

CITY OF OREM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
56 North State Street Orem, Utah
June 24, 2025

3:00 P.M. WORK SESSION - CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

CONDUCTING	Mayor David Young
ELECTED OFFICIALS	David Young, David Spencer, LaNae Millett, Jeff Lambson, Jenn Gale, Chris Killpack, and Tom Macdonald
APPOINTED STAFF	Brenn Bybee, City Manager; Ryan Clark, Assistant City Manager; Keri Rugg, Deputy City Manager/Management Services Director; Steve Earl, City Attorney; Brandon Nelson, Finance Director; Marc Sanderson, Fire Chief; BJ, Robinson, Police Chief; Bryce Merrill, Library and Recreation Director; Gary McGinn, Community Development Director; Peter Wolfley, Communications Manager, PIO; Teresa McKittrick, City Recorder

NOTE: The referenced report and presentation documents for each discussion may be viewed at orem.gov/meetings under “City Council Presentations”

New Jazz Court at Windsor Park Ribbon Cutting

The City Council joined the Orem staff and community to celebrate the ribbon cutting of a new Jazz basketball court. The City of Orem coordinated with the Jazz and other sponsors to build this court for the community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=142s>

Fraud Questionnaire Presentation *Presenter: Brandon Nelson, CPA, Finance Director*

Mr. Nelson informed the Orem City Council about the results of the state auditor's annual assessment, which rates the city's financial and governance practices. He reported that the city's rating remains unchanged from the previous year, placing it in the "low" risk category. Mr. Nelson explained that to achieve the highest possible rating of "very low" risk, Orem would need to meet three specific criteria it currently does not: implement a formal internal audit function, require governing members to complete a specific, lengthy training course, and mandate an annual written commitment to an ethical behavior statement. He noted that these three factors were the only reasons Orem did not receive the highest rating and that the presentation was for informational purposes only, requiring no action from the council.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=269s>

Interlocal Emergency Water Agreement and the 2025 Water Supply Agreement with Central Utah Water Conservancy District *Presenter: Chris Tschirki, Public Water Director*

Mr. Tschirki presented two agreements regarding Orem's water supply and its relationship with Vineyard City and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District.

The first agreement is a renewal of an existing agreement between Orem, its Metropolitan Water District, and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD). For over 20 years, Orem has provided Vineyard City with water. However, Vineyard has now developed its own water system through the CUWCD. Starting July 1, Vineyard will disconnect from Orem's system. Orem will continue to honor a 2005 commitment to provide 3,500 acre-feet of water, but this will now be sold directly to CUWCD, which will then deliver it to Vineyard through its separate system.

This new arrangement is highly beneficial to Orem. It prevents the city's water infrastructure from being degraded by the high demand of Vineyard's growing population. The water being sold to CUWCD is Orem's cheapest water, which would otherwise flow unused down the river to Utah Lake. The revenue generated from this sale will be comparable to what Orem previously received from Vineyard.

The second agreement is an amended interlocal agreement that allows Orem to provide emergency water services to Vineyard in case of a catastrophic failure in Vineyard's system. This is a short-term, as-needed arrangement that offers redundancy for Vineyard's water supply. The cost of this emergency water will be significantly higher—50% more than what Orem currently charges—and will not be subsidized by Orem. This is not a guaranteed supply, and Orem would only provide the water if it can do so without impacting its own system.

During the discussion, Mr. Tschirki provided additional context on Orem's water management. The city's water portfolio is extensive, with its Metropolitan Water District owning about 50% of the shares in the Provo Bench Canal and Irrigation Company. This ownership, along with a commitment to not selling additional water rights, ensures the city's water security at build-out. Mr. Tschirki also noted that the city is actively monitoring legislative proposals regarding water taxation and is participating in an adjudication process to certify its water rights. Orem's water sources are diverse, with 15% coming from local springs, 25% from groundwater wells, and 60% from river systems like Jordanelle, Provo River, and Deer Creek.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=3120s>

Proposed Agreement with the Lockhart Group Discussion *Presenter: Steve Earl, City Attorney*

Mr. Earl introduced a resolution to hire the Lockhart Group to provide professional consulting and lobbying services for the new Timpanogos School District. This interlocal group, which includes representatives from Orem, Pleasant Grove, Lindon, and Vineyard, seeks to

prepare the ground for the new school board that will take over in November. The Lockhart Group's responsibilities will include serving as a liaison to other districts and state legislators, helping to secure state and federal funding for schools, and working to improve the state law governing school district splits. Councilmember Millett voiced strong concerns about a specific law (SB 188) that she believes is unfair, as it divides assets based on student count but divides liabilities based on tax base. She argued this penalizes cities like Orem that have older schools and debt but have invested heavily in the Alpine School District over many years. Mayor Young and City Manager Bybee confirmed that addressing such legislative inequities is a primary reason for hiring the Lockhart Group, which the group believes can best be accomplished by first building consensus with the other districts involved. The resolution to hire the firm was subsequently placed on the consent agenda.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=3772s>

Privacy Compliance Plan Presentation *Presenter: D. Jacob Summers, Deputy City Manager*

Mr. Summers presented a resolution to adopt a privacy compliance plan for the city of Orem, as mandated by the state's House Bill 257, widely known as the "bathroom bill." This legislation, while primarily focused on public schools, also applies to government facilities. The plan specifically affects facilities with large, multi-occupant changing rooms, such as those found at the city's recreation centers. The new rules state that individuals can only use a sex-designated changing room that corresponds with their birth sex, with an exception for those who have legally amended their birth certificate and undergone a surgical procedure. The compliance plan also outlines four key requirements: city employees must report any criminal complaints in a privacy space to law enforcement; police must prioritize and investigate these calls; any new city buildings must include at least one single-occupant privacy facility; and existing facilities should be evaluated for retrofitting to enhance privacy. Mr. Summers clarified that this resolution is a straightforward step to ensure the city is in compliance with the state law.

Annual City Council Financial Statement Presentation *Presenter: D. Jacob Summers, Deputy City Manager*

Ms. McKittrick informed the city council that they must complete their annual financial disclosure forms by June 30. This requirement, implemented by the city for transparency, is separate from any state-mandated disclosures for election candidates. The reporting period covers June 16, 2024, to June 15, 2025. During the discussion, Councilmember Millett proposed an amendment to the ordinance, suggesting an additional reporting period for councilmembers leaving their positions to ensure all final contributions are disclosed. Mayor Young requested clearer guidelines on how to fill out the forms and a simplified timeline to avoid confusion. Council members also sought clarification on the level of detail needed when reporting contributions, particularly for personal funds used in campaigns, to ensure the data is transparent and meaningful.

CITY COUNCIL / STAFF REPORTS (BOARDS & COMMISSIONS, NEW BUSINESS, ETC.)

AGENDA REVIEW & PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

6:00 P.M. REGULAR SESSION - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CONDUCTING	Mayor David A. Young
ELECTED OFFICIALS	David Young, David Spencer, LaNae Millett, Jeff Lambson, Jenn Gale, Chris Killpack, and Tom Macdonald
APPOINTED STAFF	Brenn Bybee, City Manager; Ryan Clark, Assistant City Manager; Keri Rugg, Deputy City Manager/Management Services Director; Steve Earl, City Attorney; Brandon Nelson, Finance Director; Marc Sanderson, Fire Chief; BJ, Robinson, Police Chief; Bryce Merrill, Library and Recreation Director; Gary McGinn, Community Development Director; Peter Wolfley, Communications Manager, PIO; Teresa McKitrick, City Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION / INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT – Doyle Mortimer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / FLAG CEREMONY – Kitty Mortimer

MAYOR'S REPORT/ ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=5024s>

Oremfest Recap Presentation *Presenter: Kenice Whitaker, Events Manager and Sydney Bailey, Events Coordinator*

The Orem events team, led by Ms. Whitaker and Ms. Bailey, presented a recap of a highly successful Oremfest. They expressed gratitude to city staff, volunteers, and the city council for their collaborative effort. The event saw record-breaking attendance, with Friday's crowd nearly doubling that of the previous year. Key highlights included a car show with a 133% increase in participation from last year, a pool party attended by 1,500 people, and a new "Orchard Jam" event. The Sportsfest also saw a rise in participants, particularly in pickleball. A new drone show, alongside traditional fireworks, was a major draw and was well-received by the public. The parade, featuring over 80 entries, was praised for its improved safety measures. The team gathered feedback from over 900 public survey respondents, which they plan to use to

enhance future events. Councilmember Gale and Mayor Young both commended the staff for their dedication, long hours, and success in building a stronger sense of community. The "Orem is Cool" shirts and the drone show were singled out as major hits with the younger audience.

American Legion Carshow Fundraiser *Presenter: Kenice Whitaker, Events Manager; Sydney Bailey, Events Coordinator and Walker Sanderson Funeral Home and Crematory*

Orem City's events team, Ms. Whitaker and Ms. Bailey, presented a check for \$9,620 to the American Legion, representing the funds raised from the Oremfest car show. This amount was a record-breaking donation from the event. Mr. Rodney Gardner from the American Legion accepted the check, expressing his gratitude. He explained that the money will be used for a variety of purposes, including the emergency veteran fund to provide temporary financial assistance, funding events like veterans' funerals, and helping to build a new facility to house their equipment. Mr. Gardner also mentioned the organization's past contribution to the Gold Star monument and praised the city staff and council for their hard work and support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=6050s>

Budget Optimization Awards Presentation *Presenter: Brenn Bybee, City Manager*

City Manager Bybee initiated the inaugural "BABO" awards—standing for "Bybee's Award for Budget Optimization"—to recognize city staff for their exceptional efforts in creating a balanced budget. Likening the budget process to wrestling, Mr. Bybee presented three honorable mentions and one top prize. The honorable mentions were awarded to Chief Sanderson and the Orem Fire leadership for proactively reallocating their budget to fund a new position without increasing costs; Mr. Merrill and the Recreation and Library management for creatively generating revenue through popular programming; and Mr. Bell, the Budget Officer, for his work in consolidating all the moving parts of the budget while implementing new software. The top award, a wrestling belt, went to Mr. Nelson, the Finance Director. Mr. Nelson was praised for his calm and creative leadership in navigating the complex budgeting process amidst financial challenges like inflation, and for upholding the city's 37-year tradition of receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's financial excellence award.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=6615s>

Volunteerism Proclamation Presentation *Presenter: Debi D'Amico, Community Connection Supervisor*

Ms. D'Amico, a representative from Orem City, presented a video to the City Council showcasing the city's strong sense of community service and volunteerism. To further cement this commitment, the city proposed a proclamation to officially designate Orem as a "JustServe City."

Following the video, Mr. Val Hale, a JustServe specialist, spoke to the council. He explained that JustServe is a global tool created by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to connect volunteers with organizations in need of help. He noted that the designation of a "JustServe Global City" is given to cities that are volunteer-focused. Currently, only Lehi and Spanish Fork in Utah County have achieved this status, and Orem would be the third. Mr. Hale praised Orem for its history of volunteerism and its successful use of JustServe for events like the 9/11 Day of Service.

Mayor Young expressed his support for the initiative, noting that the city frequently receives inquiries from residents looking for volunteer opportunities and often refers them to JustServe. The proclamation was officially signed, and a photo opportunity was held to commemorate the event. Councilmember Millett also shared a personal anecdote about a constituent who used JustServe to get involved in the community, highlighting its effectiveness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=7057s>

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Opened at 06:37 PM

Rennie Reeves, an 11-year-old Orem resident, addressed the City Council to express concerns about the safety of crossing 2000 South near 160 East. She highlighted that many people, from children to adults, frequently cross the street to access parks, schools, and friends' houses. Miss Reeves explained that the street is dangerous due to speeding cars and reduced visibility caused by parked vehicles. To solve the problem, she proposed three solutions: installing a crosswalk, increasing speed limit enforcement, and changing parking regulations. She supported her appeal with a petition of 66 signatures from neighbors and urged the council to be proactive in finding a solution.

Rosemarie Hoffman, a resident of the same neighborhood as the previous speaker, Miss Reeves, addressed the City Council to support Miss Reeves's request for safety improvements on 2000 South. Ms. Hoffman validated Miss Reeves's concerns by sharing that near-misses with speeding cars are a common topic of conversation among her neighbors. She emphasized the danger to children on their scooters and walking to church, noting that the combination of high-speed traffic and limited visibility due to parked cars makes the street particularly hazardous. Ms. Hoffman endorsed Miss Reeves's proposed solutions, specifically the installation of a crosswalk and an extended no-parking zone to improve visibility. She concluded by commending Miss Reeves for her initiative and thanked the council for their time.

Evan Thacker, an Orem resident, spoke to the City Council to both thank them for the recent Oremfest and raise a serious concern about the upcoming municipal elections. He praised the Oremfest parade for fostering a sense of community where "everyone belongs" and is welcome. However, he expressed dismay that the Utah County Republican Party is attempting to influence the city's officially non-partisan elections by inviting candidates to seek a formal

endorsement and pledge loyalty to the party. Mr. Thacker believes this action undermines the non-partisan nature of the elections, creating a conflict of interest for any elected official who pledges loyalty to a political party rather than prioritizing the needs of all Orem citizens. He concluded by urging the council to ensure that Orem's leadership remains "for everyone," just like the Oremfest.

Mayor Young responded to Evan Thacker's concern about partisan influence in Orem's non-partisan elections, arguing that supporting a political party does not mean an elected official cannot prioritize the city's needs. He stated that the foundational principles of a political party can inform how a person governs, and that the two are not mutually exclusive. Councilmember Millett also commented, expressing her pride in being a Republican and disputing the idea that seeking an endorsement is the same as "pledging loyalty," which she described as an extreme characterization. She affirmed Mr. Thacker's right to voice his opinion.

Nathaniel Johnson addressed the Orem City Council, proposing an initiative to celebrate local artists. Inspired after discovering that Brett Helquist, the illustrator of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, grew up in Orem, Mr. Johnson suggested using public spaces like the library to display the works of artists with ties to the city. He believes that showcasing Mr. Helquist's art and that of other local artists would inspire children and residents by demonstrating that creativity and success can originate in their own community. Mr. Johnson concluded by offering to help the city make this idea a reality.

Whitney Olsen, a lifelong Orem resident, addressed the City Council to express concerns about a large home on her residential dead-end street being used as an Airbnb. The home, owned by someone from out of state, is advertised to sleep 28 people but has hosted more, with tour buses and over 28 cars on the street during weekends. Ms. Olsen said the home has become an event center or "mini hotel" rather than a typical Airbnb rental, causing excessive noise and traffic. She noted that the increase in activity changes the entire feel of the quiet, family-friendly neighborhood and poses a safety risk for children who play on the street. Ms. Olsen stated that she couldn't find any specific city policies on Airbnbs on the city's website and asked the council if such regulations exist or if the city could consider creating some.

Closed at 06:52 PM

CONSENT ITEMS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=7553s>

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2025 and May 13, 2025

RESOLUTION - Appointing Lt. Fenn to the North Utah Valley Animal Shelter Board

RESOLUTION - Interlocal Emergency Water Supply Agreement with Vineyard

RESOLUTION - 2025 Water Supply Agreement with Central Utah Water Conservancy District

RESOLUTION - Privacy Compliance Plan

RESOLUTION - Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Lockhart Group

Mr. Macdonald moved to approve the consent items. **Seconded by** Mr. Killpack. Those voting yes: David Young, LaNae Millett, David Spencer, Tom Macdonald, Chris Killpack, Jeff Lambson, and Jenn Gale. The motion **passed**.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4JbrAHH2p8&t=8060s>

PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE - Budget Amendment *Presenters: Jared Hall, Planning Manager and Gary McGinn, Community Development Director.*

Mr. Nelson reviewed the final budget amendments for the fiscal year ending June 30, thanking his fellow directors for their help, which he said made his job easier. The total amendments amount to \$2.375 million in additional revenues and associated expenditures. The amendments cover several key areas, including appropriating various donations and grants the city received, some of which came from Oremfest sponsors and the American Legion. The city is also adding interest earned from both the 2021 water and sewer bond and a newer sales tax revenue bond to their respective projects. Other amendments include using reserves from the senior citizens fund to buy chairs for the council chambers and transferring funds from the city's self-insurance to the general fund to replace a police vehicle that was wrecked. Additionally, the city is allocating reserve funds to the 1600 North landscaping project and adjusting the budget to account for an increase in property taxes from the University Place CDA. Following the budget discussion, Mayor Young asked for an update on the Field Store Memorial project. A representative confirmed that they have raised about \$70,000 toward a \$250,000 goal, with the project slated for a September opening. The Mayor called for a strong push to raise the remaining funds.

Public Hearing open 7:13 PM

No Comments

Public Hearing closed 7:13 PM

Mr. Macdonald moved to approve, by ordinance, the budget amendments for FY 2024-2025 as specified in Exhibit A. **Seconded by** Ms. Gale. Those voting yes: David Young, LaNae Millett,

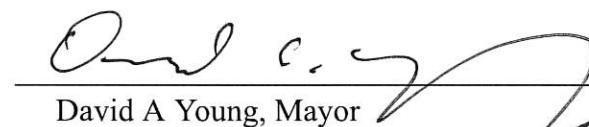
David Spencer, Tom Macdonald, Chris Killpack, Jeff Lambson, and Jenn Gale. The motion passed.

CITY MANAGER INFORMATION ITEMS

ADJOURN

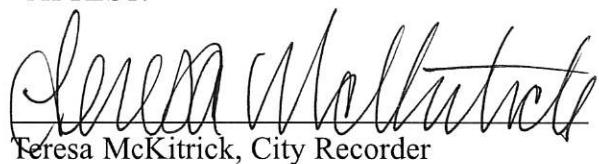
Ms. Millett moved to adjourn to a meeting of the Orem Redevelopment Agency, **seconded** by Mr. Lambson. Those voting yes: David Young, LaNae Millett, David Spencer, Tom Macdonald, Chris Killpack, Jeff Lambson, and Jenn Gale. The motion **passed**.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 26th day of August 2025.



David A. Young, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa McKittrick, City Recorder



COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor David A. Young
Chris Killpack
David Spencer
Jeff Lambson
Jenn Gale
LaNae Millett
Tom Macdonald

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