



**NOTICE OF A REGULAR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Council Chambers
125 South Main Street, Vineyard, Utah
July 23, 2025, at 6:00 PM

Present

Mayor Julie Fullmer
Councilmember Sara Cameron
Councilmember Brett Clawson
Councilmember Jacob Holdaway
Councilmember Mardi Sifuentes

Absent

Staff Present: City Attorney Jayme Blakesley, City Manager Eric Ellis, Deputy Brett Ryan with the Utah County Sheriff's Office, Public Works Director Naseem Ghandour, Finance Director Kristie Bayles, Communications Manager Jenna Ahern, Deputy Recorder Tony Lara, and City Recorder Pamela Spencer

Others Speaking: Residents Karen Cornelious, Kathleen Clawson, and David Lauret

1. CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Fullmer opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. Councilmember Sifuentes gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

No items were submitted.

3. WORK SESSION

No items were submitted.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Fullmer called for public comments.

Karen Cornelious, living in the Villas Subdivision, asked about the independent auditor on the agenda.

Kathleen Clawson, living in the Parkside subdivision, mentioned that she appreciated the Peter Rabbit story on the trails and would like to see more stories.

Mayor Fullmer called for additional comments. Hearing none, she closed the public comment session. She noted that independent auditor discussion was on the agenda and any questions would be answered then.

5. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS/DISCLOSURES/RECUSALS

Councilmember Sifuentes reported that ballots were in the mail for the 2025 Primary Election and asked that residents take the time to research the candidates.

Councilmember Holdaway reported that he was grateful for the state laws on GRAMA and the current records request. He requested that council enforce compliance. A discussion ensued. City Attorney Jayme Blakesley explained the request and the responsive documents and conversations with the State Records Ombudsman. The discussion continued. Councilmember Holdaway stated that he had not recorded any interviews with the reporters but recorded them with city staff. Mayor Fullmer requested that the council review the records discussed and make a determination if needed.

6. STAFF, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. CONSENT ITEMS

- 7.1. Approval of the July 9, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 7.2. Interlocal Agreement with Utah County for Library Services (Resolution 2025-42)**
- 7.3. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Utah County for Substance Misuse prevention and Communities that Care (CTC) Model for FY26 (Resolution 2025-43)**

Mayor Fullmer called for a motion.

Councilmember Sifuentes disclosed that with her job with Utah County in Human Services, she works with the department that works with CTC.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER SIFUENTES MOVED TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE CONSENT ITEMS AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL WENT AS FOLLOWS: MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS CAMERON, CLAWSON, SIFUENTES VOTED YES. COUNCILMEMBER HOLDAWAY VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ONE (1).

8. APPOINTMENTS/REMOVALS

No names were submitted.

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

9.1. PUBLIC HEARING - Adoption of the Working Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget After Amendment #1(Resolution 2025-40) FY26 Budget Amendment #1

Mayor Fullmer turned the time over to Councilmember Clawson.

Councilmember Clawson explained that the budget amendment was due to the scrutiny and accusations over the city's finances and the clear path forward was to obtain a fully independent evaluation through a third-party auditor to look for fraud, waste and abuse. He stated that the purpose was not to Audit the State's Audit. He stated that there was no intention of revising the audit but looking for areas where they might be able to improve as a city. He explained what the audit would entail and the reason for the cost and the desire to pick a firm who was fully independent.

Mayor Fullmer called for a motion to open the public hearing.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER SIFUENTES MOVED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:25 PM. COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS CAMERON, CLAWSON, HOLDAWAY AND SIFUENTES VOTED YES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

David Lauret, living on Holdaway Road, asked about the definitions used and criteria for determining the auditor.

Ms. Cornelious asked about the cost of the audit. She asked how they were able to find the money when they had to raise taxes last year. She felt that the council was not being the best stewards of taxpayers' dollars.

Mayor Fullmer called for additional public comments. Hearing none, she called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER SIFUENTES MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:29 PM. COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS CAMERON, CLAWSON, HOLDAWAY AND SIFUENTES VOTED YES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Fullmer called for a discussion from the council.

Councilmember Clawson said that public trust was low, and they need to take steps to repair that trust, which did not come for free.

Councilmember Holdaway said that he did not feel good about supporting an independent audit. There was a discussion about the state audit process. Mayor Fullmer clarified that the Auditor required the mayor to sign the letter, which included the responses from the team working it. Councilmember Holdaway stated that he did not understand the scope of the independent audit and felt that he was getting conflicting information. He commented on waste and abuse and how that was defined. Councilmember Cameron asked him to get to the point. Councilmember Holdaway continued his comments.

Councilmember Clawson clarified the process and how they determined the scope to be included in the “request for proposal” document. For the record, he read an email that went out on July 12th: “the purpose of the initiative was to proactively: 1. Identify any anomalies related to fraud, waste, or abuse; 2. Identify any vulnerabilities in our policies and operations; 3. Recommend changes to build public trust and ensure government accountability to the highest standards.” The purpose for the email was to express to the entire council and the finance committee what they thought the scope should be and to gather input on what they thought it should look like. He said that he received an email between Councilmember Holdaway and Seth Oveson from the State Auditor’s office which prompted him to contact Mr. Oveson for clarification. He received confirmation today that what they were doing was accurate and shared those notes with the council. He felt that the effort was there to be open and transparent on what they were trying to do and that the RFP was well defined. He believed that it left room for the independent firm to recommend changes. He felt that this was a big deal in order to regain public trust.

Councilmember Sifuentes stated that she did not want to have to spend \$104,000. From her perspective she believed that with everything that Councilmember Holdaway had been pushing for a state audit and they would be pleased if the city were taking care of their own problems. She felt that Councilmember Holdaway’s concerns about having corruption in the finances then they needed to find it. She added the state gave them advice for things they could do for policy changes.

Councilmember Cameron commented that Councilmember Holdaway expressed frustrations because he was not invited to the meetings, but she did not get an invitation to meet with Mr. Oveson, the State Auditor’s Office, or the newspapers to give a different side of the story. She felt Councilmember Holdaway needed to look at his own behavior if he wanted everything to be fair and balanced. She stated that a lot of Councilmember Holdaway’s accusations of corruption were not founded and that his concerns with the previous council’s transparency was not accurate. She said that everyone agreed that they wanted the city run well and have transparency. She had a conversation with Councilmember Tyce Flake, which was eye opening, and validated what she had seen in the past year and half. She said that she was frustrated with Councilmember Holdaway’s misrepresentation of the people and the city. Councilmember Holdaway for clarification on a councilmember adding items to an agenda. Mayor Fullmer clarified that he was interrupting and turned the time back to Councilmember Cameron. Councilmember Sifuentes requested that Mr. Blakesly clarify Title 3 in the municipal code and noted that she worked to change the amount of councilmembers need to get something on the agenda. Councilmember Cameron mentioned two things that she had asked Councilmember Holdaway to correct the record: Bella Lash and Mercedes. Bella Lash was a utility refund, and he did not correct the record. A discussion ensued. The mayor brought the meeting back to order. Councilmember Cameron explained that the Mercedes was the purchase of a used dump truck to be fiscally conservative and felt that Councilmember Holdaway was doing a disservice to the community by not correcting the record.

Mayor Fullmer responded to the question on where they found the finances and why they had done this. For the record: “The time they had with the state auditor had closed and they wanted to take what they had given them and implement a process so that if they came back to the city in six months, they would see that the city had taken their suggestions seriously.” She explained that at the last City Council meeting she had suggested that the city look into their policies, best practices, and finances. She felt that taking money from the city’s reserves would be a return on their investment and ensuring money was being spent fiscally. She explained that last year was the first time they had raised taxes in 20 years to recover the cost of inflation. She explained the need for the raise in taxes. She felt it was important to recognize that every time we have to look into these accusations it costs

a lot of staff time. A \$104,000 is not a lot in comparison to what we have been spending on these discussions. The investment was worth it to let the residents know that their taxpayer dollars were being spent in an efficient way. She mentioned the article in the Daily Herald that Councilmember Holdaway had referred to earlier stating that they were changing away from an independent audit, which they were not doing. She felt it was important to review the email discussed earlier. She said that sometimes the news reports things in a way that the city needs to clarify. She said that there was a document that explained how they were responding to the auditor's findings. She said that on the 9th they talked about how all of this was going to be managed. She said that because Councilmember Clawson was the council liaison on their finances, along with Councilmember Cameron, he was going to lead the committee choosing an independent auditor. She mentioned the process they were going through and how they were being transparent.

Mr. Ellis explained that fraud, waste, and abuse were defined in the generally accepted accounting procedures and that an outside accounting firm would use those definitions. The letter that was submitted to the State Auditor was that as a city council, they were a political subdivision of the state, granted a great deal of autonomy to create your own bylaws and operate as a municipality. The more they rely on outside entities it could have an eroding effect on the value of the council working as a body. He said that if the city council wanted to arrange for an independent audit, they were in their realm to do that.

Mayor Fullmer felt it would be meaningful to the residents that they could search for the things that all of the representative brought to the table and determine what they wanted to review and being transparent. She further explained that they had to be thoughtful of creating quorums.

Mr. Blakesley reviewed the amendment to Municipal Code Title 3, allowing any two councilmembers to request to place an item on the agenda. A discussion ensued.

Mayor Fullmer called for further comments.

Councilmember Sifuentes asked if they could wait to approve the budget amendment until they had the proposals. A discussion ensued. Councilmember Holdaway suggested the council sit down with the state auditor and get clarification on the audit. The discussion continued. Mr. Blakesly suggested they read the scope in the RFP. He noted that they had heard complaints over the last few years over how the city manages its finances and the rumors persist because there had not been an independent review. He noted that there were protocols and procedures established nationally. He read the deliverables listed in the RFP and items they would look at. He stated that he was baffled by Councilmember Holdaway complaining about these items and then complaining about having an independent auditor. A heated discussion ensued. Councilmember Holdaway admitted he mistakenly blurred out a Bella Lash comment to a small group that did not end up being true. He said that when they first looked at the ledger, there were several items he had concerns about, of which Bella Lash and the Mercedes were part of.

Mayor Fullmer asked council to move the meeting forward.

Mr. Ellis explained that it was a common practice to have a budget amount approved for an item and he felt they should approve the budget tonight, and a decision would come to the council later for the specific amount and firm. A discussion ensued. Mayor Fullmer clarified that they would be putting saving aside for a future possibility; they were not spending any funds yet. She explained how the scope of work was done and that Councilmember Clawson and Councilmember Cameron

were working together to create the RFP. Mr. Blakesley clarified that the RFP had been put out today. Mr. Ellis clarified that the RFP was sent to the council for comments before the RFP was published. There was a discussion about the RFP.

Mayor Fullmer clarified that they were saving money and that the RFP was out. She suggested that people email Councilmember Clawson and Councilmember Cameron with comments. She then called for a motion to adopt the change.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER CLAWSON MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-40 THE VINEYARD CITY FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT #1 AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL WENT AS FOLLOWS: MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS CAMERON, CLAWSON, SIFUENTES VOTED YES. COUNCILMEMBER HOLDAWAY VOTED NO. THE MOTION CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ONE (1).

9.2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Authorizing Bid Award for a 3rd Party Auditor (Resolution 2025-41)

Adopting a resolution allowing the city manager to award the winning bid to a third-party auditor once the committee has made their selection.

Mayor Fullmer called for a motion to strike this item from the agenda to give council time to review the RFP responses and then award the bid.

Motion: COUNCILMEMBER CLAWSON MOVED TO STRIKE ITEM 9.2 DISCUSSION AND ACTION - AUTHORIZING BID AWARD FOR A 3RD PARTY AUDITOR (RESOLUTION 2025-41) FROM THE AGENDA. COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FULLMER, COUNCILMEMBERS CAMERON, CLAWSON, HOLDAWAY AND SIFUENTES VOTED YES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was held.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fullmer adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

MINUTES APPROVED ON: 8/13/2025

CERTIFIED CORRECT BY: Pamela D. Spencer
PAMELA SPENCER, CITY RECORDER

