

ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 15, 2025
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Blaine Porter, Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman was excused. City Attorney Barry Huntington joined electronically.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Fred Spencer, Terence Tontlewicz, Kim Porter, Victory Crawford and Lawrence Barnes.

Ashley Coombs joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Stowe moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2025 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

RACHEL CARTER COATES - COUNTY WATER METER - 791 N RESERVOIR ROAD

Council member Porter explained this meter could be hooked up to an existing line and will be the last one on the line due to capacity. Council member Porter said the existing line can accommodate up to four meters on a 2-inch line and has three meters at this time. Council member Porter said Ms. Coates will have to run the water line from the road to their property.

Council member Porter moved to approve the new water meter for Ms. Coates. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.

LAZY SEVENS WESTERN, LLC - BUSINESS LICENSE - 39 W. MAIN STREET

City Recorder Steed explained this Business License has all the required paperwork and has paid all the fees. **Council member Orme moved to approve the business license for Lazy Sevens Western, LLC. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Porter and Wilson voting aye.**

KIM PORTER - REMOVE TREE - 180 EAST 200 NORTH

Mr. Porter said he is concerned about a large tree on his property that extends into the City right-of-way, making it difficult to determine property lines and right-of-way boundaries. Mr. Porter explained his efforts to get a survey done but has faced challenges due to the lack of a city surveyor and the high cost of private surveys. City Attorney Huntington stated his concerns about liability and the need to know if the tree is on city land before deciding on removal. The Council agreed to have Council members Porter and Wilson assess the tree's location before making a decision on removal.

KIM PORTER - REPAIR SEWER CLEANOUT - 180 EAST 200 NORTH

Council member Porter explained that the city is only responsible for the main sewer line, not the lateral lines that connect to individual properties. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Orme moved to not repair the sewer cleanout due to it not being the City's property. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

APPOINT APPEAL AUTHORITY

Mayor Torgersen explained during the work meeting after the last city council meeting City Recorder Steed reported on other municipalities' practices and found Kaden Figgins to be an impartial choice for the Appeal Authority due to his lack of local connections. **Council member Wilson moved to appoint Kaden Figgins as the Appeal Authority. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS

City Recorder Steed explained the potential amendments for the Appeal Authority fee to \$250.00 plus mileage, implementing mailing fees for rezoning applications, increasing annexation fees to \$500.00 for the first property and \$100.00 for each additional property. **Council member Wilson moved to approve fee schedule amendments as presented. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye.**

City Recorder Steed said it was also discussed during the work meeting to increase the utility late fees to \$15.00 a month but would need to go through a public hearing to move forward. The Council would like to schedule a public hearing for August 5, 2025.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS**ADMINISTRATIVE**

The Administrative Department had nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner reported on recent fire department activities, including a call to fight a wildland fire on federal land, and discussed plans to seek reimbursement for firefighting costs. Mr. Weppner explained the Fire Department missed a mass casualty training session with the County due to lack of information.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN

Mayor Torgersen reported on the open house for the new dental office, Wellness Center, and physical therapy area. Mayor Torgersen said the Wellness Center will be available to the public starting August 1, 2025. Mayor Torgersen said City Employees and members of the Fire Department will be free of charge with the general public paying \$25.00 per month.

Mayor Torgersen said the 24th of July is coming up a week from this weekend, so be prepared for lots of people and fun.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson reported on the new outlets and power on the back of the Fire Station and his plan to put in a lightning arrester.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter said the City is running the well and struggling to keep the water tanks full.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe reported the company that put in the awning over the playground hit two waterlines and the public works employees have been working on repairing them. Mayor Torgersen asked Council member Stowe to call and let the Company know so they can address it with their employees.

Council member Stowe explained the need for more chips around the playground which Terry Olsen will look for a supplier.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Porter moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Wilson and Porter voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session needed at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved:

**ESCALANTE CITY
ORDINANCE 2025-11**

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Council of the Escalante City, in the State of Utah, as follows:

SECTION 1: **AMENDMENT** “8.04.060 Delinquency” of the Escalante Municipal Code is hereby *amended* as follows:

BEFORE AMENDMENT

8.04.060 Delinquency

- A. Statement of Charges: The city recorder or superintendent shall furnish to each user, or mail to, or leave at the user's place of residence or usual place of business, a written or printed statement stating thereon the amount of water service charges assessed against the user once each month or as directed by the city council.
- B. Content of Statement; Delinquency: The statement shall specify the amount due, the place of payment and due date. If any user fails to pay the charges within thirty days (30) from the due date, the city recorder or superintendent shall give the user notice in writing of intention to discontinue water service to the user unless the user pays the bill in full within thirty days (30) days from the dated notice the city may disconnect the user's water service. A five dollar (\$5.00) late fee will be assessed on all accounts thirty (30) days past due for each month past due until account is current.
- C. Discontinuance of Service: If a user's culinary water service is discontinued for failure to make payment, before the water service shall again be provided, all delinquent charges must be paid to the City Treasurer. In the event water service is turned off for nonpayment of charges, the user shall pay, in addition to all delinquent charges, such extra charges for turning the water on or off as the city council may have established by resolution. Until such a resolution has been adopted, there shall be added an extra charge of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for turning the service off and twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for turning the service back on.
- D. Responsibilities Of Owner: Irrespective of the occupant, user, tenant, co-tenant, permissive user, or any other person, firm, partnership, corporation or entity being in possession of the premises to which a connection is supplied or service made available, the owner of the premises according to the records of the county recorder shall be legally responsible for the payment of all charges, fees, assessments and any other obligation or liability of a user. If any delinquent water and/or sewer connection, water and/or sewer user charge, repairs, maintenance or any other obligation is imposed against any premises, property, building or structure, the obligation shall be deemed by the city as a lien upon all of the real property on which any use is made from a water and/or sewer connection. Water shall be turned off for failure to pay said fee, assessment, charge or liability and will not be turned on again to those premises

where a delinquency occurs unless and until all liabilities to the city for sewer and/or water delinquencies are paid in full.

AFTER AMENDMENT

8.04.060 Delinquency

- A. Statement of Charges: The city recorder or superintendent shall furnish to each user, or mail to, or leave at the user's place of residence or usual place of business, a written or printed statement stating thereon the amount of water service charges assessed against the user once each month or as directed by the city council.
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- C. Discontinuance of Service: If a user's culinary water service is discontinued for failure to make payment, before the water service shall again be provided, all delinquent charges must be paid to the City Treasurer. In the event water service is turned off for nonpayment of charges, the user shall pay, in addition to all delinquent charges, such extra charges for turning the water on or off as the city council may have established by resolution. Until such a resolution has been adopted, there shall be added an extra charge of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for turning the service off and twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for turning the service back on.
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PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL

_____.

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Councilmember Stowe	_____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Lyman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Porter	_____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Orme	_____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Wilson	_____	_____	_____	_____

Presiding Officer

Attest

Melani Torgersen, Mayor, Escalante
City

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC, City
Recorder, Escalante City



CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

1. The undersigned, request(s) the opportunity to present the following matter in city council meeting (please be as clear and specific as possible)

Donation For Color-Country Rodeo team

2. The undersigned requests 5 minutes for presentation.

Dated this 14 day of July, 2025.

Printed Name Riggin Porter Daytime Phone [REDACTED]

Signature Riggin/Charmayne Evening Phone [REDACTED]

Please note: Items on the agenda for city council meeting are set at the discretion of the mayor. If the mayor approves the above request, you will be on the next agenda. If the request is not approved, you will NOT receive any further notification.

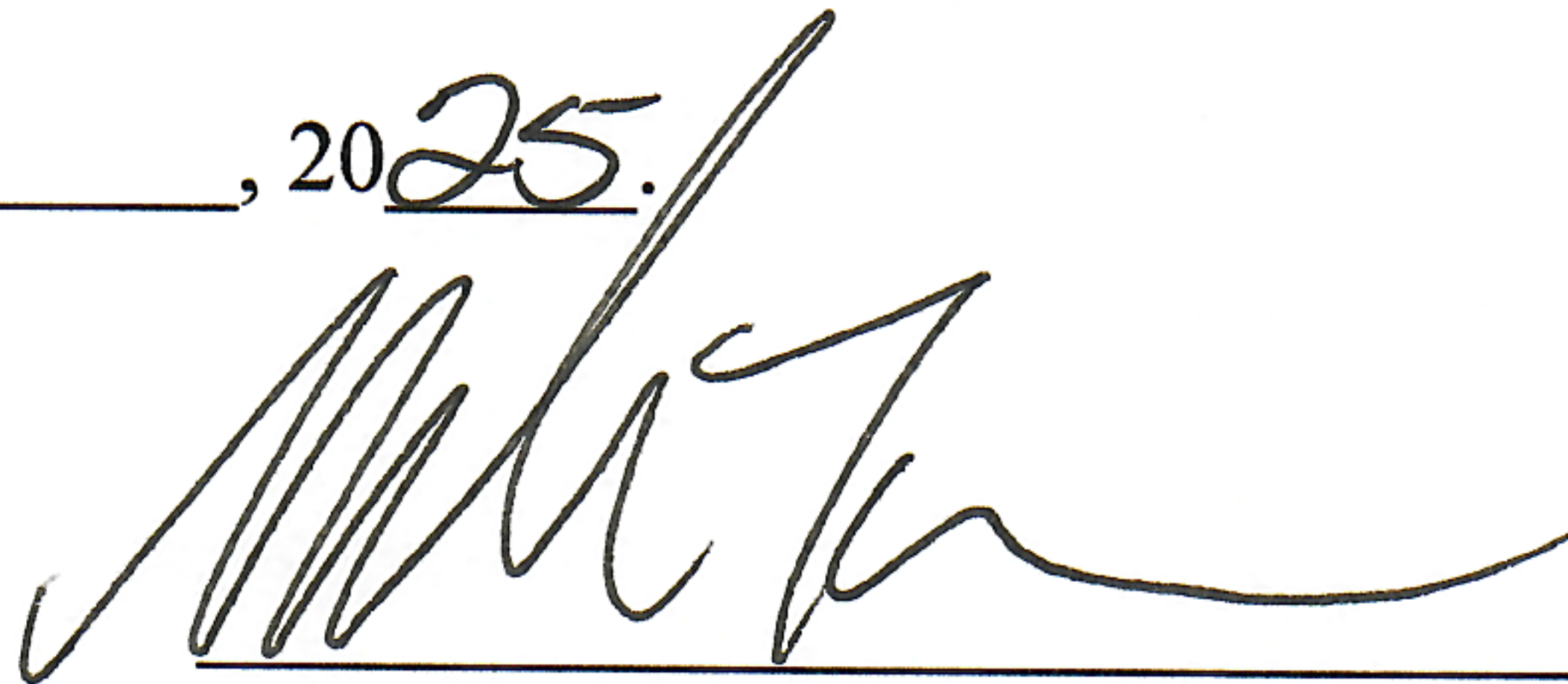
The remaining portion of this form is for office use only

DECISION ON REQUEST FOR APPEARANCE

☒ The above item is APPROVED for hearing before the city council. The city recorder is instructed to place the item on the next available council agenda for 5 minutes.

☐ The above item is NOT APPROVED for hearing before the city council.

Dated this 31 day of July, 2025.



MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

1. The undersigned, request(s) the opportunity to present the following matter in city council meeting (please be as clear and specific as possible)

Car Show Donation

2. The undersigned requests 5 minutes for presentation.

Dated this 21 day of July, 20 25.

Printed Name Sherri Meisenbach Daytime Phone [REDACTED]

Signature Sherri L. Meisenbach Evening Phone _____

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Dated this 31 day of July, 20 25.

[Signature]
MAYOR

P.O. BOX 18 ESCALANTE, UT 84726



Phone: (435) 826-4644 F:435-826-4642

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

1. The undersigned, request(s) the opportunity to present the following matter in city council meeting (please be as clear and specific as possible)

Reimbursement for fire suppression on
federal land.

2. The undersigned requests 5 minutes for presentation.

Dated this 21 day of July, 2025.

Printed Name Bill Weppner Daytime Phone [REDACTED]

Signature Bill Weppner Evening Phone [REDACTED]

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[Signature]
MAYOR