

COMMISSION MINUTES

June 23, 2025

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sevier County Commissioners held this twenty-third day of June 2025. Meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m. with Commissioners Scott Johnson, Ralph Brown, and Greg Jensen in the Commission Chambers of the Sevier County Administration Building, 250 North Main, Richfield, Utah. County Attorney Casey Jewkes, Executive Director Malcolm Nash, and Clerk/Auditor Steven C. Wall were also present.

Commission Business:

Commissioner Jensen reported on a public hearing he had attended for the Seven County Coalition regarding the recent decision by the Supreme Court to allow the rail project to move forward, indicating that there is still a lot of opposition to the project.

Commissioner Brown noted that due to the wind, the balloons involved in the balloon festival were unable to fly. He also reported on the Health Department activity that was well attended and supported by the Sheriff's Office. He also noted that a new Miss Sevier, Hannah Williams, had been crowned last weekend, and the Fairgrounds Restroom Project is almost completed.

Commissioner Johnson then reported on the balloon festival over the weekend, noting that even though the balloons were unable to fly, the other activities were well attended. He said that they are looking at what changes they may need to make next year for the event. He also reviewed a letter that the Commission had received from the Larry H and Gail Miller Family Foundation reporting that the Foundation had given a non-profit organization in our a County a grant.

Minutes of June 11th Worksession and Commission Meeting approved:

Minutes of the June 11th Worksession and Commission Meeting were then reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Brown, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Review of Sevier Valley Hospital Charity Plan:

Brent Schmidt and others from the Sevier Valley Hospital reviewed and updated the Commission on the 2025 Charity Plan from the Hospital, noting that part of their requirements for their charitable organization is to provide an update to the Commission each year on their activities and the amount of contribution they give to the communities and people in the area. He noted that their goal is to help people live the healthiest lives possible. Mr. Schmidt then reviewed the differences between a non-profit and for-profit hospital, and the opportunities that a non-profit hospital has because they are here to make a difference and not just to increase the profit for the owners. The Commission thanked him for the information. Mr. Schmidt expressed appreciation for the partnership with the County. He also noted that this hospital will become a receiving hospital for mental health services, which will greatly benefit the area.

Memorandum of Agreement with State Library Division approved:

The Commission then reviewed the annual Memorandum of Agreement with the Utah State Library Division for the bookmobile services in our area, noting that it is an annual renewal at approximately the same amount as the previous year. After discussion, Commissioner Jensen

moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Utah State Library Division for bookmobile services, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Public Hearing to consider enacting an Ordinance imposing Transient Room Tax:

At 2:02 p.m., Commissioner Brown then moved to recess the regular meeting for an advertised public hearing on an ordinance imposing a Transient Room Tax on Short-Term Rentals and accommodations, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Commissioner Johnson then opened a public hearing for comments on enacting an Ordinance imposing a Transient Room Tax not to exceed 4.5% on Short-term Rentals, noting that this is an increase from the current 4.25%. He said that this increase would allow the County to participate with grants from the State Tourism Department for improvements in the area. Tourism Director Amy Myers reported that this tax is on Short-term Rentals, hotels, etc. so that the residents of the County will not be paying the tax, but those traveling to the area would be. She said that the State is increasing their Transient Room Tax so they can provide grants and help to the Counties for improvements. She also said that this additional money would provide funding for more mitigation purposes involving tourism, such as Search and Rescue, EMS, landfill, etc. She said additional reporting would be required to show that the money from this tax was used appropriately. There were no comments from the public.

At 2:08 p.m., the regular meeting resumed.

The Commission then reviewed Ordinance 2025-6-1 Imposing a Transient Room Tax not to exceed 4.5% on Short-term Rentals of Accommodations and services. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-6-1, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

CJC Grant Amendment approved:

CJC Director Karen Ashby then reviewed with the Commissioners an amendment to the CJC Grant to provide an additional \$95,000 for parking lot improvement. After discussion, Commissioner Jensen moved to approve the amendment to the CJC Grant, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Resolution adopted annexing property to Austin Community Special Service District:

The Commission then reviewed Resolution 2026-6-3, an resolution annexing property to the Austin Community Special Service District. Parker Vercimak, Jones & DeMille Engineering, reviewed the map with the Commission, and reported they had had several public hearings on the matter and there were no protests about adding the additional parcels to the Austin Special Service District. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Resolution annexing the parcels to the Austin Community Special Service District, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Parcel 5-37-5 declared as surplus:

Mr. Nash then discussed with the Commissioners parcel 5-37-5, which is currently owned by the County. He said the parcel appears to have come to the County from a tax sale several years

ago, and is situated in the valley southwest of Monroe. Discussion followed concerning whether or not to declare the property as surplus and putting it back on the tax rolls, that there is no water for the property, and the value of the property as assigned by the County Assessor. Further discussion followed concerning splitting the parcel into two lots. Mr. Nash said he would work with the Zoning Department to see what is best. After discussion, Commissioner Jensen moved to declare parcel 5-37-5 as surplus, and authorized it to be sold at auction with the manner of sale being determined after the decision to sell the parcel as one or split it into two, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

MOU with Utah Office of Tourism, Veneto Callaboratories approved:

Tourism Director Amy Myers then reviewed with the Commission a Memorandum of Understanding between the Utah Office of Tourism, Governor's Office of Economic Development, and Veneto Callaboratories to develop an educational program for businesses to show them how to market their businesses out of State and internationally. Discussion followed concerning the business marketing development program. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the marketing program, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

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