

**IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**August 25, 2025**

Minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. August 25, 2025, in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Paul Cozzens	Commission Chair
Michael Bleak	Commissioner
Kenneth Robinson	Commissioner
Shaneal Bess	Chief Deputy Clerk

Also present:

Lucas Little	County Auditor
Richard Wilson	Chief Engineer
George Colson	Emergency Management
David Johnson	Economic Development
Wade Adams	Fleet Supervisor
Jennifer Bradbury	HR Director
Candace Reid	Public Defender-Via Phone

Others Present:

Jonathan Oglesby                      Bruce Washburn

**SYNOPSIS**

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APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT .....2

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.....2

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INVOCATION ..... 1

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**INVOCATION**

An invocation was offered by David Johnson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those assembled were led in the pledge of allegiance by George Colson.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting held on August 11, 2025. Second. Voting: Michael Bleak, Abstained; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

## **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT**

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Claims for Payment from August 11, 2025 to August 24, 2025. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**David Johnson, Iron County Economic Development Director**, reported that Hive Plastics, located in the Silver Hills Business Park, would be hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony soon, and Utah Business Magazine wrote a feature story on Iron County and the Iron Springs project as part of the Utah Inland Port Authority (UIPA). David noted that he and Danny Stewart, UIPA Associate Vice-President, had been asked to speak at a Corporate-Network Marketing Convention in Salt Lake City during Utah Energy Week, September 15<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, specifically on Iron County regarding the upsurge in commercial and industrial businesses. There was a successful Small Business Expo held at the Southwest Technical College. He announced that Cedar City Main Street was ranked in the Top 100 Main Streets in the country, and BZI and Back Nine Indoor Golf Simulator were listed in the Top 50 Fastest Growing Businesses in the State. David reported that he, Danny Stewart, and Maria Twitchell, Iron County Tourism Director, presented an Economic Update to the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce and Tessa Douglas (Chamber CEO). David reported on future projects: Tomorrow, August 29<sup>th</sup>, Southwest Technical College will have a “Meet the Resources” day, and on September 9<sup>th</sup>, American Pacific (formerly known as WECCO) would be holding their expansion Groundbreaking Ceremony. During the Utah Energy Week in September, he would be attending a 47G Impact Center Advisory Board meeting and Energy Summit.

**George Colson, Iron County Emergency Manager**, noted that the Emergency Management budget was on track. George reported that on May 28<sup>th</sup>, he attended a Faith and Culture Symposium at SUU. In June, he attended the Fire Season meeting at SUU, the RMP Beta Test for their Community Resource Center for power outage, began the Forsyth fire evacuation planning, attended the Fire Chiefs meeting, and the EComm Summer Exercise. In July, he secured a Regional Grant reimbursement of \$22,446.18 for Enoch City’s new Police Station, assisted Parowan City on their Emergency Operations Plan, and was a consultant at Fire District face-to-face meetings between Fire Chiefs. In August, George reported that the State Health Department received two \$80K kits from the Federal Government to convert a school bus into an Evacuation Ambulance and offered one to Iron County, he applied for a \$40K Grant (from state seizure funds) for new side-arms and long guns for the Parowan Police Department, applied for an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for approximately \$36K, finalized the Iron County Sheriff’s Office (ICSO) Bomb Dog Grant for \$48K, which included a dog, boxes, and training equipment. George explained that for a dog to be certified, it had to be attached to a certified bomb squad, and the only certified bomb squad in this area was in Washington County. Iron County had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Washington County to use the dogs in Iron County.

**Wade Adams, Iron County Fleet Manager**, noted that the budget was on track. Wade reported that they were using a new platform for auctions with Purple Wave Auctions. The current vehicle auction would close on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and he would do a comparison of the public surplus at that time. He noted that he had to send 7 trucks up to Premier Vehicle Installation (PVI) for equipment installation. There were three full-patrol trucks and one admin upfitting to complete. David Utley has been able to do some of the work on the vehicles before they were sent up to PVI, which had saved approximately \$2K per truck. Wade reported that the siren amplifier system that was in the trucks was becoming obsolete. He explained the new system changed and how it was blueprinted to the vehicle. There were still issues with the Chevy

Colorado transmissions burning oil after 30 to 40K miles, but they were all under warranty, and there was no cost to the county to have them fixed. Wade reported that interviews were held last week, and one person was offered a position.

**Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Manager**, reported that HR was currently under budget. Since the previous report in May, HR had posted, interviewed, and hired 13 Full-Time positions and 7 Part-Time positions, 7 internal promotions/transfers, and was currently in the process of hiring/recruiting 11 Full-Time positions and 3 Part-Time positions. Jennifer noted that the present employee turnover was 10.89% or 27 positions, compared to 15.33% or 38 positions in 2024. Employee evaluation time has begun, and all departments need to be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Jennifer would be meeting with Luke Little, Iron County Auditor, today to evaluate the department head personnel requests for 2026 to prepare for the budget hearings. The Insurance brokers (IMA) had reached out and reported that premiums would be increasing again this year because of the high number of claims and rising prescription costs. The Insurance Committee meeting has been scheduled for September to evaluate their bids, and open enrollment was scheduled for the first half of November. Workers' Compensation EMOD for 2025 decreased to .76, down from .87 in 2024. Jennifer reported on employee milestone anniversaries: Celebrating 5 years were Sam Smith and Aaron Wadley in Corrections, Scott Carter in Landfill, and Brandon Rowley in Patrol. Celebrating 10 years were Susan Carter in the Attorney's Office and Matthew Malakowski in Corrections. Celebrating 20 years in Corrections was Rosa Alldredge. Celebrating 25 years in Patrol was Dave Mitchell, who retired last week.

**Candace Reid, Iron County Public Defender**, (via Phone) reported that the budget was on track. Candace noted that the new hire, Rick, was doing well and was hopeful that he would remain in that position, as it had been difficult to create tenure longevity.

**Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commissioner**, reported that he had another meeting regarding the 25-year Fair Master Plan, which would be presented/displayed at the Iron County Fair. He continued to attend meetings at the new jail site. The boring for the sewer line under the railroad tracks was scheduled to begin on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner**, reported that he met with the America250 Committee. SUU had returned the flag, which was found in the Courthouse basement, with documentation. A decision would need to be made on how it would be displayed. Mike noted that he and Maria Twitchell, Iron County Tourism, visited the sports facilities at SUU to have a better understanding of their previous request for funding from the Transient Room Tax (TRT) and Tourism, Recreation, Culture & Convention (TRCC) Tax to help pay for SUU Athletic Facility Projects. He met with the Restaurant Board and discussed grant fund requests, and the application process was updated to have those who were awarded grants be more accountable for how they were spending that money. Mike reported that he met with Senator Curtis's staff members and the Veterans Association with updates on the Southern Utah National Cemetery. The Dedication Ceremony would be on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., and open for burials on September 15<sup>th</sup>. After meeting with the VA, the staff members met at the Parowan Courthouse for an open forum with Elected Officials from the surrounding area, the BZI management, and Cedar City to discuss any of their issues. Mike noted that one issue discussed was the need for an Air Traffic Control Tower at the Cedar City Airport. The Cedar City Airport was the 4<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in Utah, and it had an uncontrolled airspace. Cedar City and the Airport have been working with the FFA for quite some time. Commissioner Bleak explained the importance of the airport having a control tower.

**Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner**, reported that the 5 County Steering Committee passed a Resolution declaring a regional emergency for the U.S Forest Service to take action by immediately opening active forest management. Garfield County Commissioner Leland Pollock would hand-deliver the Resolution to Tom Shultz, Director of the Forest Service in Washington, D.C.. Paul noted that he received a call from Chad Booth last week, inviting the 5-County Steering Committee members to visit Range Valley Ranch at Bruin Point, Utah, owned by Mike Siaperas. He explained that the company "106 Reforestation" provided fire mitigation, aspen regeneration, and wildlife habitat restoration. During the visit, they were able to participate

in raising a 40 x 80 (3200 Square Feet) flag on a 106-foot-high flagpole. The ranch was the permanent Best Defense Foundation (BDF) Stronghold program for veterans, where they not only recover but also transform while working on forest management techniques. They also visited a quarry that takes natural asphalt in rock form and, when heated, it becomes asphalt, and a company in Wellington that was creating a Biochar machine using forest waste, heating it, and then turning it into charcoal. Paul explained the process of Biochar.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comments were offered.

### **UPDATE AND REPORT OF THE 2025 UTAH SUMMER GAMES (USG)**

Jonathan Oglesby, Utah Summer Games (USG) Director, expressed his appreciation to the Iron County Commissioners, Maria Twitchell, Visit Cedar City, and Brian Head for the continued support of the USG. Jon reported on the 2025 USG statistics. There were 10,470 athletes, 27 out of 29 counties were represented, and 1,437 of those athletes came from outside of Utah, representing 17 states and one from the US Virgin Islands. Nevada led the out-of-state participants with 566 participants. There were 5,679 athletes from outside the 5-County area and 8,037 athletes from outside Iron County. Jon reported on key partnerships and moments: There were 500 Special Olympics Utah athletes (not included in the total athletes) who competed at the USG with over 200 Special Olympics staff members. The Las Vegas Raiders joined the USG as a sponsor of 7-on-7 football (21 teams) and girls flag football events. The Raiders proved to be a great addition in the Opening Ceremony and events. The top 4 sports in participants were: Girls Fast-Pitch Softball had 118 teams, Youth Soccer had 1,341 participants, High School Basketball had 768, and Wrestling with 735 participants. The 2026 USG would be the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and would include the addition of the Utah High School Athletic Association (UHSAA) State Football Semifinals, which would take place the first week of November, the 3A State Basketball Tournament at the end of February, and the Thunderbird Drill Team Invitational on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, with an increase of 30 teams from around Utah. He noted that the USG was contemplating the addition of 7's Rugby, Outdoor Volleyball, and Lacrosse. Maria Twitchell, Iron County Tourism Director, reported that the preliminary economic impact from the USG was \$17M over the course of the month of June.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE IRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (GOEO) UTAH RURAL COUNTY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

David Johnson, Iron County Economic Development Director, explained that this agenda item was for approval of the proposed 2025-2026 budget for the Utah Rural County Grant. David reported that each year, Iron County received \$200K, known as the Rural County Grant (RCG), from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) to utilize the funds specifically for economic development and business needs within Iron County. The board carefully reviewed the recommendations and found them to be in strong alignment with the grant priorities of business recruitment and expansion, workforce training and development, and infrastructure improvements. David presented and explained the recommendations from the Advisory Board: Cedar City Business & Innovation Center \$50K, Women in Business Conference \$2K, Small Business Grant Program \$65K, Façade, Tenant & Sign Grant Program \$18,500, Beautification Grant Program \$4K, Main Street Program Cedar City \$5K, Main Street Program Parowan \$5K, Placerai (Economic Development Software) \$10K, Economic Development & Tourism Podcast \$10K, Tourism Marketing & Advertising on buses \$10,500, Iron Leaders Academy Sponsorship \$4K provided to cover costs for one attendee, Cedar City Chamber of Commerce \$10K assistance for new events person funded for one year then that position would be self-funded, and FutureReady Utah \$6K to connect residents with training and career opportunities.

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve the Iron County Economic Development Advisory Board recommendations for the GOEO Rural County Grant applications for a total of \$200K as presented. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) AND EASEMENT GRANT WITH QUESTAR GAS COMPANY, DBA ENBRIDGE GAS UTAH**

Commissioner Cozzens reported that Iron County and Enbridge Gas Utah were able to work through previous issues with the contract, and he signed the contract at the meeting. This agenda item was for the ratification of the ROW and Easement Grant.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the ratification of the ROW and Easement Grant with Questar Gas Company, DBA Enbridge Gas Utah. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION DISASTER SUPPLEMENT GRANT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION YEAR 2025**

David Johnson, Iron County Economic Development, reported that he had been assisting Paul Bittmenn, Cedar City Manager, in creating the Economic Development Grant. The grant was for a line to create looping at Port-15. David explained that after the flooding in 2022, Iron County was designated as a disaster area, and there was funding allocated specifically for the Iron County area. This funding would help create redundancies with the utilities. He noted that Cedar City was only requesting the support of Iron County.

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to support an Economic Development supplement grant for Cedar City. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-7, A RESOLUTION TO TRIGGER PARCELS IN THE IRON SPRINGS INLAND PORT**

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, explained that Utah Code §11-58-601 authorized the Utah Inland Port Authority (UIPA) board to designate a trigger date for the collection of the general tax differential by resolution, and UIPA desired to establish 2026 as the trigger date for the Hive Plastics Tax ID #'s E-179-9 & E-18-1, Tax Account #498312 all of Lot 1, located in the Silver Hills Industrial Minor Subdivision and Nautilus 1, Tax ID #E-174-31-AM, Tax Account # 503303, located in the BZI Innovation Park Phase 1, parcels of the Iron Springs Project.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-7, designating a trigger date of 2026 for parcels in the Iron Springs Inland Port as presented. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

IRON COUNTY RESOLUTION 2025-7

A TRIGGER RESOLUTION FOR CENTRAL UTAH AGRI-PARK INLAND PORT

Whereas, Utah Code Title 11, Chapter 58, Part 6, authorizes the Utah Inland Port Authority to utilize money from property tax differential; and

Whereas, on April 4, 2023, the Utah Inland Port Authority Board created the Iron Springs Project Area and adopted the Iron Springs Project Area Plan; and

Whereas, on August 1, 2025, the Utah Inland Port Authority Board amended the Iron Springs Project Area and adopted the Iron Springs Project Area Plan Amendment; and

Whereas, Utah Code §11-58-601 authorizes the UIPA board to designate a trigger date for the collection of the general tax differential by resolution; and


Whereas, UIPA desires to establish 2026 as the trigger date for parcels indicated in Attachment A within the Project Area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE IRON COUNTY COMMISSION as follows:

- 1. Tax year 2026 is established as Year One for Iron Springs Project parcel(s) indicated in Attachment A.
- 2. The IRON County officials are directed to notify UIPA of this action and triggering the collection of the tax differential for the aforementioned parcels.
- 3. This resolution is effective immediately.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 25th DAY OF August 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
IRON COUNTY, UTAH

By:   
Paul Cozzens, Chairman

ATTEST:

By:   
Jonathan T. Whittaker, Clerk



Kenneth Robinson    Aye  
Michael P. Bleak     Aye  
Paul Cozzens         Aye



## ATTACHMENT A

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION (HIVE PLASTICS):

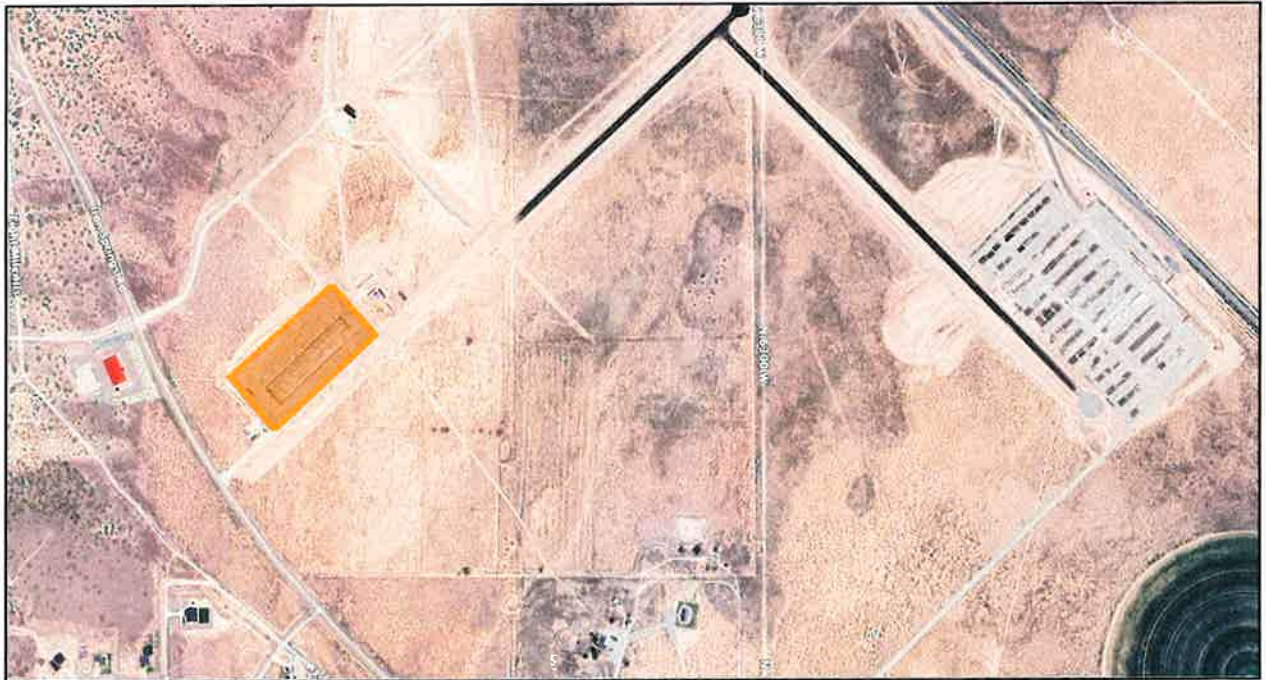
File No.: 16664-00001 Tax ID No.: E-0179-0009-0000 and E-0182-0001-0000; Tax Account No.: 0498312 All of Lot 1, SILVER HILLS INDUSTRIAL MINOR SUBDIVISION, according to the Official Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Iron County Recorder, State of Utah.



And

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION (Nautilus 1):

Tax ID No.: E-0174-0031-00AM; Tax Account No.: 0503303; All of Lot 31, BZI INNOVATION PARK PHASE 1 - AMENDED SUBDIVISION, according to the Official Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Iron County Recorder, State of Utah.



**PERSONNEL**

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County HR Director, presented the transfer of BreAnn Clark from Full-Time DMV Technician to Full-Time Legal Assistant in the Attorney's Office, effective August 31<sup>st</sup>. This was a backfill of a vacant position.

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve the personnel change as presented by Jennifer Bradbury. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

**NON-DELEGATED ITEMS**

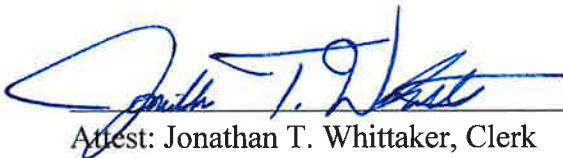
No Non-Delegated items were offered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared adjournment.



Signed: Paul Cozzens, Chair



Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, Clerk

