

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes

Wednesday, August 20, 2025
Council Chambers, Room No. 140
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd.
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

BRIEFING SESSION

Attendance:

Mayor Kristie Overson

Council Members:

Council Chair Meredith Harker
Council Vice Chair Bob Knudsen
Council Member Anna Barbieri
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Curt Cochran

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Dina Blaes, Strategic Engagement
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director
Betsy Valora, Receptionist
Ben White, City Engineer

Excused: Scott Harrington, Asst. City Administrator/CFO

6:00 BRIEFING SESSION

Chair Meredith Harker conducted the briefing session, which convened at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was conducted wherein all council members were present.

1. Review Agenda

The agenda for the regular city council meeting was reviewed.

Council Member Burgess expressed concern about the growing problem of residents leaving their trash and unwanted personal property on the curb or street rather than disposing of it properly. He found this to be particularly problematic along 2200 West, while Council Member Knudsen had seen it at various other locations as well. City Administrator John Taylor mentioned that if a

neighborhood got together and took their collected junk to the landfill, the city would provide a free voucher.

Chair Harker suggested referring the matter to Code Enforcement. Mr. Taylor responded that it was certainly an option, but it began what was actually a lengthy process that did nothing to remove the trash in the meantime.

Chair Harker had noticed that the agenda for upcoming city council meetings was posted on one place on the city's website, but the related packet was posted on a different page. She suggested they be kept together, and no one had any objections.

Brief updates of various committees were then shared, before the chair announced that there would be a fun run taking place on Saturday, October 25th at 10am.

2. Adjourn

Chair Harker declared the briefing session adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Attendance:

Mayor Kristie Overson

Council Members:

Council Chair Meredith Harker
Council Vice Chair Bob Knudsen
Council Member Anna Barbieri
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Curt Cochran

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Dina Blaes, Strategic Engagement
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director
Betsy Valora, Receptionist

Excused: Scott Harrington, Asst. City Administrator/CFO

Others: Barbara Muñoz, Martín Muñoz, and Susan Yadeskie

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Harker called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A roll call was conducted wherein all council members were present.

1.1 Opening Ceremonies – Pledge/Reverence – *Council Member Burgess (Opening Ceremonies for September 3, 2025 to be arranged by Council Member Barbieri)*

Council Member Ernest Burgess directed the Pledge of Allegiance before Council Member Knudsen offered a prayer.

1.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Overson provided her report highlighting recent ribbon cuttings in the city. She reported on one for Inclusive Minded Counseling and Consulting in District No. 2 and another celebrating the 75th anniversary of McDougal Funeral Home and grand opening of their gathering hall which was in District No. 1. She noted that both events were well attended.

The mayor then discussed the Night Out Against Crime event which had taken place two weeks before, mentioning the many sponsors and volunteers from the Public Safety Committee, Citizen Advisory Board, and members of the ham radio community.

The Night Out Against Crime event coincided with the most recent Starry Nights on the Plaza event, and she described it as "epic" with a band that played well after 9 PM. She noted that the Westside CultureFest had also been taking place simultaneously on the other end of the campus, creating a bustling atmosphere with many attendees.

Mayor Overson also mentioned that the farmers' market was going well, with additional vegetable stands now available. She explained that the market offered seasonal produce grown from various locations, along with other items like bread, cookies, and candles.

The mayor reported on her attendance at a board meeting for Unified Fire, where she received their detailed budget book. She commended the organization as well-run and noted a takeaway from the meeting about the importance of bystander CPR during cardiac events while waiting for emergency response.

She then recognized Officer Jake Griffiths for going above and beyond in helping Hercules Credit Union locate a car that needed to be repossessed and thanked the police department for providing pizza for the Youth Council as appreciation for their help with active shooter training.

Mayor Overson concluded her report by mentioning the Youth Council's first meeting of the new school year, her plans for the Youth Ambassador program, and her observations from that morning's Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hearing regarding code enforcement issues.

1.2.1 Proclamation Recognizing the 2025 NJCAA Division I Baseball World Series Champion SLCC Bruins

The mayor presented a proclamation recognizing the Salt Lake Community College baseball team for winning the NJCAA Division I World Series on May 31, 2025. She congratulated the team for making history as the lowest-seeded team to win the Series title and commended them for their exceptional skill, sportsmanship, teamwork, and resilience. Team athletes and coaches were present to accept the recognition, and photos were taken with the council members.

1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events – *Chair Harker*

Chair Harker briefly reviewed upcoming community events.

1.4 Citizen Comments

There was no one who expressed a desire to address the city council, so Chair Harker closed the citizen comment period.

2. APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments.

3. REPORTS

3.1.1 Administration of Oath of Office

The city recorder administered the oath of office to Taylorsville Police Officers Bronson Babasa, David “Tate” Goodson, and Bradley Laursen.

3.1 Police Department Report – *Chief Brady Cottam*

Chief Brady Cottam began his report with a moment of silence for Tremonton-Garland Officer Eric Estrada and Sgt. Lee Sorensen, both of whom had been killed in the line of duty the previous weekend. He then presented *Employee of the Month* awards HR Director Stephanie Snow (not present), Garrett Tan, and David Hood.

The Chief shared data on crime trends, and response times, among other things. He mentioned the department's involvement in various community events including Taylorsville Days, which he described as successful from a safety perspective.

Several Council Members expressed appreciation for the police department's visibility in neighborhoods and at community events, noting that residents had commented positively about their presence and the feeling of safety it provided.

3.2 Historic Preservation Committee Report – *Susan Yadeskie*

Susan Yadeskie presented the Historic Preservation Committee report, thanking the council and city administration for their support. She described various activities at the museum, including classroom presentations about Utah industry, school tours, and work on expanding the patio.

She explained that they were working on capital projects, particularly in the facility now being called the Spencer Western Education Center (formerly known as the garage). She described plans for creating displays with glass shelves and doors that would tell the stories of Taylorsville history.

Ms. Yadeskie provided details about upcoming events, including Tombstone Tales on September 18-20 at the Taylorsville Cemetery. She explained that this year they would be using Bennion Junior High for parking, with golf carts available to transport those with mobility issues. She also mentioned the Fall Festival on October 11, a handicraft show in November, and Saturday with Santa on December 6.

She expressed gratitude to the council for the funding that had allowed the museum to undertake projects they had dreamed of for years but had been unable to complete previously.

3.3 Justice Court Report – *Hon. Chris Bown*

Judge Chris Bown reported on the upcoming move of the court to West Jordan, scheduled for October 1, with the actual moving taking place September 29-30. He explained that they were working through the challenges of merging two courts and that his staff had transitioned to being West Jordan employees as of July 1. He noted that one employee had recently resigned, which would create a temporary staffing challenge.

Judge Bown shared performance statistics for the court up to July 31. For criminal cases in the 180-day review period, he reported a 91% adjudication rate (631 cases). For the 365-day review, he reported the same 91% rate (1,172 cases). Small claims cases showed 99% closure rate in the 180-day window (198 cases) and 100% in the 365-day window (389 cases). The court's traffic matters showed a 91% adjudication rate in the 90-day window (4,585 cases) and 92% over the year (8,300 cases).

The Judge responded to Council Member Harker's question about repeat offenders, explaining that while there are some people he saw regularly, the majority of people who come to court for traffic offenses were seen only once. He also discussed how the court experience itself, rather than just the ticket, served as a deterrent to future violations.

Council Member Cochran asked if the Judge would continue to provide reports to the Taylorsville Council after the move to West Jordan, and Judge Bown confirmed that he planned to continue the semi-annual reports.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes – August 6, 2025 City Council Meeting

MOTION: Council Member Cochran moved to approve the minutes for the August 6, 2025 City Council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knudsen and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters on the agenda.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

There were no financial matters on the agenda.

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Information from the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District Regarding A Proposed Property Tax Increase – Mayor Overson

Mayor Overson presented information about a proposed tax increase from the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District. She explained that this was a separate taxing entity from the city and that the proposed increase would amount to approximately \$420,000 of revenue for the 2026 property tax year. For an average homeowner with a property valued at \$599,833, this would result in a \$0.99 annual increase.

Mayor Overson noted that the district provided important mosquito abatement services, and that the board was fiscally conservative. She mentioned that after a previous tax increase to build a facility, the district had lowered the tax rate once the building was completed.

Council Member Cochran pointed out that the increase was based on an average home price higher than Taylorsville's average, so most residents would see an increase of less than 99 cents annually. A public hearing would be held on December 8, 2025 at the district office.

Council Member Burgess asked about the "black flag program," and Mayor Overson offered to provide more detailed information about mosquito control methods offline.

Council Member Knudsen complimented the clear and straightforward presentation of the information on the flyer. Council Member Barbieri asked how mosquitoes were controlled, and Mayor Overson explained that the district addressed standing water sources, used bike patrols to place mosquito-killing bricks in water features, and employed fogging when necessary. She also mentioned they were exploring drone technology.

The council discussed ways to better inform residents about the district's services, suggesting social media posts that would both notify people of the small tax increase and educate them about the mosquito abatement services available.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

There were no new items for subsequent consideration.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEXT MEETING)

Chair Harker briefly reviewed the dates of upcoming public meetings.

10. CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Barbieri moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knudsen and Chair Harker declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Betsy Valon for
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder



