

Fountain Green City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 21, 2025

Location: Fountain Green City Hall

Council Members Present:

- Kim Johnson
- Rod Hansen
- Alyson Strait
- Kerry Farnsworth

Excusing Jacob Littlefield

Presiding: Mayor Mark Coombs

Prayer: Mayor Mark Coombs

Pledge

Call to Order & Public Comment

Mayor Coombs called the meeting to order and opened the floor for public comment. No comments were received.

1. Approval of Minutes.

Budget Work Meeting Minutes (June 19, 2025):

Rod Hansen motioned to approve the minutes as written from the June 19, 2025, Budget Work Meeting. Seconded by Kim Johnson.

Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

City Council Meeting Minutes (June 19, 2025):

Rod Hansen motioned to approve the minutes as written from the June 19, 2025 City Council Meeting. Seconded by Kerry Farnsworth.

Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

2. Property Tax Increase.

Mayor Coombs reviewed the proposed tax increase, which will increase the city's property tax budget revenue by 15.07% for the FY2025-2026 budget, representing approximately **\$38.34 per year** on a \$415,000 residence.

Key points discussed:

- This is the second half of the increase deferred from last year at the citizens' request.

- Commercial properties are taxed based on real property value; business operations themselves are taxed separately by the county.
- Comparison made to Nephi's recent flat \$3 monthly utility fee, showing Fountain Green's increase is comparable.
- Clarification that property tax revenue is fixed annually for the city regardless of rising home values; only new construction adds revenue.

Motion: Kerry Farnsworth motioned to approve the 15.07% property tax increase for Fountain Green City. Seconded by Kim Johnson.

Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

3. Six County (R6) Update.

Shay provided updates on regional programs and funding opportunities:

- **CIB (Community Impact Board):** Still funds sewer projects but prioritizes water infrastructure.
- **Outdoor Recreation Grant:** Large trail projects possible; application cycle begins next year.
- **CDBG (Community Development Block Grant):**
 - Mandatory workshops on October 7 (6:00 p.m.) and October 8 (10:00 a.m.).
 - Typical projects: parks, recreation, water, sewer, roads (up to \$250,000 cap).
 - Federal requirements (Davis-Bacon wages, Build America Buy America) apply for projects over \$250,000.
 - Discussion on possible projects: mechanical screen for sewer, cemetery bridge, or other infrastructure.
- **Upcoming Conferences:**
 - UAC Annual Convention – September 8–10.
 - ULCT Annual Convention – October 1–2 (Salt Lake City). Rural scholarships are available.
- **Data Privacy Requirements:** New state rules take effect in December 2025. Training and compliance assistance will be coordinated with staff.

4. Lamb Day Update.

Jerime provided an update on the annual Lamb Day celebration and expressed appreciation for the many **volunteers and youth** who contributed to its success.

Highlights:

- **Volunteers Recognized:**
 - Pam Stephens (park preparation)
 - Kim Johnson's family (ball diamond care)
 - Jake Littlefield (tractor work and sand for ball field)
 - Curt (field preparation, lawn trimming, and shade structures)
 - Wiley Cook (dumpsters and waste management)

- **Park & Facilities:** Ball field conditions were praised as the best in years; the new cement pad to the concession stand improved traffic flow. Shade structures over dugouts received positive feedback.
- **Event Logistics:** Some minor communication and key-access issues were noted, particularly with the Bowery. Council discussed using a simple **combination lock system** to ease access for groups while maintaining security.
- **Finances:**
 - Online orders: \$8,800 (shirts, hoodies, car show, craft fair, activities).
 - Card/tap sales: \$29,379.50 (approx. 65% of electronic sales).
 - Square processing fees: \$1,222.92.
 - Net electronic receipts: \$44,018.60.
 - Cash deposits: \$36,972.50.
 - Total revenue: approx. \$81,000.

Council requested that a **printed financial summary** be provided in advance of future meetings for review and audit purposes, since Lamb Day funds are held by the city.
- **Expenses:** Costs continue to rise (e.g., inflatables). Final bills typically arrive by November.
- **Food Preparation:** Pits are historic (60+ years old). Circle V Meat helped process lambs, with meat distributed as lamb chops, roasts, and lamb burgers. Leftover lamb burger was given to donors and volunteers. The lamb pits produced excellent results this year.
- **Other Notes:**
 - Trash collection was significantly improved over last year.
 - A request was made to **relocate the porta-potty** near the playground away from the shed due to safety concerns. Council agreed to keep one available near the playground but move it to a safer location.
 - Discussion was held about playground safety equipment (merry-go-round) but no action was taken.

Jerime confirmed Lamb Day operated **in the black**, with a small cushion maintained for future obligations.

Council and Mayor expressed appreciation for the extensive efforts of volunteers, city staff, and citizens who contributed to a successful Lamb Day celebration.

Next Lamb Day is scheduled for the **third Saturday in July 2026**.

5. Library Report.

Taryn presented the library report.

Updates included:

- Work is underway to implement **Libby**, an e-book service. Obtaining an all-access pass would give patrons priority access to materials.

- The Library is preparing for the **Holiday Boutique and Fundraiser**. Taryn requested approval to use the EDDM (Every Door Direct Mail) system for advertising in North Sanpete, Nephi, and Mona areas. The Council approved the request, noting that advertising costs would come from the Library's budget. Alternatively, more cost-effective advertising options were also discussed.
- Story Hour has been adjusted to **once a month**, with other Tuesdays filled by educational programs. Planned topics include fire safety, water conservation, ATV/UTV/golf cart safety, and other community-related issues.
- The **End-of-Summer Water Party** was a success, with 36 children attending. F&G Auto Works provided a water slide for the event.

Budget Discussion:

- The library budget is included within the city's budget. Taryn retains discretion in the use of the funds, with Council oversight as needed.

The Council thanked Taryn for her efforts and commended her work at the Library.

6. Fire Department Report.

Fire Chief Todd Robinson presented the Fire Department report.

Updates included:

- **Membership:** Seven new firefighters have joined, bringing the department to 22 active members. All are from Fountain Green, with varied backgrounds. There are several young recruits who will begin Fire I and II training soon.
- **Hydrants:** All fire hydrants in the city were inspected and are functional, with minor issues being coordinated with the city.
- **New Fire Truck:** The new fire truck was featured in the parade. Plumbing is being completed before the truck goes into service.
- **Burn Restrictions:** The area remains under **Stage 2 restrictions**, meaning no open flames. Propane stoves and barbecues are permitted. Several recent fires were caused by burning attempts, including incidents near the high school. Citizens are asked to leave growth and brush alone until moisture arrives.
- **Fire Activity:** Recent fires included multiple ignitions along Highway 132 caused by an ATV/UTV.
- **Property Concerns:** Fields north of town and other open lots pose a risk. The department and council discussed creating a list of properties of concern for proactive communication with owners in the spring.
- **Gear Needs:** Due to the addition of new firefighters, the department is short on turnout gear and helmets. Three new sets of turnout gear (approx. \$4,500 each) and helmets (approx. \$500 each) are needed. Funds will be drawn from PTIF to cover expenses.
- **Mutual Aid/Revenue:** The department is approved to respond to out-of-area fires. On July 4th, they assisted and received compensation of approximately \$2,000. Most members are working toward red card certification.

- **Training:** Several new firefighters are interested in EMT certification. Discussions are underway with North Sanpete to host a local EMT course, which may be partially covered by North Sanpete Ambulance Board funds.
- **ISO Certification:** The department recently completed ISO certification and is currently rated at the highest level available for the city. Improved documentation and maintaining membership numbers will support future audits.
- **Other Items:**
 - Old animal panels behind the fire station were discussed; the Council determined they are no longer needed.
 - Fireworks racks are deteriorating and will need to be rebuilt. The department may seek support from the city and Lamb Day Committee.
 - Two large barrels in front of the old fire station need to be removed.
 - Cleanup efforts around the fire station continue, including clearing the lean-to area.

The Council thanked Chief Robinson and the department for their work and dedication.

7. Planning Commission Report

Mayor Coombs presented the Planning Commission report in Council Member Jacob Littlefield's absence.

- **Permits Approved:** Two homes and three sheds were approved.
- **Violations:** Several unpermitted large shops and sheds have been identified. Notices are being sent to property owners, requiring them to obtain proper approvals.
- **Utility Permits:** The Commission discussed the permitting process for sheds and accessory buildings. Current forms prohibit utilities; members considered revising the forms to allow flexibility for electricity or other utilities without requiring a second permit.
- **Signage and Electrical Permits:** Council members questioned whether certain items (such as business signs or electrical service to existing sheds) should require Planning Commission approval. Discussion noted that electrical inspections fall under county jurisdiction.
- **Conditional Use vs. Variances:** The Commission clarified that conditional use permits are limited by ordinance, primarily for temporary trailer housing during home construction. Variances are permanent deviations from ordinance requirements. Some past approvals may have been better handled as variances. Training with legal counsel clarified these distinctions.

The Council thanked the Planning Commission for their efforts and acknowledged the challenges of balancing ordinance requirements with resident needs.

8. Police Report.

Mayor Coombs provided the police report.

- **Patrols:** Sheriff's deputies have been observed patrolling regularly at night, including traffic stops on State Street.
- **Traffic Violation Revenues:** Mayor Coombs is still pursuing answers on city share of traffic fines; no progress yet.
- **School Safety Presentation:** The Sheriff's Department presented briefly at the school on traffic safety, but the presentation was limited in scope. The Council discussed requesting a more thorough program addressing ATV/UTV, golf cart, and pedestrian safety. Plans will be made to coordinate with the Sheriff's Department and the school for a future assembly.
- **Crosswalk Flags:** The pedestrian flags remain in place and are being used, though sometimes misused by children. The Council reaffirmed the importance of teaching correct crosswalk flag use.

9. Council Member Rod Hansen's Requested Discussion Topics.

A. Traffic Control Application Review-

- A citizen contacted the City regarding a pending stop sign application. A yield sign currently exists at the location in question, but concerns were raised regarding vehicle speeds.
- Curt confirmed the application is on his desk, but has not been addressed as the Traffic Committee has not met recently. Council agreed the process should be reviewed promptly.
- Councilmember Kim confirmed he serves on the Traffic Committee. The application will be placed on the September agenda for discussion.

B. Site Triangles-

- Additional concerns were raised regarding site triangles around town, including:
 - Crosswalk visibility issues near the post office due to parked cars.
 - Center Street/500 area, where overgrown trees and shrubbery are obstructing views.
- Council directed that reported concerns be referred to Curt for measurement and compliance checks. Amy will contact property owners where violations are identified. Some issues on county-controlled roads were noted as outside city jurisdiction.

C. New Storage Building & Fire Station Update-

- A proposed **100' x 50' storage building** near the city shop was discussed.
 - Budgetary estimate: \$271,643 (pole building with insulation, concrete, and bays, but no electrical).

- Council acknowledged funding is not currently available, and construction may be several years out.
 - Staged construction options (e.g., 2–3 bays at a time) will be explored.
- **Fire Station Sale:** The sale of the old fire station is in the final stages.
 - Buyer is securing a small business loan; required EPA inspection is scheduled.
 - Fire department assisting with removal of remaining items.
 - Sale price: \$170,000 (as is).
 - Closing expected by the end of September.

D. Food Truck Permits-

- Council reviewed the intent of the City’s food truck ordinance.
 - Food trucks may not operate on **public property** during Lamb Day, but they may operate on **private property** with owner consent, provided they are licensed and permitted.
- Council affirmed no changes are needed and that private property rights must be respected.

E. Chip Seal Project-

- Council expressed concern about the quality of recent chip seal work, noting areas where material was not properly broomed and is already deteriorating.
- Christensen Ready Mix has been evaluating and addressing issues with Curt. Payment will not be released until the City is satisfied with corrections.
- Some streets require resealing and removal of gravel ridges. Work is expected to be completed before colder weather.

F. Lamb Day Equipment Storage-

- Discussion was held regarding the storage of Lamb Day equipment (trailer and “Sheeper Creeper”).
- Concerns were raised about winter snow removal and long-term storage needs.
- Council acknowledged the City’s historic partnership with Lamb Day and the value it brings to the community.
- After discussion, Curt confirmed the current location near the bleachers is manageable for winter. Equipment will remain in place for now, with future storage needs to be revisited.

10. City Report.

A. Burials & Utility Work-

- Three burials were conducted.
- Two rounds of meter readings and samples completed.

B. Park Tree Project-

- Completed limb removal.
- Project improved park appearance.
- Fire Department BBQ hot dogs for volunteers.
- Tree Removal. Six trees (three pine trees (next to the big bowery, and three on the SE corner) are scheduled for removal on September 6th, with volunteers to help.

C. Concrete Pad-

- Concrete pad and sidewalk leading to the concession building is finished.
- Sidewalk projects in planning; UDOT meeting scheduled September 18 at 2:00 p.m. regarding east/west sidewalks at the park.
- Plans for a new sidewalk and handicapped parking near restrooms.
- Funding:
 - UDOT grant covers sidewalks.
 - Rocky Mountain Power grant: \$10,000 (current balance \$6,000) for sidewalks near the park.

D. Ball Field- Preparations required significant sand hauling. Sunshades for dugouts are in storage for next year.

E. Picnic Tables – Improved by being painted but still need additional work.

F. Cemetery Updates-

- Cemetery sprinkler system improvements have been made; 2 cases of sprinklers have been replaced.
- Discussion about retaining Zach for next year, noting the challenges he faced due to insufficient training.
- Suggested giving returning personnel the first option to continue their role to avoid learning curve issues.
- Concrete slab under the bridge is being undercut; plan to pour a concrete wall to stabilize it. Curt and Councilmembers plan on meeting onsite (tomorrow, 9:00 a.m.) to assess and plan.

G. Property Acquisition-

- Efforts continue to acquire an additional 5-acre parcel; currently working with siblings of a recent descendant.

H. Cemetery Rules & Safety-

- Emphasis on enforcing cemetery rules to ensure safety and maintain order, especially regarding decorations and mowing boundaries.

I. Buildings and Facilities-

D.U.P. Building-

- Water leaking into electrical conduit; source suspected to be overwatering.
- Proposed solutions: seal conduit entry points and assess if underlying water lines are causing issues.
- Grass removal discussed but limited to the south side where water issues persist.

Old Fire Station-

- Old fire station work is ongoing; account setup is pending before meter installation.

J. Community Events-

Parades and Floats

- Last parade confirmed for Sanpete County Fair; float logistics being coordinated.
- Security and storage of the float was discussed; the Big Bowery at the park is not secure.

Pickleball Project

- Awaiting state finalization of plans; potential completion this year, dependent on state approval.

K. Equipment-

- Truck ordered: ¾ ton GMC ordered. Estimated delivery 4-6 months.
- Lease on current vehicle extended one year, avoiding over-mileage fees.

11. City Bills.

- Council discussed the format of the bill's report. A suggestion was made to include expense account numbers in the PO column for easier reference.
- Clarification was provided on duplicate listings (e.g., truck payment) — items may appear twice if entered before the check is cut, but are only paid once.
- Question was raised regarding streetlight costs being approximately \$200 higher than usual. Possible factors include the June tournament lighting. Council agreed to review it further.

Motion: Kim Johnson motioned to approve payment of the city bills. Seconded by Rod Hansen. Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

12. Miscellaneous Items.

- **Dance Hall Chairs:** Concern was raised about metal-legged folding chairs damaging the newly refinished dance hall floor. Options discussed included purchasing new chairs (~\$10,400 for 150) or replacing missing rubber feet. Council favored ordering replacement feet.
- **Playground Equipment:** Complaints were received regarding the crawl tube at the park. A crack has created a safety concern after a child's leg was caught. Replacement of one section is estimated at \$1,200; all four sections \$4,200. Warranty status will be checked, and full inspection will be conducted before purchase.
- **Picnic Tables:** Current wood tables are deteriorating despite repainting. Council discussed phasing in replacement with coated metal tables (~\$1,100 each), potentially 4 per year. Options include community fundraising, grants, or local fabrication. Staff will gather additional quotes and explore alternatives.

Councilmember Reports-

- **Rod:**
 - **Cell Tower:** Bidding has taken place; project moving forward with goal to be operational by November. First revenue expected then.
 - **North Sanpete Recreation District:** Update discussed; major hurdles remain with Mount Pleasant City. Council noted potential future involvement (e.g., pickleball courts).
 - **Dead-End Signs:** Bases installed; Council agreed to reuse posts for speed limit or other signs.
 - **Surplus Equipment:** Discussion held on motor tractor and old fire truck. Council agreed to list both items for sale through closed bid, advertised via Facebook and newsletter. Minimum bid set at \$500, with Council reserving right to reject any/all bids.
 - **Pickleball Courts:** Revised drainage plan approved (French drain only on west side, northwest sump). The project will proceed with Jones & DeMille oversight.
 - **Sidewalk Project:** UDOT meeting scheduled for August 18 at 2:00 p.m. Final design in 2025; construction likely delayed until 2026.
- **Mayor's Report:**
 - Absent for September Council Meeting (travel Sept. 14–Oct 2). Alyson will serve as Mayor Pro Tem in his absence.
 - Cemetery bridge project funding remains uncertain; additional grants being explored.
 - Reminder: Volunteer tree removal scheduled for September 6.

13. Executive Session.

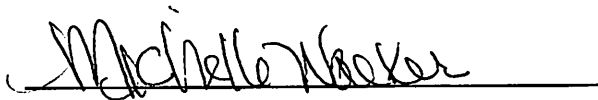
Alyson Strait motioned to move into a closed session to discuss personnel and city property. Seconded by Rod Hansen. Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

Rod Hansen motioned to open the closed session at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Alyson Strait. Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

Rod Hansen motioned to adjourn the closed session and return to the general session. Seconded by Alyson Strait. Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

Kerry Farnsworth motioned to adjourn the general session. Seconded by Rod Hansen. Roll Call Vote: Alyson – Yes; Kerry – Yes; Kim – Yes; Rod – Yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.



Michelle Walker, City Recorder

