

**NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

August 19, 2025

The North Ogden City Council convened on August 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Ogden City Public Safety Building at 515 East 2600 North.

Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah Public Notice Website on July 05, 2025.

Notice of the annual meeting schedule was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah Public Notice Website on December 11, 2024.

**Note: The timestamps indicated in blue correspond with the recording of this meeting, which can be located on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6felhQ/videos> or by requesting a copy of the audio file from the North Ogden City Recorder.**

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

S. Neal Berube	Mayor
Ryan Barker	Council Member
Blake Cevering	Council Member
Jay D Dalpiaz	Council Member
Chris Pulver	Council Member
Christina Watson	Council Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
Rian Santoro	City Recorder
Brian Eynon	Chief of Police
Peter Brown	Finance Director
Katie Gerard	HR Director
Bryce Nelson	Administrative Services Manager
Casey Hunsaker	Treasurer
Crystal Polson	Public Works Inspector
Dylan Hill	Public Works Inspector

**VISITORS:**

Brenda Ashdown	Phil Swanson
Sandy Cochran	Zach Ward
Kevin Burns	Stef Casey
Tera Carney	Amy Ward
Brian Bartholomew	Steven Turner

Susan Kilborn  
Sue Whiting  
Gordon Robson  
Kim Whiting  
Jim Urry  
Jordan Malmstrom  
Crystal Malmstrom  
Janine McKnight  
Della Smith  
Robert Smith  
Terry Smith  
Mike Mabey  
Blair Richards  
Nicole Shane  
Douglas Barter  
Scott Pippin  
Jerry Snoo  
Rick Howell

Diane Helk  
Martin Kurien  
Jordan Melstrom  
Roger Camps  
Brent Call  
Glenn Richards  
Mike Shane  
Kevin Hall  
Andreas Hellstrand  
Clint Willis  
Ryan Kelly  
Rich Houch  
Michiko Makashima  
Julie Cole  
Jeff Cole  
Jacqee Hoggen  
Mark Hoggen  
Alicia Tischner

0:00:05 Mayor Berube called the meeting to order, and Council Member Dalpiaz offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

0:02:00 No conflict of interest was disclosed.

### **ACTIVE AGENDA**

#### **2. TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE**

##### **a. Presentation by City Council**

0:02:06 Mayor Berube welcomed attendees and encouraged citizens to share suggestions to help in the budgeting process. He noted that while no one likes property taxes, they remain the main way to fund government, and the City is open to any ideas residents may have.

He provided background information, stating that North Ogden had 77 full-time equivalent employees in 2019 and currently has 81, with most of the additions being in the Police Department.

He explained that the City has a Citizens Budget Subcommittee, which has reviewed finances line by line for the past three years, and expressed appreciation for their involvement. He emphasized that the budget process began in January and that the Council has consistently considered the challenges faced by residents with limited incomes. He explained that the public hearing was to gather comments, not to make a final decision, which will take place at the August 26 Council meeting.

Mayor Berube reviewed the proposed property tax increase, explaining that the maximum advertised rate would generate about \$475,000. For the average North Ogden home, valued at \$535,000, this would mean an increase of \$60.62 per year, or about \$5 per month. Businesses would see an average increase of about \$110 per year. He outlined how the proposed increase would be used, including \$383,000 for salaries and benefits, \$100,000 for utilities, \$50,000 for insurance increases, and \$42,000 for election costs. It was noted that the Finance Director is continuing to review line items and that sales tax revenue remains a key source of funding, with final figures expected soon. He also explained that the City has begun setting aside money for capital projects, such as maintaining parks and playgrounds, to prepare for future needs.

He encouraged residents to share their thoughts on City services, including what should be reduced, improved, or added, and reminded them that Council and Staff are available for questions before the final decision. He highlighted the importance of the Citizens Budget Subcommittee for transparency and invited more citizens to participate. Mayor Berube then opened the public hearing and invited residents to step forward, state their name, and provide comments or suggestions.

**b. Public Hearing to receive comments on the proposed tax rate**

0:16:45 Brian Bartholomew, a North Ogden resident, commented that his home was recently impacted by the recent fire and noted that he spoke at last year's meeting when a 9–10% tax increase was proposed. He recalled discussions about hiring staff and funding roads, and afterward, he joined the Citizens Budget Subcommittee, which he found very informative. He stated that during Subcommittee meetings, much discussion focused on the poor condition of City roads, with estimates ranging from \$5 million to \$100 million needed. He explained that two funding options were considered: a property tax increase or a designated road fee placed on utility bills. He said the committee favored a road fee because it would be dedicated to roads, whereas property tax revenues go to the general fund. He recalled a tentative

Subcommittee recommendation of a fee over a tax increase. Brian expressed concern that despite this recommendation, the City is now considering a 15% property tax increase in addition to last year's 10% increase. He stated that in speaking with residents, none supported a property tax increase, but all were open to a road fee dedicated to road maintenance. He questioned what discussions took place after the Subcommittee's recommendation and why the road fee option was not pursued. He said he would like to serve on the Subcommittee again and will continue to suggest areas where he believes the City could save money. He closed by reiterating that funds should be directed toward road improvements rather than salaries, as that was the priority expressed by citizens.

Mayor Berube responded that the final rate is not yet determined, and the Council is waiting on additional financial information, with the goal of keeping any increase in the higher single-digit range.

0:20:46 Janine McKnight, a North Ogden resident, thanked the Council for their service and shared her perspective as someone who has served on the Lakeview Heights Board, noting she understands the challenges of managing costs. She expressed concern with rising property taxes, stating that her home value has decreased for three years in a row while her taxes have continued to increase. She said the increases in prior years were manageable, but this year the increase is in the hundreds of dollars, which will be difficult.

She noted that as a retiree living on Social Security, with additional expenses such as medical costs, home maintenance, and general inflation, property tax increases are especially hard. She suggested that with new homes and businesses being built, the broader tax base should help offset costs and reduce the burden on individual homeowners. She also expressed hope that neighboring entities, such as Pleasant View, with whom services are shared, could help ease the financial impact on residents. She concluded by reiterating her appreciation for the City's work and her hope that growth will contribute to reducing individual property tax increases.

0:23:00 Douglas Barter, a North Ogden resident, stated that he was surprised to see his home value decrease while his property taxes increased. He raised two main concerns. First, as someone who works in the utility industry, he compared the situation to ratepayers funding infrastructure for data centers before they are built, without receiving direct benefit. He said he has spoken with the City's Planning Director about road deterioration and capital project costs from ongoing development along Washington Boulevard and near the top of the hill. He expressed concern that these costs are being shifted to residents rather than being absorbed by developers, noting that fees charged to builders may be too low and should be reconsidered.

Second, he raised concerns about the Fire District budget, which he said is 77% the size of the City's budget and is one of the largest expenses on his tax bill after the School District and the City itself. He questioned whether the City is receiving sufficient value for the money spent and suggested the possibility of exploring other ways to provide fire services more efficiently, even if it required further discussion or elections. He emphasized that he was not making a final recommendation but believed the City should openly evaluate whether the current arrangement with the Fire District is the best option for residents

0:28:17 Glenn Richards, a North Ogden resident, stated that he has lived in North Ogden since 1972 and has seen many changes, including new apartments and million-dollar homes. He questioned why this growth is not generating more income for the City. He compared the situation to a recent Weber County Commission meeting, where a proposed 25% tax increase was reduced to 5%, and said the City should take a similar approach. He stressed the need to budget earlier in the year, like a business, and to live within that budget rather than continually raising taxes by 10–20% each year.

Glenn asked about the City's rainy day fund, noting that Weber County has one and questioning why North Ogden does not use its reserve instead of raising taxes. He cited the recent large fire as an example of when such funds should be used and emphasized that many residents are on fixed incomes and cannot afford ongoing increases. He urged the Council to focus on the needs of the people in the community. He also criticized high administrative salaries in Weber County schools, noting that the superintendent earns more than the Governor of Utah. He said while he understands the importance of keeping employee pay competitive to retain staff, he believes the City must better control costs. He concluded by urging the Council to prioritize careful financial management and to avoid placing additional burdens on residents.

0:31:17 Scott Pippin, a North Ogden resident, stated that he and his family moved to North Ogden four years ago and have made it their home. He expressed concern that rising housing prices do not reflect true home values but are being artificially driven up by large investors, which he believes is harming local families. He emphasized that the most meaningful impact on residents' daily lives comes from local government, not federal, and urged the City to take greater responsibility in managing costs. Scott said government at all levels tends to ask citizens to "tighten their belts" while approving large raises for officials. He stated that many residents, especially retirees on fixed incomes, can no longer afford continued tax increases and that it is time for the government to tighten its own budget.

He encouraged the City to think creatively, attract quality businesses to share the tax burden, and move beyond the “same old, same old” approaches. He noted that the community has grown significantly since earlier years and now has different needs, but he cautioned against placing those costs solely on homeowners. He expressed frustration that long-term residents who worked hard to pay off their homes are now at risk of being taxed out of them.

Mr. Pippin asked about a transportation fee he saw mentioned in a City notice, questioning whether it would be included on water bills. He was informed that it was not part of the current public hearing, but that Staff could provide more information separately. He concluded by urging the Council to stop layering additional fees and taxes on residents, warning that continued overtaxation risks sparking widespread frustration.

0:36:09 Alicia Tischer, a North Ogden resident, stated that she had commented on Facebook regarding the additional fee appearing on utility bills and reiterated her concerns during the meeting. She explained that although North Ogden employees recently received a 3% raise, tax increases have far exceeded that percentage, placing a growing burden on families like hers. She shared that her household includes five family members and that prior to COVID, they felt they were living the American dream, but rising costs have made that increasingly difficult.

Alicia suggested several potential cost-saving measures for the City. She questioned the amount of overtime being paid to police officers during events such as Cherry Days, recommending that coverage be reduced to fewer days to lower expenses. She also raised concerns about the donated Water Works Experience, noting that although it was given to the City, the budget still includes funds for future maintenance and repairs. She suggested removing those costs to save money, since the park was originally donated. While acknowledging that the City does not control home value assessments, she respectfully asked the Council to vote against the proposed budget, citing the financial strain residents are already experiencing.

0:38:01 Jerry Snoo, a North Ogden resident, questioned how the City calculated the proposed 15% property tax increase and expressed concern about long-term tax growth. Jerry stated that his property taxes have increased by 300% over the past 23 years, averaging more than 11% per year, while property values have not risen at the same rate. He acknowledged that developers pay for initial infrastructure in new subdivisions but emphasized that taxpayers are responsible for ongoing maintenance. Jerry noted that although a 15% increase might seem reasonable on its own, repeated increases over time have compounded beyond what they believe is the industry standard of about 3% annually.



Mayor Berube responded that the 15% figure was calculated by totaling increased expenses, including employee salaries and benefits, insurance, utilities, and election costs, with Weber County charging \$42,000 to conduct elections. He explained that when he became Mayor, police officer starting wages were under \$20 per hour, making the City a training ground for other agencies, but salaries have since been brought in line with market levels. He clarified that while property values change, the City receives a fixed dollar amount unless new development occurs, and new homes added approximately \$68,000 in property tax revenue last year. Mayor Berube also stated that developers pay for roads and utilities in new subdivisions, but the City is responsible for maintaining them after they are built.

0:43:56 Julie Cole, a North Ogden resident, asked whether new homes and businesses being built in the City help reduce property tax rates or whether they end up costing taxpayers more. She noted that she has often heard growth is supposed to help, but has not seen that reflected in lower property taxes, and she wanted clarification. Mayor Berube responded that developers pay impact fees to cover initial costs such as water and sewer, but ongoing expenses fall to the City. He explained that each additional 1,000 residents requires another police officer, which costs approximately \$150,000 annually, while new homes built last year only generated about \$68,000 in additional property tax revenue. He added that growth also creates costs for street maintenance, plowing, and parks. In his opinion, residential growth does not allow the City to get ahead financially, while commercial development provides a stronger benefit through property tax contributions and especially through sales tax revenue. He noted that about 94% of the City's property tax revenue comes from residents, compared to lower percentages in neighboring cities that have more commercial business presence.

0:47:48 Jordan Melstrom, a North Ogden resident, stated she has lived in the City her whole life and raised concerns about utility costs. She asked whether the City has considered installing solar panels on public buildings, noting that many facilities are well-suited for solar and that the City often encourages residents to pursue similar measures. Jordan also pointed out that City facilities, including local schools, have been watering lawns during the hottest parts of the day, rather than early morning or late evening as recommended to residents, and suggested improvements in scheduling. She encouraged the City to explore solar and other efficiency practices to help reduce utility expenses, especially given the high levels of sunlight available. Mayor Berube responded that the City does review such options and would continue to analyze solar and other efficiency measures.

0:49:33 Nicole Shane, a North Ogden resident, stated she has lived in the community since 1981 and thanked the City for providing updates during the recent fire, noting that communication was appreciated. She expressed concern that if new development does not reduce property tax burdens, then growth should be limited, as she misses the small-town character of North Ogden. She urged caution with continual tax increases, explaining that as the council president of her church, she is responsible for every penny and understands the impact of limited budgets. She emphasized that increasing taxes places a real hardship on families, particularly seniors and low-income residents, potentially depriving them of basic needs like food and clothing. Nicole requested greater transparency in City spending, including access to detailed accounting and capital project planning, so residents can better understand how their money is allocated.

Mayor Berube responded that the City cannot restrict building on private property if it is zoned for development, unless the City purchases the land or there is a proven water shortage. He explained that the State has identified a housing shortage and is pressuring cities to allow more development, even threatening to rezone if cities attempt to limit growth. He confirmed that residents can review the City's financial and public records, and noted that the Citizen Budget Subcommittee reviews every line item. Council Member Cevering added that the detailed budget document is included in the meeting agenda and contains over 40 pages of line-item information. Mayor Berube invited Nicole to leave her contact information with the Recorder so the City could provide a copy of the five-year capital projects list for her review and input.

0:56:22 Andreas Hellstrand, a North Ogden resident, began by thanking the Mayor and expressing appreciation for his leadership, stating that he has accomplished many good things for the City and that his role will be difficult to fill. However, he emphasized that it is the City Council's responsibility to serve as a check on the Mayor's proposals and noted that, while the Council often unanimously supports the Mayor, many citizens do not agree with his positions. He urged the Council to remain loyal to the residents rather than functioning as a "popularity contest." Andreas agreed with the importance of expanding the commercial base but raised concerns about the City-owned Aquatic Center, which he said operates at a loss most of the year. He mentioned that a business such as Olive Garden had expressed interest in locating in the City but was unable to find a property large enough for parking, while the Aquatic Center site could potentially accommodate such a business. He suggested that if the City is serious about reducing property taxes, it should consider opportunities like this, even if it means reevaluating City-run facilities that are not financially sustainable.



0:59:12 Martin Kurien, a North Ogden resident, stated he has lived in North Ogden for five years and came to the meeting seeking a clearer understanding of why the proposed tax increase is necessary. He felt that much of the discussion focused on explaining the challenges of new construction and the limited commercial tax base, but that residents need more clarity on the City's debt and overall financial obligations. Martin suggested the City provide charts and clear visuals to show why the increase is needed, what alternatives have been considered, and how additional debt can be avoided. He expressed concern that without this kind of transparency, the process can feel deceptive, as though public input is not genuinely being sought. He also encouraged exploring ways residents could work with State representatives to address structural financial burdens at the State level, noting that grassroots advocacy might help ease the challenges faced by the City.

1:01:20 Roger Camps, a North Ogden resident, stated he has lived in North Ogden for over 22 years and raised several questions about commercial development. He suggested that the City consider alternatives such as parking garages to better accommodate businesses like Olive Garden that require more parking, as well as mixed-use developments that combine housing with retail or office space on lower levels. He noted that some prominent properties, including a long-vacant corner lot and underutilized areas near Smith's, could be opportunities for redevelopment. He also suggested that new apartment projects, such as those being built near the car wash, might incorporate commercial uses on the ground floor to expand the tax base. Mayor Berube responded that the frontage property along 1700 to 1900 North, including the area near the car wash, is already zoned commercial and has been actively marketed by developers without success so far. He added that promising new commercial projects are planned near 2700 North, west of Washington Boulevard, and the City remains hopeful about attracting the kind of commercial growth needed to strengthen the tax base.

1:04:37 Scott Pippin, a North Ogden resident, asked for clarification on two points raised earlier in the meeting. First, he questioned the \$42,000 fee Weber County charges the City to conduct elections, asking whether this amount is collected from all small cities in the County and whether a portion goes to the State. Second, he asked how property taxes are assessed for condos and townhomes compared to apartments, noting that in rental units, the building owner pays property tax while costs are passed through in rent, and wondered how it works for individually owned units. Mayor Berube responded that condos and townhomes that are individually owned are assessed as residential properties, the same as single-family homes.

He noted that the City has worked to encourage ownership rather than rentals in multi-family projects. Regarding the election costs, he stated he did not know how the County allocates the funds, but explained that most of the expense comes from ballot printing and mailing. He compared this to court fines, clarifying that 85% of ticket revenue goes to the State, not the City, and that the small portion the City does retain generally just covers the cost of operating the court system.

**1:07:57** Rick Howell, a North Ogden resident, commented on police traffic enforcement. He said that based on Facebook reports, police were pulling over about 115 to 120 drivers each week but only issuing 20 to 30 tickets. He questioned why more tickets were not written, noting that even though the City only receives 15% of fine revenue, that amount is still significant. He suggested that adding court fees, as other states do, could help increase revenue and potentially offset the need for a tax increase. He argued that all drivers violating traffic laws should receive tickets rather than warnings.

Mayor Berube responded that fines are set by the State, and cities are not allowed to add additional fees. He noted the City had stopped posting traffic stop statistics online because of negative comments, but said the new Police Chief could review the matter. He explained that the City prioritizes education for minor violations but expects tickets for serious offenses. He also mentioned the City had received many complaints about speeding and stop sign violations, and the Police Chief is preparing a strategy to address both. Mayor Berube cautioned against establishing quotas for ticket writing, as a nearby city had gotten in trouble for that practice. He acknowledged the resident's concerns and stated the Chief had heard the comments and could provide statistics for review.

**1:01:20** Roger Camps, a North Ogden resident, asked about potential exemptions or assistance programs for residents on fixed incomes or retirees, noting concerns about property tax increases of 300% over time. He inquired whether the City offers any program that reviews a resident's financial situation to determine eligibility for tax relief.

Mayor Berube responded that the City does not administer such programs because property taxes are collected and assessed by the County. However, he noted that Weber County does have programs, including exemptions for veterans, and residents can contact the County Commissioners to explore eligibility. Council Member Pulver added that one does not have to be destitute to qualify, encouraging residents to investigate the available options.

1:13:17 Susan Kilborn, a North Ogden resident, speaking as a self-described “cheerleader” for North Ogden, shared personal context about living in a twin home in Lakeview Heights with her husband, noting that their property is assessed as a single-family residence while their neighbor’s may be assessed differently, which she described as unfair. She remarked on the low public awareness of budget discussions, pointing out that although budget matters have been addressed at every Council meeting since the beginning of the year and posted on the City’s website, many residents may not follow along due to work or family obligations. She expressed appreciation for the City Council’s efforts and thanked everyone for their work and participation in the meetings.

1:15:44 Phil Swanson, a North Ogden resident, spoke to encourage participation in the Citizen Budget Subcommittee, noting he has served on it for three years. He explained that the Subcommittee reviews the budget in detail, meeting 13–14 times per year for roughly two hours each session, examining department budgets line by line and offering recommendations for reductions. He also clarified that North Ogden operates under a “weak mayor” system, meaning the Mayor does not control the budget or vote on ordinances except in the rare event of a tie. The budget presented is the product of collaboration between the City Council, the Mayor, and Staff, with the Council ultimately responsible for approving it. Phil expressed gratitude for the Mayor’s expertise and the Council’s extensive time and effort spent on the budget and urged the Council to keep any tax increase as low as possible. He concluded by encouraging residents to sign up for the Citizen Budget Subcommittee.

1:18:05 Diane Helk, a North Ogden resident, spoke about the difficulty of getting information from City Hall. She noted that while the City recommends residents come down with questions, it often requires appointments or public information requests, which can be cumbersome. She asked whether documents related to the tax increase would be readily available and suggested providing an email address or other method for residents to submit questions and suggestions, especially for those who are uncomfortable speaking in public.

Mayor Berube responded by inviting her and anyone else with questions to meet with him personally at City Hall to discuss any concerns. He also noted that residents can email the Mayor and City Council using addresses provided on the City website, allowing questions and suggestions to be submitted directly without attending in person.

1:20:46 Scott Pippin, a North Ogden resident, shared a comment about property taxes for seniors. He explained that in several states he researched, seniors either have their property taxes eliminated at age 65 or frozen at the rate they were paying when they turn 65, which helps retirees on fixed incomes. He acknowledged that local government cannot implement this, but suggested that residents advocate at the State level. He encouraged those upset with property taxes, especially seniors, to contact their State representatives to push for changes in how property taxes are handled for seniors. He emphasized his belief that property taxes are particularly burdensome.

1:23:30 Brent Call, a North Ogden resident and local business owner, shared his perspective on the City and its budget. He praised the City Staff and Council for their integrity, management, and budgeting efforts, highlighting the quality of life in North Ogden and Utah as a result of their work. He expressed concern about tax increases and asked residents to consider what services they would be willing to cut to reduce costs. Brent offered to serve on the Citizen Budget Subcommittee in the coming year to help identify cost-saving opportunities. He also noted that residents often engage with the City government primarily when taxes increase, and encouraged broader civic participation. Finally, he commented on the suggestion of freezing property taxes for those over 65, stating that while it could benefit seniors like himself, it would shift the tax burden to younger residents, including his children, and he would oppose such a measure. He concluded by thanking the City for its work.

1:27:13 Jim Urry, a North Ogden resident and former 12-year City Council member, shared his perspective on reducing financial burdens for residents, particularly those on fixed incomes. He suggested practical cost-saving measures, such as reducing garbage service to one bin picked up every two weeks, instead of multiple bins, to help lower expenses for seniors and others on fixed incomes. Jim emphasized that the City does not always need to match the national average for services like parks and libraries, noting that some park usage, like AYSO soccer, had previously been subsidized unfairly by taxpayers when non-resident organizations paid very little for usage. He stressed the importance of fairness and appropriate fees for outside groups using City resources. He also highlighted the role of the Mayor in the City's weak mayor system, clarifying that the Mayor only votes to break ties and encouraging Council Members to seriously consider their votes as they represent the community. Jim concluded by encouraging thoughtful cost-cutting measures to benefit all residents, especially seniors, and expressed gratitude to the Council and Staff for their service.

**Council Member Cevering motioned to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion. All those in attendance voted aye.**

**3. MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

**1:32:22** Council Member Dalpiaz thanked residents for their feedback and encouraged anyone with questions or concerns, especially regarding the upcoming meeting to adopt the tax percentage, to contact him or other Council members via phone or email listed on the City website. He expressed appreciation for the thoughtful comments and points raised by residents.

**1:33:05** Council Member Cevering addressed several points from residents, explaining that the City cannot control which businesses choose to locate in North Ogden, as businesses conduct feasibility studies before deciding to move. He noted that the State monitors affordable housing, and municipalities must show plans for affordable units to receive B&C road funds, which help maintain roads. He clarified that the recent right-turn lane on 2700 North was approved through coordination with UDOT, not solely a City decision. He reminded residents that the City's General Plan is available online, showing commercial zoning and property locations. Council Member Cevering also reflected on his service, emphasizing that the Council and Staff have no "pet projects" or personal gain; their focus is on maintaining essential City infrastructure like sewers and roads, especially given rising costs such as asphalt. He assured residents that all budget decisions are made with diligence and prudence to prepare for future expenses, expressing gratitude for citizen involvement and their support of the City.

**1:37:42** Council Member Watson thanked residents for attending and sharing their ideas and concerns. She explained that the City's portion of the property tax bill is relatively small, about 11% of the total, and a proposed 15% increase equates to roughly \$60 per year for the average home. She emphasized that the City is working to potentially reduce that rate, possibly lowering the increase to a third of that amount. Council Member Watson clarified that the 15% figure can seem large out of context, and she shared that the budget process has been meticulous and carefully considered. She also reminded residents that the full budget and agenda are available online for review, encouraging citizens to study the documents and offering assistance to anyone needing help accessing them.

1:40:11 Council Member Barker thanked residents for attending and highlighted how the recent fire emergency demonstrated the effectiveness of City Staff and Departments working together, including Fire, Police, and Public Works. He emphasized that while some may advocate cutting services, emergencies show the importance of having adequate staffing and resources available.

Mayor Berube reinforced this point, noting that public safety is his top priority. He shared examples of past emergencies where sufficient police presence was critical and explained that property taxes only cover a portion of the police budget, with other funding coming from sales tax and other sources. He stressed that he supports necessary property tax increases to maintain safety and expressed pride in the City's Staff, Police, and Council for their dedicated service and willingness to make tough decisions. The Fire Department's 36-hour response during the fire emergency exemplified exceptional teamwork and community support. Mayor Berube concluded by emphasizing the difference between a City and a Community, praising residents and Staff for rallying together during crises.

1:44:43 City Recorder Rian Santoro highlighted the City's new website, noting that it contains extensive information for residents. She emphasized that residents can access the capital projects list and other documents by submitting a GRAMA public records request form online if they prefer not to come to City Hall. She encouraged residents to call her with questions and reminded them that the website was designed to be transparent and comprehensive, reflecting the Staff's efforts to provide accessible information.

1:45:19 Chief Eynon expressed gratitude to the community, City Council, and Department Heads for their efforts during a challenging week. He highlighted the collaborative response to a recent fire, noting the dedication of City employees and the community. He specifically praised the Fire Department and Fire Marshal Barker for coordinating effectively with the district and other agencies, emphasizing the impressive teamwork and decision-making displayed by the City during the incident.


1:47:03 Finance Director Peter Brown, a new staff member with about six months at the City, shared his observations on the City's financial operations. He noted that the City runs efficiently with minimal unnecessary spending and expressed his commitment to finding ways to help save money. He invited residents to share any ideas with him to assist in maximizing financial efficiency.




4. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

  
S. Neal Berube, Mayor



  
Rian Santoro  
City Recorder

9/9/2025  
Date Approved