

KAYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
August 21, 2025

Minutes of the regular Kaysville City Council meeting held on August 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Kaysville City Hall, located at 23 East Center Street, Kaysville, Utah.

Council Members Present: Mayor Tamara Tran, Council Member John Swan Adams, Council Member Mike Blackham, Council Member Abbigayle Hunt, Council Member Nate Jackson, and Council Member Perry Oaks

Others Present: City Manager Jaysen Christensen, City Attorney Nic Mills, City Recorder Annemarie Plaizier, Police Chief Sol Oberg, Lt. Paul Thompson, Lt. Preston Benoit, Officer Kristin Banks, Officer Parker Brower, Officer Chandler Cessna, Parks and Recreation Director Cole Stephens, Information Technology Assistant Jordan Hansen, Cameron Cessna, Tom Kerr, Cindy Kerr, Jill Dredge, Josh McBride

OPENING

Mayor Tran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Council Member Blackham addressed the audience, noting that he had changed his prepared remarks following the recent deaths of Sergeant Lee Sorenson and Officer Eric Estrada, two Utah law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty earlier in the week. He spoke about their service, the sacrifices made by their families, and the impact such events have across communities in Utah. He acknowledged the close ties within the state's communities and the risks law enforcement officers face daily. Council Member Blackham invited the audience to join in a 30-second moment of silence in their honor. Following the moment of silence, he offered an opening prayer and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public came forward to speak during this portion of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

SWEARING-IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS: KRISTIN BANKS, PARKER BROWER, AND CHANDLER CESSNA

Police Chief Sol Oberg introduced three new officers to be sworn in as members of the Kaysville Police Department.

Chief Oberg began with Officer Kristin Banks, who was hired in April 2025 and completed the department's field training program on August 1. He noted that Officer Banks had previously

served with the North Salt Lake Police Department. City Recorder Annemarie Plaizier administered the Oath of Office, after which Officer Banks' husband pinned her badge

Chief Oberg then introduced Officer Parker Brower, explaining that he had previously worked at both the Salt Lake County Jail and the Davis County Jail. Officer Brower had partially completed police academy training prior to being hired by Kaysville and was currently in his first week of a twelve-week field training program. City Recorder Plaizier administered the Oath of Office, and his girlfriend pinned his badge

The third officer, Chandler Cessna, was introduced by Chief Oberg, who noted his family ties to the city, including his brother's service with the Kaysville Fire Department. Officer Cessna had worked at the Weber County Jail for two years before attending Peace Officer Standards and Training with Officer Brower, graduating two weeks earlier. He had also begun his first week of field training. City Recorder Plaizier administered the Oath of Office, and Officer Cessna's uncle pinned his badge.

Council Members and Mayor Tran welcomed the new officers and expressed their appreciation. Comments were made recognizing the officers' backgrounds, family connections to public safety, and the unique circumstance of Officer Cessna and his brother pursuing careers in different branches of emergency service.

DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared by members of the City Council.

CONSENT ITEMS

Council Member Blackham made a motion to approve the following Consent Items:

- a) Approval of minutes from the August 7, 2025 Council meeting.

Council Member Oaks seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Council Member Hunt, Yea
Council Member Jackson, Yea
Council Member Oaks, Yea
Council Member Blackham, Yea
Council Member Adams, Yea

The motion passed unanimously.

WORK ITEMS

DISCUSSION ON CEMETERY INTERMENT CLASSIFICATIONS AND RELATED FEE ADJUSTMENTS

Parks and Recreation Director Cole Stephens reviewed amendments adopted in February 2025 to Title 12, Chapter 3 (“Cemetery”) of the City Code. At that time, the City Council eliminated the ability for non-residents to purchase at-need burial rights, restricting future interments to residents only. Exceptions were provided for those who had purchased plots previously or who had lived in Kaysville before relocating to a medical or residential care facility. Mr. Stephens explained that staff had been asked to revisit the policy after receiving a few inquiries from former residents and presented three potential options for council consideration.

Option 1 retained the current policy restricting at-need purchases to residents only. Mr. Stephens reported that although questions had arisen since adoption six months ago, most families accepted the rationale once explained.

Option 2 would add a definition of “former resident” to Section 12-3-1 (“Definitions”), requiring proof of prior residency for eligibility. A timeframe would need to be established, such as 10 or 20 years. This option would also amend the Consolidated Fee Schedule to establish a “former resident” fee of \$2,400 per at-need adult burial space, \$1,600 higher than the current resident fee. Mr. Stephens cautioned that determining and verifying former residency would add administrative complexity.

Option 3 would restore the ability of non-residents to purchase burial rights, but at a significantly higher fee of \$5,600 per adult burial space, not including interment or perpetual care fees. Mr. Stephens noted this was slightly higher than fees charged at Layton Lindquist Cemetery. He explained that such pricing would provide a path for those with strong connections to Kaysville to be able to purchase a burial space, while discouraging broader use by non-residents.

Mr. Stephens emphasized the overall objective of preserving limited burial space for city residents. He stated that under the February 2025 amendments, burial space was projected to last about 40 years. Allowing non-resident purchases under option three would reduce that to about 30 years, compared to the 10–15 years projected under the former unrestricted policy. He added that design work was underway for a new cremation memorial garden, anticipated to be bid for construction in fall 2025 and partially open by Memorial Day 2026. Currently, cremations account for only about 30 of 150–160 annual interments, well below the national average of 60%.

Mayor Tran acknowledged that although the new ordinance had been in effect for only six months, the city had already received a few requests from families wishing to bury loved ones in Kaysville despite not meeting residency requirements. She expressed support for option three, suggesting that a high non-resident fee could deter general use while preserving a path for families with strong local ties.

Council Member Adams recognized the difficulties faced by families with long-standing generational ties to the cemetery. He expressed interest in considering an accommodation for former residents but noted the challenges of requiring proof in moments of grief.

Council Member Oaks asked about cemetery longevity under each option. Mr. Stephens reiterated that option one would preserve 40 years of space, while option three would shorten that to 30 years. He added that cremation expansion would likely extend longevity further. Council Member Oaks also suggested the city might allow non-residents or former residents easier access to cremation spaces rather than burial lots.

Council Member Jackson stated that he preferred to set non-resident fees higher than \$5,600 to prevent a rapid return to the same discussion, suggesting a hybrid approach might also be considered.

Cole Stephens stated that his personal preference would be to maintain the current policy for at least a year, but emphasized he was open to the direction of the council. Council Member Oaks agreed, suggesting it might be better to revisit the issue once the cremation memorial garden was operational, at which point the city could more clearly evaluate space options.

Council Member Hunt raised questions about implementing a “former resident” classification. She asked how proof of residency could be verified, whether counties maintained adequate records, and whether an honor system could be used. Mr. Stephens responded that Farmington City required families to provide proof, typically through utility or tax records, but acknowledged that such requirements were burdensome and arbitrary. City Attorney Nic Mills advised against relying on an honor system, explaining that staff had already encountered challenges verifying residency in certain nursing care situations. He recommended that clear, objective standards would reduce ambiguity and ensure consistency.

Council Member Hunt also asked about the current policy that allows residents who move into nursing or assisted living facilities to retain resident status and asked if there was a time restriction for those types of situations. Mr. Stephens confirmed that there is no time limit and that individuals are considered residents regardless of how many years they spend outside the city under those circumstances. He acknowledged, however, that other moves—such as leaving the city for a more accessible home—were harder to categorize.

Council Member Blackham emphasized the importance of preserving burial space for current residents, reiterating points discussed in February. He opposed option two, stating it would add complications without significant benefit, and noted that only two or three families had raised concerns since the policy change, which doesn’t seem to justify an amendment in city policy.

Cole Stephens provided historical context, noting that older policies once allowed families to purchase large blocks of burial spaces, leading to strain on cemetery capacity. Over time, limits were implemented—first down to four spaces per family and later reduced to two—which helped extend available space. He also noted that while the city owns an additional ten acres elsewhere in the city, it is planned for a future cemetery, but developing and operating a second cemetery will be costly and is not currently planned.

Council Member Oaks stated his preference to keep the existing policy but, if option three were adopted, he recommended raising the fee significantly to ensure it remained restrictive.

During further discussion, Council Member Jackson expressed support for a higher fee and suggested \$6,200 for non-resident burial rights, not including interment or perpetual care fees. Mayor Tran supported setting an even higher fee as a strong deterrent, while still providing grieving families an option.

Council Member Hunt expressed hesitation about changing the policy after only six months. She stated that while she understood the rationale for higher non-resident fees, she preferred to wait to evaluate demand further. Council Member Hunt raised concerns about creating inequity by requiring significant wealth for non-residents to be buried in Kaysville and felt the city should ensure policies remain fair and enforceable.

Council Member Adams suggested that higher non-resident fees could generate additional revenue for eventual cemetery expansion. Mr. Stephens reported that under the prior at-need policy, internments had been roughly evenly divided between residents and non-residents, averaging about 140 annually. He noted that significantly increasing fees would likely deter most outside requests.

Mayor Tran concluded that while the number of affected families was currently small, the impact on those families was significant, and she anticipated similar circumstances in the future. She reiterated her support for creating a high-cost non-resident option.

Following discussion, Council Member Adams made a motion to move the matter to an Action Item for formal consideration, directing staff to further develop option three with a proposed non-resident fee of \$9,000, including interment and perpetual care fees. Council Member Hunt seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Council Member Jackson, Yea
Council Member Oaks, Nay
Council Member Blackham, Nay
Council Member Adams, Yea
Council Member Hunt, Yea

The motion passed with a vote of three to two.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member Hunt announced that American Legion Post 27 would be holding a flag retirement ceremony on Friday, September 5, at the Layton Fire Training Center, and encouraged public attendance. She reflected on earlier remarks made during the meeting regarding fallen officers, expressing appreciation for the sacrifices of police officers and military service members. Council Member Hunt described some of the physical challenges police officers face during training, including being pepper sprayed and tased, noting her own personal experience with being tased. She emphasized the importance of keeping public safety personnel in the thoughts and prayers of the community.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Jaysen Christensen provided updates on several city projects and initiatives. He reported that two paramedics and an ambulance had been deployed to assist with the Knowles Fire in Montana for a two-week assignment. Such deployments provide needed service and generate compensation for the city. Mr. Christensen reminded the council that a previous deployment to the Monroe Fire in Utah had resulted in \$29,000 in reimbursement revenue.

He stated that a recent small area plan meeting with GSBS consultants had received strong community participation through survey responses. An open house was tentatively scheduled for September 9 to present collected data and a draft vision statement.

Mr. Christensen commended Public Works staff and contractors for completing the traffic signal projects at Mutton Hollow and Main Street, and at Mutton Hollow and Fairfield, prior to the beginning of the school year. He also noted progress on the 200 North reconstruction project. Despite encountering unexpected issues—including remnants of the historic Bamberger rail line, misaligned sewer laterals, and an irrigation line problem—the project remained on schedule. Phase one, from Main Street to 500 East, was expected to be paved by Thanksgiving.

He reported that the gymnasium project being developed in partnership with the Davis School District remained on track. Design completion was expected by late October 2025, with bidding to follow, and the facility projected to open in late 2027.

Looking ahead, Mr. Christensen outlined three major capital needs that would be priorities for the next budget cycle: a new fire station on the west side, the former library building, and the city operations center. He explained that the west-side fire station was a known need due to current response times being below national standards. The operational cost, estimated at \$1.5 million annually, was a significant concern. He recommended placing a general obligation bond question on the November 2026 ballot, following a public education effort, to allow residents to decide whether to proceed.

Regarding the former library building, Mr. Christensen stated that previous public-private partnership efforts had not succeeded. The city was now working with architect Kathy Wheaton to develop cost estimates for several options, including restoring the building, reconstructing it using salvaged materials, or demolishing it for use as a public plaza or park. Ms. Wheaton was also researching potential grant funding opportunities.

For the operations center, Mr. Christensen explained that the facility was outdated and facing compliance challenges. The most urgent concern involved the city's fuel island, which the state had recently ordered brought into compliance by July 2026. The underground pipes connecting the tanks and pumps were in violation, and staff was consulting with the Department of Environmental Quality to identify cost-effective remedies. He stated that quotes would be presented to the council soon, and emphasized that this project, along with broader facility and storage needs, would be a major focus in the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Adams made a motion to adjourn the Kaysville City Council meeting at 7:54 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.