not prevent drivers from complying safely. Harris noted that it was drivers' responsibility to slow down and ensure clear sight lines before crossing the center line, but also acknowledged that many drivers go much farther over than necessary. Council Member David Brems suggested that the relevant AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards could help clarify design safety in such situations, which do account for multi-use roadways including bicycles.

Janet Haskell remained unconvinced, reiterating that the practical reality in the canyon often requires drivers to navigate around groups of cyclists on narrow, curving roads, and she worried that narrowing the lanes would place more pressure on drivers and reduce overall safety for both motorists and cyclists. Mayor Smolka and other council members reaffirmed that national and state roadway design standards consistently show that narrower lanes help lower speeds and generally improve safety outcomes.

Janet Haskell then shifted her question to election logistics, asking whether residents could expect a physical polling place in the canyon. Diana Baun clarified that Emigration Canyon elections are conducted by mail-in ballot under county authority, and while state code requires each city to have at least one physical polling location, the county determines those sites and will announce details closer to election day. Council Member Harris asked whether the city could sponsor a candidate meet-and-greet event to help residents learn about candidates, but Diana Baun and Cameron Platt explained that election law prohibits cities from using public resources for electioneering, including hosting or promoting candidate events. They advised that only a private or community-based group, entirely separate from the city, could hold such

an event, provided it invited all candidates equally and operated in a neutral manner. Cameron Platt noted that the city can only provide links directing residents to official candidate information, such as the candidate profiles on the Lieutenant Governor's election website.

Council Member Harris pointed out that the city's past community council structure had created a mechanism for ad hoc volunteer committees, and asked whether that could be used to organize a candidate forum. However, Diana Baun cautioned that if the council organized or directed such a group, it would still risk violating election law restrictions on the use of public resources. Jennifer Hawkes also noted that privacy limitations on the city's email lists would make outreach for any volunteer-run forum challenging.

The council agreed to check election law more closely to confirm what might be permissible and stressed that residents could still organize their own private "meet the candidate" events independently, as long as they followed equal-access and neutrality requirements. They also confirmed that the best source for candidate information remains the state's official election website, which includes candidate profiles and contact information.

Finally, Janet Haskell asked for clarification on the Municipal Services District's financial reporting, noting she found it confusing to see only six months of data in the recent presentation. Mayor Smolka explained that the MSD had transitioned from a fiscal to a calendar year budget cycle, so the six-month report covered the gap period. He and Council Member Hawkes confirmed that full budget and amended budget documents are available on the city's website, and more detailed financial reports, including actuals, can be found through the State Auditor's Office. Ms. Haskell expressed concern about the appearance of a significant operational loss, but the mayor clarified that the numbers presented at the time reflected a transition period and were not indicative of an annualized deficit of that scale.

14. Future Agenda Items

Evacuation plan discussions and potential trainings.

15. Closed Session per Utah Code §52-4-205

- A.** Discussion of the Character, Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.
- B.** Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation.
- C.** Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property.
- D.** Deployment of Security Personnel.

16. Adjourn

Council Member Hawkes moved to adjourn the June 24, 2025 Emigration Canyon Council Meeting. Council Member Brems seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

The June 24, 2025 Emigration Canyon Council Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

The June 24, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes were Approved by the City Council on the 14th day of July 2025:

ATTEST:

Joe Smolka, Mayor

Diana Baun, City Recorder

DRAFT



EMIGRATION
CANYON

EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, 7:00 PM

UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY STATION 119

5025 E. EMIGRATION CANYON ROAD, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84108

EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES ****DRAFT MINUTES – UNAPPROVED****

Council Members Present:

Joe Smolka, Mayor
Jennifer Hawkes, Deputy Mayor
Robert Pinon, Council Member
David Brems, Council Member
Catherine Harris, Council Member

Staff Present:

Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel
Nicole Smedley, Municipal Services District Clerk/Recorder
Dawn Larsen, Unified Police Department
Chief Bryan Case, Unified Fire Authority

Others Present:

Gary Bowen, Salt Lake County Animal Services Representative
Eric Hawkes, Emigration Improvement District Manager

1. Welcome and Determine Quorum

Mayor Smolka, presiding, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Recognize Visiting Officials

Salt Lake County Council Member, Laurie Stringham, presented information regarding a proposed Salt Lake County Public Safety Bond. She presented an overview of a proposed general obligation bond intended to fund improvements to the Salt Lake County correctional and justice infrastructure. The bond, approved by the Salt Lake County Council in an eight-to-one vote to be placed on the ballot, aimed to address longstanding issues related to jail capacity, rehabilitative services, and mental health support. Council Member Stringham emphasized that the county jail had not been expanded since 2001 and was no longer adequately serving the needs of a growing population, particularly in terms of addressing mental health challenges among inmates. The proposed bond would support the expansion of the Adult Detention Center

(ADC) and facilitate the closure of the aging Oxbow facility, transferring its inmates and services to the ADC located at 3415 South 900 West. The Oxbow facility had previously been closed for a decade but was reopened out of necessity during the COVID-19 pandemic due to jail overcrowding. Another major component of the bond would fund the establishment of the Justice and Accountability Center, a facility designed as a cost-effective alternative to incarceration for low-level offenders. This center would provide behavioral health care, substance abuse treatment, job training, and housing support, specifically for individuals already involved in the criminal justice system. The exact location of the center had not yet been finalized, although several county-owned sites were under consideration. Council Member Stringham explained that local businesses and communities had expressed concerns about rising crime, particularly involving homeless and low-income individuals with mental health or substance abuse issues. In response, the county had engaged in extensive dialogue with stakeholders and developed the Salt Lake County Human Services, Homelessness, and Criminal Justice Reform Action Plan. This initiative was bipartisan and shaped through input from law enforcement, public defenders, health and human service providers, judges, and legislators. The financial outline of the bond included \$427 million for jail expansion, \$100 million for the Justice and Accountability Center, \$90 million for maintenance and improvements at the ADC and Sheriff's Office, and \$10 million for Oxbow demolition. The sale of the Oxbow property was projected to generate \$20 million, partially offsetting costs. Additionally, the county had allocated \$100 million in reserve funds, resulting in a total bond amount of approximately \$507 million. The cost to residents was estimated at \$4.91 per month, and \$8.93 per month for businesses, based on average property values. Council Member Stringham also referenced the state's juvenile justice system as a model for a tiered accountability and support framework, suggesting that a similar system could be adapted for adults. This approach would allow individuals to either progress through supportive services or face increased detention measures based on behavior and compliance.

The proposed timeline outlined the plan's introduction in July 2024, a public hearing in September, a public meeting on October 8, ballot mailing on October 15, and the election on November 5. If approved, implementation would begin in January 2025. She concluded by offering to address further questions and underscored that the proposal represented a fiscally responsible and innovative approach tailored to Utah's unique needs.

4. Citizen Public Input

Alex Pacanowsky addressed the council to report a structural issue on their property located at the top of Marguerite Lane in Emigration Canyon. He explained that Priest Creek runs alongside their property, and a commonly used trail crosses through it. Following the recent runoff season, a retaining wall made of cinder blocks, which supported the trail, partially collapsed into the creek. He expressed uncertainty regarding whether the responsibility for repairs lies solely with them or if it is shared due to the trail's community use.

Mayor Joe Smolka acknowledged the issue and indicated that further investigation would be necessary to determine responsibility and appropriate next steps. He noted that the council could see the images of the damage, which had been submitted and were displayed during the meeting.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes added that the area near the top of her street includes a culvert that connects to Priest Creek and subsequently to the main canyon. She suggested that the damage might impact the culvert and warranted a closer inspection. She also mentioned that the trail access likely originated from the county.

5. Reports from other Municipal Providers

5.1 Unified Police Department

Detective Dawn Larsen reported that there were 50 calls for service and 12 written reports in the month of August. Several incidents involved individuals sleeping in their vehicles within the canyon, which had been partially addressed. There were also two reported thefts: one involved a break-in where suspects entered a home through an unsecured back door and accessed vehicles inside the garage; the other involved the theft of high-value surveying equipment from a vehicle parked along the roadside. Additionally, there was a fraud case related to cryptocurrency, prompting a cautionary note about safeguarding personal information. The drone unit conducted a five-hour training exercise on Snowberry Lane, focused on search and rescue techniques. It was reported that a technical issue with the trailer used for traffic monitoring had been resolved by Officer Wilson, enabling regular monthly traffic data collection going forward.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes and Detective Larsen discussed an upcoming hill climb cycling event scheduled for October 5. Council Member Hawkes noted that the event, a timed race with around 20 cyclists, had occurred annually for the past five years and typically went through the permit process. However, no permits had yet been received by either her or Detective Larsen. Concerns were raised about the lack of communication with law enforcement, as only Officer Wilson was scheduled to work that day. Coordination with the event organizer and verification of construction completion along the route were identified as necessary actions. Additionally, there was an update on restroom maintenance issues at Pinecrest, which Council Member Hawkes had addressed with the cleaning crew and contractors. Detective Larsen also confirmed Officer Wilson's presence in the area that day. Further discussion involved the difficulty Council Member Hawkes experienced during a Labor Day weekend traffic incident in reaching law enforcement. She suggested creating a contact list to streamline communication in emergencies. Detective Larsen agreed and stated that both she and Mayor Joe Smolka should already have her personal contact number, and she offered to resend it. Lieutenant Lavato proposed creating a contact tree with multiple points of contact to ensure responsiveness.

5.2 Certificate of Commendation Presentation for Officer Wilson

Lieutenant Lavato formally introduced Officer Dave Wilson to the Emigration Canyon Council, noting that although Officer Wilson had been assigned to the area since July, scheduling conflicts had delayed his official introduction. Officer Wilson, a 16-year veteran of the department with prior experience in the canyon unit before the departmental split with the sheriff's office, was recognized for his exemplary service with a certificate of commendation. The commendation highlighted a significant incident where Officer Wilson responded to a serious traffic accident in Little Cottonwood Canyon involving a semi-truck that had lost its brakes and crashed near Lisa Falls. The impact ignited a fire that endangered the truck driver, who was trapped inside the vehicle. Officer Wilson approached the burning truck on foot and, with the assistance of bystanders, successfully extricated the injured driver from the wreckage. Despite the danger, Wilson remained calm, assessed the driver's injuries, and organized the civilians effectively. His actions were credited with saving the driver's life. Additionally, Lt. Lavato announced that Officer Wilson was set to receive motorcycle certification shortly, joining the motor unit for traffic enforcement. A traffic saturation operation was planned for Emigration Canyon in the coming days, involving motor officers from multiple precincts. This effort aimed to address ongoing traffic issues and increase visibility and deterrence.

Mayor Joe Smolka expressed appreciation for Officer Wilson's heroism and extended a warm welcome to the community. Officer Wilson briefly addressed the council, explaining that he typically works weekends to manage canyon-related issues and coordinates shifts with Detective Dawn Larsen to ensure consistent law enforcement presence. He acknowledged the high volume of traffic concerns and referenced a recent incident involving a motorcycle speeding at 102 miles per hour through the canyon.

5.3 Unified Fire Authority Update & Evacuation Plan Discussion

Chief Bryan Case provided a brief update on Station 119, noting that the month had been unusually quiet with only one call for service, which was a public assist successfully handled by the crew. He then shifted focus to broader emergency management activities involving the Unified Fire Authority (UFA). As the program manager for UFA's federal disaster response team, he explained that personnel are often deployed out of state through Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMACs) to support large-scale emergencies, such as wildfires in Oregon and California. These deployments offer valuable leadership and incident management training, which ultimately benefits emergency response capabilities within Utah. He then discussed a collaborative effort with Salt Lake County Emergency Management to develop an evacuation plan for Emigration Canyon. Although still under revision, a key component involves creating a registry to identify residents who would require assistance during an evacuation. He emphasized that the registry would not collect personally identifiable information but would focus on needs-based data, such as mobility limitations or other factors requiring police or fire support in emergencies. He sought input from the mayor and council on how best to gather this information. Suggested methods included utilizing the CodeRED system, which supports two-way communication and could send out interactive messages prompting residents to identify whether they need assistance.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes suggested preparing pre-scripted emergency messages to streamline communication during actual events and proposed conducting a mock evacuation to test outreach and data collection effectiveness.

Council Member Catherine Harris highlighted the importance of clearly designating who would collect and maintain the data, suggesting that HOA managers and a centralized email or registry could be leveraged.

Concerns were raised about data privacy and usage. Cameron Platt pointed out the need for a clear policy governing the information, recommending that participation be voluntary and possibly formalized through an ordinance or resolution. Chief Case agreed, emphasizing the importance of defining exactly what data should and should not be collected. Council Member Robert Pinon asked for specific guidelines on qualifying criteria for assistance, including consideration of non-elderly residents with health conditions. He also echoed the importance of protecting collected information.

Chief Case acknowledged that the evacuation plan would likely serve as a model for other areas in Salt Lake County, underscoring the importance of getting it right. He confirmed that the plan would also address responsibilities regarding pets during evacuations, referencing past complications from the Pinecrest fire incident where residents were unable to return home for their animals.

Mayor Joe Smolka concluded the discussion by noting that further conversations would continue to refine the plan and its components.

5.4 Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District 2024 Report

Emigration Canyon • 5025 E. Emigration Canyon Road • Salt Lake City, UT 84108 • 385-240-1400

Pam Roberts, representing the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District, presented a comprehensive update to the council, beginning with positive developments and later addressing challenges related to operational costs and future rate increases. She announced that, after a two-year delay due to supply chain issues, ten new side-load garbage trucks had finally arrived. Each truck now costs over \$400,000, an increase of more than \$100,000 per unit from previous prices. To manage the fleet transition, the division plans to decommission and sell ten older trucks, with hopes of recovering approximately \$60,000 per vehicle. The success of these sales remains uncertain, as no trucks have been sold in the past two years. She also highlighted the success of the apprentice program for equipment operators, aimed at addressing a national shortage of CDL-licensed drivers. The program provides training, licensing, and job placement, and has already seen two graduates. With 22 applicants for the latest round, two new apprentices are set to begin soon. Leadership development initiatives were also noted, including ongoing work with external consultants to improve team coordination and communication. She then discussed the implications of HB 107, the recycling transparency legislation, which requires waste haulers to report recycling data to municipalities. A new webpage now provides detailed diversion rates and tonnage for each city, including Emigration Canyon. As of the second quarter, 56 tons of recycling had been collected in the canyon. Emigration Canyon achieved a 25% diversion rate, thanks to curbside glass and recycling programs, green waste participation from 90 subscribers, and record-high usage of tree trailers with 89 reservations. Ms. Roberts acknowledged Council Member Robert Pinon's contributions in monitoring container sites and noted that locking mechanisms were being installed to deter unauthorized use. Turning to financial concerns, she outlined the need for a significant rate increase due to escalating costs, particularly in vehicle maintenance and labor. Maintenance charges have risen consistently over the past three years, with a further increase expected in 2025. Zions Finance, serving as financial advisors, recommended an immediate 25% rate hike. The division's board has scheduled a special meeting on October 21 to evaluate these recommendations ahead of tentative budget adoption on October 28. Ms. Roberts proposed a phased fee increase: \$5.50 per month in 2025, followed by \$2.00 in 2026, and \$1.00 in 2027. These adjustments aim to maintain a 5–6% year-end cash balance. She clarified that the division operates as a fee-based enterprise fund and is not constrained by truth-in-taxation laws but emphasized the urgency of raising rates to avoid operating deficits. She also addressed ongoing cost-control efforts, including operational adjustments like combined garbage and recycling runs in Herriman, which yield modest savings. Larger savings would require service cuts, such as eliminating container delivery or reducing recycling frequency—options that the board and residents are generally reluctant to pursue. Additionally, the division is exploring a lease-to-own model for trucks to spread out capital expenses, a departure from their long-standing policy of avoiding debt.

Council members asked about past rate increases, cost-saving strategies, and leasing implications. Council Member Catherine Harris emphasized the relative value of the service at less than \$1 per day, while others, including Council Member Pinon, acknowledged Emigration Canyon's high service costs due to geography and low population density.

Pam Roberts responded to Zoom and audience questions regarding maintenance contracts and dumpster site needs. She explained that while competitive bidding last occurred in 2018, current vendor rates remain competitive. She confirmed the necessity of maintaining three dumpster sites in the canyon, especially for residents without curbside access due to terrain.

The meeting concluded with widespread appreciation for Ms. Roberts' leadership and transparency, as well as acknowledgment of the balancing act between rising costs and maintaining quality service.

5.5 Emigration Improvement District

A representative from the Emigration Improvement District addressed the council to discuss a new initiative under consideration: the installation of public water access points within the

canyon. Inspired by Salt Lake City's artesian well at 800 South and 500 East, the district is exploring the possibility of offering free potable water to residents and visitors, particularly as a resource during emergencies such as power outages, which can affect private well users. The concept involves installing standalone, metered water dispensers at designated locations within the district's water system. These units would be designed for seasonal use, with the ability to be winterized when necessary. Two potential sites were mentioned: one near the Unified Fire Station and the other at Pinecrest, adjacent to the public restroom and dumpsters. These locations were chosen due to their respective positions at opposite ends of the water system, potentially providing accessible coverage throughout the canyon.

Chief Bryan Case and Council Member Jennifer Hawkes supported the idea. Council Member Hawkes noted that adding a water source at the Pinecrest restroom would also assist with cleaning operations, which currently occur without a dedicated water supply. The council expressed general support and agreed to further discuss and provide site recommendations. The representative indicated that implementation could begin as early as the spring of the following year.

5.6 Zoning Ordinance Updates

Matt Starley presented an update on the ongoing code update project for Emigration Canyon, part of a joint effort between the planning commission and the city council to align municipal code with state law, support the general plan, and simplify development regulations while preserving the unique character of the canyon. The project includes three primary components: updates to Title 18 (subdivisions), revisions to the Foothill and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ), and a final review of Title 19 (development zones). Title 18 updates are primarily administrative and must be adopted by November 1, 2024, to comply with recent legislative mandates. These updates are being handled by Jay Springer from Smith Hartvigsen, and will be reviewed in a public hearing before moving to the city council in October or November. A more complex aspect involves the FCOZ, which currently overlays the entire canyon. Staff recommended integrating the FCOZ's contents into the site development standards section of the municipal code, renaming it to reflect a broader scope, such as "Site Development, Environmental Protection, and Scenic Quality Standards." This consolidation aims to simplify code navigation and application, eliminating redundancy.

Council Member David Brems supported merging the FCOZ into the development standards.

Council Member Catherine Harris also supported the change, emphasizing the need to ensure Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) standards are preserved or incorporated, especially as they relate to fire safety, slope requirements, and erosion control. Starley confirmed that elements such as tree replacement and defensible space would be addressed in the revisions.

Mr. Starley noted that looking ahead, the zoning code will be streamlined into a set of clearly defined zones: forestry zones, a new open space zone, a revised commercial zone (tailored from the C-2 designation to a CB or canyon-specific version), and new zones for public facilities and public institutions. The overly broad FR-20 zone, currently covering most of the canyon, would be reduced. Some areas, such as publicly owned lands, would be redesignated as open space with no development permitted. Starley clarified that private parcels with development rights would be excluded from rezoning into open space to avoid infringing on property rights.

Mayor Joe Smolka noted the need for accuracy in zoning maps, especially near developed

areas past the canyon's hairpin turn. Council Member Harris reiterated that incorporating and clearly enforcing WUI standards would be a significant improvement, aligning with both current needs and the general plan.

Mr. Starley also mentioned a point of possible contention: the potential removal of agricultural use as a commercial activity from the forestry zones. He encouraged any council members with views on the issue to share feedback with staff for further consideration.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes prompted Matt Starley to provide an update on a recent grant application. Matt Starley explained that while significant effort was put into the application, the grant was ultimately denied because it did not fund maintenance-related projects. The intended use was for upkeep of the restroom facility in the canyon. Despite the rejection, he noted that the application materials developed could be repurposed for future grant opportunities that align more closely with their scope.

5.7 Salt Lake County Animal Services

Gary Bowen reported there had been no board meeting since the last meeting and no other notable events.

6. Council Business

6.1 Capital Improvement Projects Selection Process

Tolin Hessell, representing Salt Lake County Public Works Engineering, introduced himself to the council and provided updates on capital improvement project planning and current construction efforts in Emigration Canyon. He requested the appointment of a council liaison to input project proposals into a centralized tracking system by the October 31 deadline. Mayor Joe Smolka initially handled this role but Deputy Mayor Jennifer Hawkes was designated as the new liaison. He outlined the capital project selection process, which involves reviewing council and master plan priorities, then submitting a refined list to the Municipal Services District (MSD) Board for funding decisions. Potential criteria include reducing property damage, cost efficiency, and alignment with community needs. Among the discussed projects were drainage repairs and a potential contribution toward matching funds for a bike lane grant. He confirmed that the Emigration Creek culvert replacement project is at 90% design completion and is slated for construction in spring or summer of the following year. This project targets locations with past flooding and erosion issues, including Skycrest, Cedar Loft, and Killians Lane. The slope stabilization projects—referred to as the “Red Wall” and “Fin Wall”—are nearing completion, with drainage work, surfacing, and landscaping expected to finish within the month.

Council Member Hawkes suggested aesthetic improvements for future projects to ensure visual consistency, particularly given the canyon road's prominence as the community's main thoroughfare. Mr. Hessell agreed to investigate whether current project specifications allow for color matching and noted that future designs could incorporate such considerations.

Mr. Hessell then provided updates on upcoming designs, including the early stages of a road widening project from Pinecrest to southwest of Pioneer Ridge Road, aimed for construction in 2026. While grant funding has been awarded, the environmental review and traffic study phases remain in progress. The discussion shifted toward broader implications of the widening project.

Council Member Catherine Harris emphasized the need to balance improved safety with maintaining the canyon's residential character. She expressed concerns about over-engineering the road, using Sunnyside Avenue as a cautionary example. Both she and Council Member Jennifer Hawkes advocated for a thoughtful approach guided by accident data and resident input, rather than automatic expansion. They stressed the importance of preserving community aesthetics and practical functions like guest parking.

Council members supported conducting a detailed traffic study and ensuring public engagement throughout the design process.

Mr. Hessel assured the council that community input would be a priority and confirmed that the project remains conceptual at this stage.

Council Member David Brems reiterated that design decisions must be informed by environmental studies and engineering evaluations to ensure that the road serves cars, bicycles, and pedestrians safely.

Resident Janet Haskell raised concerns about potential impacts on properties and the canyon's character, calling for clear documentation and public transparency before any final commitments are made. Council members reassured her that the project remains within the existing right-of-way and that no property would be taken without thorough evaluation and community consensus.

Matt Starley proposed that a Transportation Master Plan might be developed as a long-term planning tool to address ongoing mobility and safety concerns in a structured, community-driven format.

6.2 Consider Adopting Ordinance No. 2024-09-01 Amending Emigration Canyon City Title I removing references to the County and Metro Township and other clean up items

Cameron Platt presented an update on the effort to revise Emigration Canyon's municipal code, starting with Title One. He explained that the city had originally adopted the county's code, which now contains outdated terms and processes that no longer reflect the city's current structure or its relationship with the Municipal Services District (MSD). The goal is to modernize the code gradually, title by title, starting with Title One. This first revision includes updates to terminology and procedures to match how the city currently operates, along with the addition of historical context regarding Emigration Canyon's transition from a county district to an incorporated municipality. While the changes in Title One are largely administrative and non-substantive, some obsolete references—such as those involving prison labor—have been removed.

Council Member Catherine Harris requested additional time to review the draft in full before voting, noting her preference to understand what she is approving.

Cameron Platt agreed to provide future drafts earlier to allow for more thorough review. The council collectively decided to postpone a vote on the amendment until the next meeting.

6.3 Discussion regarding Excavation Bond Ordinance (Discussion)

Cameron Platt introduced a proposed update to Title 19 of the Emigration Canyon code,

presented as an informational item rather than for immediate action, since it involves land use regulation and must first be reviewed by the planning commission. The update stems from a council request at the prior meeting and aligns with the Municipal Services District's (MSD) broader rewrite of Title 19. The proposed change would allow the city to require a financial bond for projects involving excavation or grading. The intent is to ensure that developers complete slope stabilization or site remediation work. The MSD planner would assess the potential cost of completing such work if the developer fails to do so. The bond amount would match 100% of this estimated cost, with an additional 10% administrative fee to cover MSD staff oversight. Once the excavation or grading is completed to specification, the developer could submit documentation to MSD staff for review and, upon approval, receive a release of the bond. This requirement would apply only to projects with significant land disturbance, such as hillside grading or driveway installation, not standard construction activities like digging for a foundation.

Mayor Smolka thanked Cameron for the information and indicated this discussion would be continued in the future.

6.4 Billboard Ordinance Review (Discussion)

Cameron Platt initiated a discussion with the council regarding billboard regulation in Emigration Canyon. He explained that while Utah state law permits billboards and requires municipalities to provide compensation to property owners for removal of vested billboard rights, there is no known history of billboards existing in the canyon. The council confirmed that no such structures had been observed over the past several decades, though temporary signs for events like Firewise Day had been installed in the right-of-way. The discussion stemmed from broader concerns about the increasing presence of electronic billboards in other areas, with a consensus that such signage should be prohibited in Emigration Canyon.

6.5 Special Event Ordinance Review

Cameron Platt discussed the current special event ordinance with the council, clarifying that Emigration Canyon had adopted Salt Lake County's ordinance by reference and that all event applications are currently processed through the county. While this process is still functional, Platt noted that the council may consider creating a more direct, localized system in the future and sought guidance on potential changes.

Mayor Joe Smolka and Council Member Jennifer Hawkes both recommended deferring any updates until after the first of the year. This timeline aligns with the potential transition of engineering services to the Municipal Services District (MSD), which could affect who is responsible for processing special event permits. Mayor Smolka noted that only a few communities use the current ordinance, and because Emigration Canyon has a single main access road, it is particularly vulnerable to event-related congestion.

Council Member David Brems raised concerns about the ability to deny permits and the need for clear criteria—such as construction conflicts, weather conditions, or cumulative event impacts—to support permit denials. Mr. Platt explained that while the city can deny permits, it must do so based on established and consistently applied guidelines to avoid legal challenges, especially because the road is a public right-of-way.

Mr. Platt suggested that the ordinance could be amended to restrict events during high-impact periods (e.g., holidays, construction), limit the number of events allowed within a given

timeframe, or require minimum advance notice (ideally 30 to 60 days).

Council Member Hawkes emphasized that the number of events in a short window had felt excessive and that improved forecasting and guidelines could prevent scheduling overloads.

Mr. Platt mentioned that similar municipalities use staff (such as a town clerk) to directly receive and coordinate event applications, increasing local awareness and control. Council members expressed interest in a process that involves more local input and clear notification timelines. While the current ordinance requires only 21 days' notice, most agreed this should be extended.

Council members concluded the discussion on special event permitting by addressing the adequacy of current notice periods. Council Member David Brems recommended extending the application window beyond 30 days to ensure applications can be reviewed during regularly scheduled meetings, allowing for proper oversight. Council Member Catherine Harris clarified that the council does not formally review applications but noted that Council Member Jennifer Hawkes typically reviews each submission, consulting with county staff and making adjustments as needed to address traffic and safety concerns.

Council Member Harris also recalled an exception involving a commercial film shoot that did not meet the 21-day notice requirement. Although it did not involve road closures, it highlighted the need for flexibility in unique, low-impact cases. Council Member Hawkes suggested implementing an expedited permit process with higher fees to accommodate such time-sensitive requests, acknowledging that last-minute approvals require significantly more staff effort. The council agreed that increased fees for expedited processing could help offset the administrative burden and ensure fairness.

The council acknowledged that free speech events would still be subject to constitutional protections and require more flexible notice terms. Mr. Platt agreed to work on a draft ordinance update, aiming to present it for further discussion in December or January after determining who will manage permitting under the new administrative structure.

6.6 Legal Issues

No legal issues to discuss tonight.

6.7 Ongoing Projects

6.8 Budget Items

Mayor Joe Smolka noted that ongoing projects and budget matters had been addressed earlier in the meeting. He provided a brief overview of the city's recent expenditures, which included the final (or possibly penultimate) clerk's invoice from Salt Lake County, along with regular payments for legal services from Polly and Cameron, water service charges, and restroom maintenance. He stated that all expenses appeared routine, with nothing unusual reported. A formal review of expenditures will be provided in the next month as part of the quarterly financial update.

7. Council Member Reports

7.1 Council Member Brems

(a) Unified Police Department (UPD) & Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA)

(b) Emigration Canyon Planning Commission
(c) Community Renewable Energy Program

Council Member David Brems informed the council about an upcoming swearing-in ceremony for new Unified Police Department (UPD) officers, scheduled for Monday at 10 a.m. at Millcreek City Hall. He highlighted that April Morris, who has regularly attended Emigration Canyon meetings and contributed to refining the UPD service proposal for the area, has been appointed as the new precinct chief for Millcreek. Since Emigration Canyon falls within that precinct, Morris is now the area's official chief, a change warmly acknowledged by the council. He also reported on UPD's ongoing efforts to address a significant staffing shortage. As part of a collaborative response, Emigration Canyon joined other jurisdictions to contribute toward a \$100,000 recruitment incentive fund. The canyon's share amounted to \$656. This initiative provides a \$5,000 signing bonus aimed specifically at attracting lateral transfers from other law enforcement agencies, who can begin active duty within two to four weeks—significantly faster than new recruits, who require up to ten months of training. Preliminary signs suggest the incentive is generating interest, with noticeable recruitment momentum and visible advertising through MSD communications.

Council Member Brems also mentioned that UPD is actively seeking a new facility, though no further details were provided due to the matter's confidential nature. Lastly, he touched on SLVLESA (Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area) activities, stating that while there was little to report at the moment, the agency was preparing to move forward with procedures related to a possible property tax increase. However, recent property value assessments may negate the need for such an increase.

Planning Commission updates have already been addressed throughout the meeting in the current items.

7.2 Council Member Harris

(a) Unified Fire Authority (UFA) & Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA)
(b) Watershed Plan
(c) Firewise/Chipping Days

Council Member Catherine Harris provided a detailed update, beginning with progress on the watershed plan. She reported that Sandy Winger from the Division of Water Quality had returned to work and expected to deliver a final draft of the plan by the end of October. While she hoped to distribute an advance copy to the council, the timeline was outside of her control.

Regarding the Unified Fire Authority (UFA), Council Member Harris noted that no new board-level budget discussions had yet occurred, but these were expected to begin soon. She introduced what she described as a difficult topic: a proposed property tax increase by the Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA). The UFSA board, including Harris, voted to recommend the increase, which would raise taxes by 23%—a significant jump following last year's 12.5% increase. The increase is intended to cover rising capital and wage costs and maintain the fund balance. She explained that the lowest feasible increase to meet budget needs was about 20%. The additional 3% would ensure that Emigration Canyon, along with a few other small communities, could receive four-person fire staffing rather than being excluded due to budget constraints. She argued that, although Emigration Canyon is not a high-volume station, having a four-person crew significantly improves both response capability and medical outcomes. This

has been a long-standing goal for the area.

Council Member Harris also explained that the tax hike follows years without adjustments, with no increases since 2017, despite escalating operational costs. The structure of the approval process for this increase depends on a combination of UFSA board unanimity and county council votes, with thresholds varying based on the level of agreement among participating communities. She emphasized the necessity of the increase, citing inflation and rising maintenance and vehicle costs.

In addition to the tax update, she discussed ongoing efforts to renew Emigration Canyon's Firewise Community certification. She and Chief Case recently met with representatives from state fire and forestry services to review the program and identified the need to establish a standardized process for future years. Council Member Harris explained that while \$12,000 had been allocated for Firewise projects this year, no projects were executed, so the funds will return to the budget. She stressed the importance of building institutional knowledge and documentation to support continuity in the Firewise program for future community leaders.

Council Member Harris concluded by reiterating the importance of maintaining personnel support and preparing for future fire prevention work, particularly through collaboration with the University of Utah and state forestry agencies.

7.3 Council Member Pinon

(a) Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD)

(b) Utah Broadband

(c) Update on Possible High-Density Development

Council Member Robert Pinon provided updates on several topics, beginning with the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD). He reported that during the recent board meeting, the primary concern was addressing the financial challenges posed by inflation, increased labor costs, and higher materials and product prices. He expressed appreciation for WFWRD's assistance in managing dumpster usage, particularly in Pinecrest and at the fire station.

Council Member Pinon announced that the Pinecrest dumpster was expected to be ready shortly, potentially as soon as the next day, for the installation of locks. He planned to personally distribute letters to residents in the area to support the implementation of the new dumpster program, which is aimed at improving cleanliness. A locking mechanism would also be installed on the fire station dumpster. He clarified that these dumpsters are intended only for homes without individual garbage cans. Issues had arisen when excessive dumping led WFWRD to dispatch extra trucks and staff to clear out the dumpsters, prompting the council to take corrective action. He noted that code changes had recently been made in response to one such incident, and that the community's feedback would continue to inform adjustments to the process.

Regarding Utah Broadband, Council Member Pinon stated there were no new developments. The last update indicated that the company had applied for a grant, but it was unclear whether it had been awarded.

On the topic of high-density development rezoning, Council Member Pinon reported that the next council meeting to address this issue was scheduled for October 1, although the agenda had not

yet been published. He committed to maintaining communication with Chrissy Gilmore to stay informed.

Lastly, Council Member Pinon relayed a request from a local school bus driver, asking whether a camera could be installed at the canyon office to monitor weather conditions. Chief Bryan Case confirmed his willingness to collaborate on this initiative, which would provide controlled access for relevant personnel to help assess weather and improve safety for school transportation.

7.4 Deputy Mayor Hawkes

- (a) Website (www.ecmetro.org)**
- (b) CodeRED**
- (c) Association of Municipal Governments**
- (d) Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT)**

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes provided updates on several ongoing and upcoming items. She reported that the city's website and email domains were in the process of transitioning to align with state standards. This involved coordination with the Municipal Services District (MSD) and the State of Utah to reflect a change in domain from "emigrationcanyon.org" to "emigration.utah.gov." She noted that the process was delayed due to the state's backend system updates, but the transition was expected to complete within 48 hours. Once done, the new primary email address would be emigration.utah.gov, with the older address redirecting users appropriately.

Regarding local events, Council Member Hawkes mentioned the upcoming bicycle race scheduled for October 3 and said she would coordinate with Michelle and other council members to ensure that the permitting and logistics, especially related to road construction and traffic flow, were managed appropriately. She also noted the upcoming "Haunted Half" event, for which no application had yet been received.

Council Member Hawkes asked about construction progress, to which Tolin Hessel estimated that the remaining work, particularly related to the second wall construction and associated road patching, would be completed within a month. Mayor Joe Smolka advised verifying whether the road cut met specific width requirements, which might necessitate further road work before the race.

Council Member Hawkes also highlighted several events and resources from the Utah League of Cities and Towns. She signed up for a cybersecurity webinar on October 3, focused on municipal protection, and mentioned the upcoming APA Fall Conference for planners and council members, scheduled for October 10–11 in Provo. She noted that the National League was compiling a database of tax-exempt municipal bond projects and confirmed with Cameron Platt and Mayor Smolka that Emigration Canyon did not currently have any such projects.

Lastly, she discussed a compliance reminder from the League about the Political Activities of Public Entities Act (PAPA), which restricts municipalities from using public resources to advocate for or against ballot initiatives. Council members and the mayor may express personal opinions, but they must not do so in an official capacity or use city funds or platforms.

Council Member Hawkes concluded by mentioning an upcoming Wasatch Front Regional Council webinar on September 30, titled "City and Town Center Menu," which explores different

community typologies. She also reminded the council about the WFRC meeting on November 4, encouraging participation as in past years.

7.5 Mayor Smolka

- (a) Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD)**
- (b) Landfill Council**
- (c) Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) Transportation Committee**
- (d) Council of Governments (COG)**
- (e) Legislative Update**

Mayor Joe Smolka concluded the meeting with a series of administrative and regional updates. He encouraged elected officials to attend the upcoming Wasatch Front Regional Council meeting, noting its value in understanding regional projects that impact Emigration Canyon. While this meeting is restricted to elected officials, he clarified that the same materials are publicly accessible on the Council's website.

He reported on the progress of the new Municipal Services District (MSD) building in Taylorsville, stating that while there may be minor delays, the project remains on track. Due to difficulties in acquiring used furniture, the MSD reallocated funds to purchase new furnishings. The MSD Board also voted to formally initiate the transfer of engineering services from Salt Lake County to the MSD, which affects 21 current employees and two vacant positions, including project managers, engineers, and support staff. Notably, flood control personnel are not included in this transfer.

Tolin Hessell asked for the Council's patience during the six-month transition, acknowledging current and impending staffing shortages. Mayor Smolka added that MSD had approved hiring two new engineering staff to alleviate some of this pressure.

Mayor Smolka gave a brief update on the progress at Landfill Council Pod 8, mentioning that the perimeter road was recently completed and undergoing final inspections. Regarding the Wasatch Front Transportation Committee, he noted that no new updates were available as the committee meets quarterly. He humorously admitted to skipping the last Council of Governments meeting in favor of a beach outing.

Mayor Smolka also noted that MSD legal counsel is preparing legislation to allow for alternate representatives to attend MSD board meetings. Under current law, only the designated representative can attend, which poses limitations if the primary representative is unavailable.

He concluded with a reminder about the Utah Association of Special Districts (UASD) annual conference scheduled for November 6–8. He highlighted that attending the first day alone provides all the required trainings for the year, including Open Meetings Act compliance and district-specific instruction for mayors and council members.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes asked to address one more issue and reiterated the importance of organizing and centralizing city records in compliance with GRAMA (Government Records Access and Management Act) standards. She emphasized that current practices of storing files on individual council members' personal computers are inadequate and potentially noncompliant, stressing the need for a centralized filing system that is accessible and properly managed.

Mayor Joe Smolka supported this priority, highlighting the importance of having all city-related files filed correctly and made accessible, particularly for GRAMA requests. He pointed out the impracticality of retrieving public records from individual devices and stressed the necessity of consolidating documents into a uniform system.

Cameron Platt responded by reminding the council that he had previously distributed a secure Dropbox link in July, which included individual folders for each council member to upload their municipal documents. He confirmed that the Dropbox is encrypted, secure, and serves as an interim solution until the Municipal Services District (MSD) finalizes a more permanent record-keeping system. Cameron urged all members to use this resource immediately to ensure compliance and accessibility.

8. Citizen Public Input

Gary Bowen addressed the council to express concerns about preserving Emigration Canyon's rural character in light of potential future road improvements. He referenced previous discussions led by Matt Starley, which supported the removal of the Foothill and Canyons Overlay Zone (F-COZ) while maintaining restrictions against commercial and multifamily housing developments in the canyon—an approach Bowen endorsed. He then highlighted a perceived conflict with the road improvement plans discussed by Tolin Hessel. He emphasized that although Emigration Canyon is legally recognized as a city, it still retains a distinct rural canyon environment that should be preserved. Drawing from personal experience and historical context, he warned that widening the existing road—already broader than it was in the 1940s—could have adverse effects. He cited the proximity of the creek and steep slopes as limiting factors, and stressed that any expansion could eliminate essential parking areas used by residents and visitors. He concluded by strongly urging the council to avoid widening the road, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the current road width to preserve the canyon's rural character.

Jessica Steed addressed the council to voice strong opposition to any plans to widen the road through Emigration Canyon. She challenged the commonly held notion that wider roads inherently enhance safety, stating that data indicates accident rates actually increase in areas where roads have been widened. While acknowledging the legitimate concern for safety, she asserted that expanding the road would not resolve safety issues and could instead have negative consequences. She argued that widening the road would attract more users, ultimately altering the canyon's character, appearance, and atmosphere. She shared her personal experience as a property owner, noting that her garage, which predates her birth, is located within the right of way—an arrangement she was unaware of when purchasing the property. She emphasized that although this issue does affect her property, her broader concern was the negative impact on the community as a whole. She highlighted how the current narrow road naturally limits traffic and discourages excessive use, including cycling and other recreational activities, which helps preserve the canyon's tranquility. Ms. Steed concluded by urging the council to prioritize the preservation of the canyon's rural charm and character, rather than altering it with road expansion.

Lyska Emerson spoke in agreement with previous comments opposing road expansion in Emigration Canyon. Emerson emphasized the historical and cultural significance of the canyon, describing it as one of the most unique in the state. She noted its historical relevance as a route for early pioneers and characterized the area, particularly the upper part of the canyon near the current meeting location, as having a sacred and pioneer-like atmosphere. In her remarks, Ms.

Emerson contrasted Emigration Canyon with other more commercialized canyons, such as those that host ski resorts, asserting that Emigration Canyon possesses a distinct and valuable character worth preserving. She urged the council to be mindful of the canyon's historical and environmental uniqueness when considering any changes, especially those related to projected road expansion.

Council Member David Brems acknowledged the concerns raised by residents regarding the potential widening of Emigration Canyon Road and emphasized the importance of finding a balanced, thoughtful solution. While he agreed that widening the road may not necessarily improve safety, he expressed that the current conditions also posed significant dangers, particularly for cyclists. Brems shared personal experiences, noting close calls while biking and observing hazardous situations on both narrow and wide sections of the road. He proposed a comprehensive review of the canyon's road conditions in partnership with Salt Lake County engineers, suggesting that each property and problem area be evaluated individually to determine feasible and appropriate solutions. Council Member Brems advocated for a public process that includes community input and called for the establishment of a citizen task force to facilitate discussions and recommendations.

In the discussion, residents such as Jessica Steed and Lyska Emerson suggested alternative approaches, including constructing a separate pathway to alleviate traffic volume. Brems acknowledged this idea as beneficial but noted the high costs and potential legal implications of condemning private property to build such infrastructure. Mayor Joe Smolka concurred, stating that while such paths are valuable in other areas, Emigration Canyon's current development stage makes that option largely unfeasible.

Council Member Brems concluded by raising concerns about emergency scenarios, such as road closures in Parleys Canyon coinciding with emergencies in Emigration Canyon, which could lead to dangerous congestion and block emergency response. He emphasized the need for proactive planning to address such "perfect storm" situations and stressed that maintaining the status quo is not a sustainable option for long-term safety and accessibility.

Janet Haskell asked the council to consider the visitors coming into the canyon, with the residents paying the bill. Can they start charging those coming up on bikes. They are bearing the burden of all these visitors, whether it's the multiple bathrooms, widening of the road, etc., all for people who don't live here. There needs to be a focus on the residents first with the visitors second, since the residents are paying the bills.

Council Member Hawkes addressed the restroom, saying the restroom is for cyclists using the canyon as well as protecting water quality for the residents by giving those cyclists a sanctioned place to use the restroom. It's not that they were just providing a restroom for the cyclists, they were solving a problem.

Mr. Bowen said a simple solution would be to lower the speed limit in the canyon. If they aren't going to charge cyclists or develop a program for the issue, then they need to create an environment where bikers and automobiles can share the road as it exists now.

Cameron Platt addressed multiple comments about restrictions and fees, noting that public roads are open to the public, so they can't restrict freedom of movement. They can enforce restrictions due to public safety and obstruction, but they can't just charge people to use a public road. Toll roads are allowed, but the circumstances are very specific.

Council Member Brems acknowledged that he understands residents are saying cyclists can be annoying, but noted that is isn't problem here. The problem is the bikes and cars driving at high rates of speed through the canyon endangering everyone, and he thinks they should focus on the actual problem, which is what they are working on.

Matt Starley noted there was a comment earlier in the meeting about finding something that satisfies the engineering requirements but also takes into account the scenic quality as well as traffic calming efforts. Potentially a widening that takes into account the character of the canyon and other elements. Nobody wants to see things blown out, but they have to recognize that the constraints are dangerous and requires some sort of compromise.

Council Member Brems noted that the majority of residents would not put up with a 30 mph speed limit, and others agreed.

Tyler Tippits noted the ECRIC Study done in the past, saying that he was attacked when proposing cutting the speed limit. It was clearly not something residents were willing to even discuss.

Council Member Harris noted that traffic calming efforts to force drivers to obey the speed limits would be great. Multiple residents discussed their experiences and one noted that the police have even had issues with issuing speeding tickets to bicyclists going over the 40mph speed limit, so it isn't just the vehicle speeds that are a problem. The council also reminded residents complaining about trying to avoid enticing more cyclists that they are past that point. The canyon is a nationally famous place and there will be more coming, no matter what they do.

Cameron Platt added that the bicycles have all the same rights as a car on the roadway, and if there is no bike lane a bicycle is the same as a car. There is no minimum speed on the road and a bicycle is entitled to the entire lane, and they are not impeding traffic because they are the traffic. Currently many will ride to the right to try and allow cars to pass, but cars have to follow all the regular rules for passing since the bicycle is the same as another car in the lane. This also applies to downhill riding, they have to follow the speed limit rules just like a car.

Council Member Harris noted that she has had to follow bicycles all the way up at 18 mph, hoping they would pull over but knowing they had that legal right with no bike lane in the area. There are laws regarding pulling over to allow passing when a certain number of cars stack up behind you, but the options are limited for trying to make everyone work together on this.

Mayor Smolka closed the public comment section of the agenda.

9. Other Announcements

None

10. Future Emigration Canyon Council Agenda Items

None

11. Closed Session per Utah Code §52-4-205

(a) Discussion of the Character, Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

(b) Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation.

(c) Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property.

(d) Deployment of Security Personnel

Council Member Pinon moved to go into Closed Session for the sole purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Harris seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

12. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Smolka moved to adjourn the September 24, 2024 City Council Meeting. Council Member Brems seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

The September 24, 2024 Emigration Canyon City Council Meeting adjourned at 10:19 PM.

The September 24, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes were Approved by the City Council on the 14th day of July 2025:

ATTEST:

Joe Smolka, Mayor

Diana Baun, City Recorder



Emigration Canyon Monthly Report June 2025

Calls for service: 54

Citations: 7

Crime/Police Stats:

In the month of June, Unified Police Department responded to 54 calls for service and 7 citations were written: 3 for speeding and 4 for other various traffic-related incidents.

Several incidents of note:

An Emigration resident observed smoke coming from the hillside, the resident went to investigate further and observed a male coming down the hillside with what he believed to be a gas can. UFA fire and UPD were dispatched to investigate the incident. Upon further investigation it turned out the male walking down the hillside had killed his roommate's dog in West Jordan and had come to Emigration Canyon to burn the evidence.

There was a traffic accident involving a bicycle and a vehicle. The bicyclist was transported to the hospital.

There was an assault between two co-workers, however, the victim refused to press charges.

A visitor from out of state was exploring Emigration Canyon, when he called to report what he thought appeared to be a shallow grave and human remains, upon further investigation, the grave held the remains of a dog.

A road rage incident occurred between a bicyclist and a vehicle, where the bicyclist threw a Gatorade inside the vehicle.

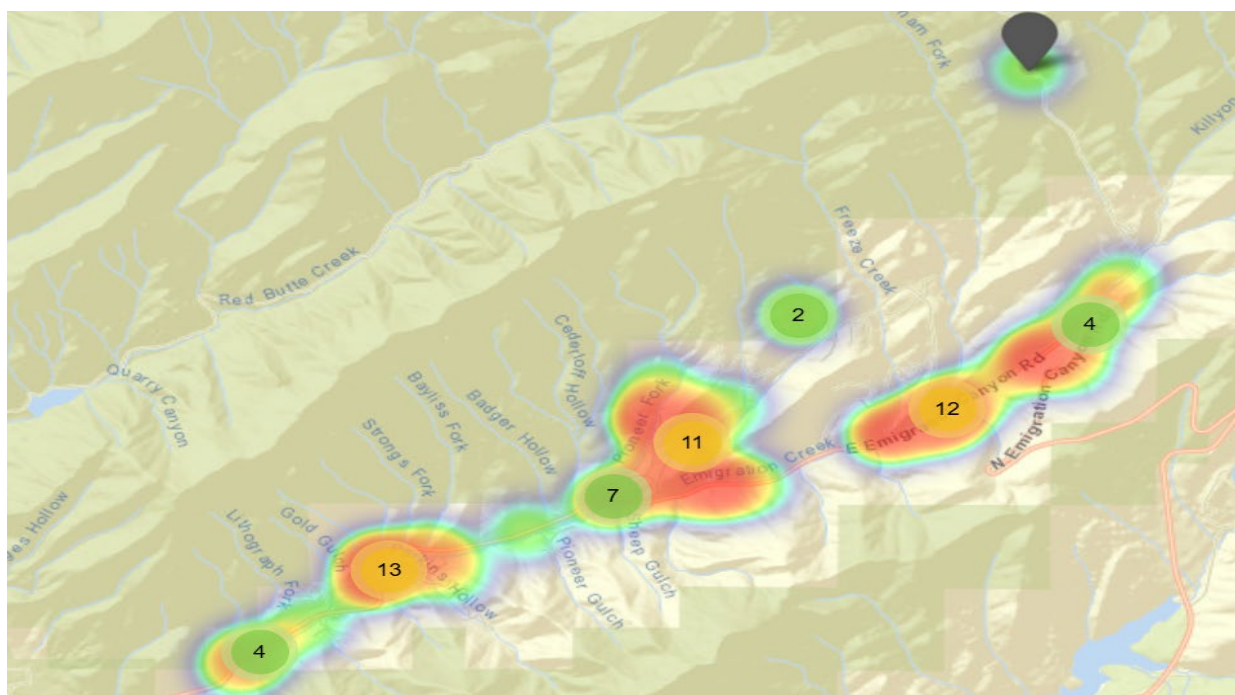
A bicycle accident occurred when one bicyclist traveling east performed a U-turn and hit two bicyclists who were coming west. All three bicyclists sustained injuries.

CALLS FOR SERVICE OFFENSE	COUNTS
Cell Hang Up	6
Traffic Stop	7
Traffic Hazard	1
Reckless	3
Agency Assist/ Public Order	10
Citizen/Motor Assist	6
Trespass	1
Suspicious	2
Health and Safety	1
Missing at Risk	1
Patrol Check	6
Parking Complaint	1
Lockout	1
Road Rage	2
Juvenile Problem	1
Press Call	1
Assault	1

DUI	1
Traffic Accident	2

CITATION OFFENSES	COUNTS
Speeding	3
Expired Registration	2
Illegal U-turn	1
Failure to yield right of way	1

Heat Map of Calls for Service in Emigration Canyon



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri