



EMIGRATION
CANYON

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

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