

**MAPLETON CITY
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2025**

PRESIDING AND CONDUCTING:

Mayor Dallas Hakes

Members in Attendance:

Kasey Beck- By telephone
Reid Carlson
Jessica Egbert
Therin Garrett
Leslie Jones

Staff in Attendance:

Cory Branch, City Administrator
Sean Conroy, Assistant City Administrator/Community
Development Director
Rob Hunter, Public Works Director/City Engineer
John Jackson, Public Safety Director/Police Chief
Logan Miner, Parks and Recreation Director
Destiny Skinner, Communications/Public Relations
Coordinator

Minutes taken by:

Camille Brown, City Recorder

The items may not have been heard in the order below.

Mayor Hakes called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Cl. Carlson gave the invocation, and Cl. Garrett gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM:

Tyler Jensen addressed the City Council regarding his concerns about a fiber installation project by CenturyLink. After receiving unclear notification of construction, he contacted the listed representative and learned that fiber optic cable would be installed through his backyard, something he opposed. He was told it could not be stopped due to approved permits. He expressed frustration over the lack of communication and transparency, noting that the permit was approved without public notice and only 14 days before work was scheduled to begin.

He thanked the mayor, city manager, and public works director for visiting his home shortly after he raised concerns, taking his feedback seriously, and pausing the project. He also thanked them for ongoing updates and responsiveness. He emphasized that utility installations in backyards should be avoided when alternatives exist and called for better oversight, public notification, and input on large-scale infrastructure projects.

He urged the council to ensure that any continuation of the project respects private property and security and recommended adopting new procedures for transparency and public engagement in future citywide initiatives.

Ron Richey spoke in support of Tyler Jensen's concerns regarding the CenturyLink fiber installation project.

He questioned the need for additional fiber infrastructure when the city already has a fiber network and expressed skepticism about Lumen/CenturyLink's motives. He noted that fiber installation through backyards is highly invasive, especially in cases like his, where a prior replat placed a utility line directly through the middle of his yard, not along the property edge.

He emphasized that easements are meant for vital infrastructure, not optional or redundant services. He called for legal action if necessary to stop the project and warned of the potential damage to personal property, including electrical and sprinkler lines.

Mayor Hakes acknowledged his concerns, shared his frustration, and confirmed that the project had been halted pending further review.

Cole Carter addressed the council to respond to concerns raised in the previous meeting regarding the city's public bid process. He specifically addressed comments from Councilmember Garrett, who had used terms like "hidden items," "lack of transparency," and "major concerns" in reference to public works bidding. He questioned whether these terms implied unethical or dishonest behavior. Cl. Garrett clarified that he was not accusing anyone of wrongdoing but felt discomfort about elected officials bidding on city contracts, even if it was legal.

Cole emphasized that Rino Excavating, the mayor's company, has completed a few city projects as the lowest bidder, saving the city approximately \$1.8 million. He pointed to a recent PI line project completed by Rino that was finished with zero change orders, in contrast to a similar culinary line project currently underway has already resulted in a \$62,000 change order.

He also highlighted that Rino uses local businesses for much of its subcontracted work. Thorpe Burial Vault supplies all the precast materials; WPI Concrete handles the concrete work; and Eckles Paving, completes the majority of the paving on those projects. These are all businesses that are based out of Mapleton. He concluded by expressing concern that vague or emotionally charged language can unintentionally create misleading narratives, undermine public trust, and harm reputable local businesses that follow the rules.

Cl. Egbert responded to the ongoing discussion about potential conflicts of interest in the city's public works bidding process. She acknowledged Cole Carter's points and clarified that Cl. Garrett likely did not intend his earlier comments to be malicious, though they may have been perceived that way. She emphasized that all five council members feel no pressure or obligation to vote in favor of awarding contracts to Rino Excavating, despite its ownership ties to the mayor. Each decision is made independently and based on the merits of the bid.

She noted that in public service, perceived conflicts of interest are nearly unavoidable, whether someone owns a construction company, a bank, or a pizza shop. The important thing, she said, is that the city's conflict of interest processes was properly followed.

She concluded by encouraging residents to approach such situations with compassion, curiosity, and grace. She stressed that everyone serving or running for public office is doing so with sincere intentions and a commitment to the community, and that mutual understanding and respect can go a long way in keeping the city strong and united.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Item 1.** Approval of City Council meeting minutes- July 16, 2025
- Item 2.** Consideration of a Resolution awarding the contract for the Mapleton City Park Renovations Phase I to Visco LLC. **Resolution No. 2025-44**
- Item 3.** Consideration of a Resolution to award the 800 West Maple Street Road Improvements project to RC Enterprise for \$162,220. **Resolution No. 2025-45**

- Item 4.** Consideration of a Resolution to award the 800 North Intersection Improvements project to RC Enterprise for \$326,142. **Resolution No. 2025-46**
- Item 5.** Consideration of a Resolution to approve change orders for Newman Construction on the Highway 89 Culinary Waterline Replacement Phase I project totaling \$61,552. **Resolution No. 2025-47**
- Motion:** Cl. Jones moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
- Second:** Cl. Egbert seconded the motion.
- Vote:**
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Cl. Carlson | Yes |
| Cl. Egbert | Yes |
| Cl. Beck | Yes |
| Cl. Jones | Yes |
| Cl. Garrett | Yes |
| Vote: | Passed 5:0 |

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Destiny Skinner introduced herself to the mayor and council, bringing over 20 years of government experience. Since joining the city just over two months ago, she has overseen a significant boost in communications, including a 200% increase in social media reach and over 350 new followers across the city's main platforms. Destiny shared her vision to enhance transparency, engagement, and branding through consistent messaging across email, print, social media, and the website, while exploring expanded use of tools like Everbridge for targeted resident updates.

A larger discussion followed about the importance of promoting Mapleton's community identity, especially to new residents, by sharing documentary footage created during the city's branding process. Council members emphasized the emotional impact of these videos and proposed hosting local events, such as outdoor screenings, to build awareness and connection. Destiny and other staff expressed interest in using raw footage for short-form content to further strengthen citywide engagement.

Chief Jackson updated the Mayor and Council on Pioneer Day, reporting that public safety operations went very well with only minor issues unrelated to the events. He shared the results of four recent speed studies on Mapleton Estates Drive, which showed that most drivers are within acceptable speed limits, with only a few exceeding them. This data has been shared with concerned residents, but no additional feedback has been received yet. He also mentioned an upcoming community preparedness event in September linked to the public safety night out. He reported a minor accident involving a police vehicle with no injuries. Council members praised the public safety team for their professionalism, organization, and positive community engagement, highlighting that teamwork was key to Pioneer Day's smooth execution.

Logan Miner stated that he echoed the Chief's gratitude toward all the volunteers, including the executive committee, internal committee, and community members, emphasizing that Pioneer Day would not be possible without their dedication. He extended sincere thanks to city staff across all departments, noting that everyone steps up, whether in public safety, public works, or other areas. The teamwork is what makes the celebration special, especially for a city of Mapleton's size.

Special recognition was given to Destiny for stepping in and helping ensure the Pioneer Day magazine was completed smoothly and on time. Destiny also assisted in producing a four-minute recap video posted on the city's YouTube channel, which highlighted why the event was such a success.

Some key statistics from July 11–19 were shared: approximately 70,000 visitors came from outside Mapleton, with 25,300 arriving on the peak day, Saturday. Of those visitors, 71% came from neighboring Utah County cities. The median visitor stay was about 113 minutes.

It was estimated that over 1,600 volunteer hours were contributed during the week, in addition to numerous staff hours. The event raised roughly \$94,400 in sponsorships and partnerships, which is an impressive amount for a city of Mapleton's size.

Mayor Hakes added that the resident who sang the national anthem during the flag ceremony, was an unforgettable performance and hoped he would return next year. His singing set the perfect tone for the event.

Between 75 and 100 volunteers helped during the celebration, dedicating their personal time and energy. The city encouraged the community to appreciate these volunteers' hard work.

Mayor Hakes urged residents to approach civic issues with kindness, thoughtfulness, and accurate information. He emphasized appreciation for the 100+ volunteers, staff, and sponsors who made Pioneer Day a success, raising nearly \$100,000 and creating a joyful event that drew praise for its positive atmosphere.

The mayor shared a personal anecdote about how happy and welcoming everyone was, highlighting the strong sense of community. City staff and public safety were also thanked for going above and beyond. The message: before criticizing, pause, get informed, and recognize the hard work being done by those serving Mapleton.

A short discussion was held about when to hold the event next year and it was decided that it will be July 10th to July 18th.

Logan added that work has begun at City Park, but he assures residents that concerts and market events throughout August will not be disrupted by construction. The market is scheduled to move to City Hall in September, along with the scarecrow spectacular, to allow for infrastructure work at the park in preparation for the December 1st lights event.

They were able to come up with a plan for the restrooms to remain open through the end of the season despite construction.

The relocated events at City Hall will take place on the lawn in front of the building, with temporary parking arranged on the west side.

The new shop building is nearing completion. They are waiting for the installation of a transformer by Rocky Mountain Power. They are hoping to energize the building by August 14th, with a ribbon-cutting and open house planned for September 3rd prior to the council meeting.

Harvest Park renovations are complete. The updates to the bride's room have been completed, which will improve maintenance and aesthetics.

The design work on the bike park is underway, with additional public engagement planned. The city has applied for a \$2.8 million grant from the Utah Outdoor Recreation initiative and will provide updates as available.

Finally, the Moonlight Half event is scheduled for September 5th. Volunteers interested in assisting at the aid station at the pond are encouraged to contact city staff.

Rob Hunter reported that his department is entering a busy period with several street and infrastructure projects scheduled over the coming weeks. Work on the highway water line is progressing, with the 1600 South intersection expected to be completed and paved by the end of the day. Crews will then move to the 800 South intersection next week, followed by the section connecting the two. Additional street projects are also set to begin, including construction on 300 West, work at 800 West and Maple Street, and improvements at the 800 North intersection, all expected to start within the next week or two. The HA5 surface treatment project is largely complete, with only minor

final touch-ups remaining. Mill and fill work has been delayed due to a broken milling machine; updated notices will be sent to residents, with milling scheduled for next week and paving to follow. In September, micro surfacing is planned for Slant Road, 1600 North east of Main Street, all of North Main Street, and a portion of 400 East, which includes coverage of a previously trenched area.

Cl. Carlson stated that the new transfer station is performing well and recently won a National Building of the Year Award. However, there have been complaints about excessive flies, likely due to the enclosed design. They are aware of the issue and are exploring safe abatement options.

Cl. Egbert stated that Utah League of Cities and Towns has its first board meeting this month. The annual conference is on October 1st and 2nd in Salt Lake City. In addition to the community preparedness event mentioned by the Chief, there will be a Self-Reliance Fair and Food Drive on November 8th. This event is a collaboration with the Youth City Council as part of their ongoing food drive and will be held at the local facility. Additional details will be provided closer to the date.

Motion: Cl. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Cl. Egbert seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed unanimously at 7:20 pm

APPROVED: August 20, 2025



Camille Brown, City Recorder