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**City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
*Minutes***
**Wednesday, September 17, 2025
Council Chambers, (Room No. 140)
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd.
Taylorsville, Utah 84129**

BRIEFING SESSION

Attendance:

Elected Officials

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

City Staff

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, Asst. City Admin./CFO
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Richard Rich, Unified Fire Captain
Betsy Valora, Receptionist
Jay Ziolkowski, Administrative Affairs

Excused: Dina Blaes and Ben White

1. Agenda Review

The briefing session began at 6:00 p.m. with a roll call wherein all council members were present.

City Attorney Tracy Cowdell pointed out a change to the agenda in that he would present Item No. 3.1, while Doug Stowell would present Item No. 3.2 on his own.

Asst. City Administrator/CFO Scott Harrington provided a brief overview of the project related to Resolution No. 25-24. He then mentioned that regarding the Fraud Assessment, the City's final score was 375 rather than 370 as depicted in the agenda packet.

Mr. Cowdell explained that Ordinance No. 25-10 was quite straightforward and might not even be worthy of a presentation. It would merely designate a West Jordan address as the location of the Taylorsville Justice Court.

Council Member Burgess asked that Mr. Cowdell provide an explanation during the regular meeting for the sake of anyone in attendance in person or online. Mr. Cowdell responded that he would be happy to do so.

Chair Harker requested an update regarding a grant that had been used to install sidewalk and a crosswalk at Summit Park. Mayor Overson explained that it was a safety grant awarded by UDOT. The city engineer had the details, but she believed construction would begin quite soon.

2. **Adjourn**

The briefing session adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Attendance:

Elected Officials

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

City Staff

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, CFO/Asst City Administrator
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Director
Richard Rich, UFA Captain
Betsy Valora, Receptionist

Excused: Dina Blaes

Others: Peyton Bennett, Brittany Buchanan, Ashton Christopherson, Kate Christopherson, Charlie Cortez, Emily Cottrell, Bethany Dieckman, Lynn Handy, Miles Harker, Hudson Hathaway, Kris Heineman, Leah Kessler, Molly Osmond, Dean Paynter, Savannah Peterson, Sophie Scott, Brinley Shields, Doug Stowell, Emilee Taylor, Syd Thompson, Lexi Walker, Spencer Wall, Hallee Winberg, Susan Yadeskie, Jay Ziolkowski, and many proud parents

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Harker called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A roll call was conducted wherein all council members were present.

1.1 **Opening Ceremonies – Pledge/Reverence – *Mayor Overson***

Before those gathered recited the Pledge of Allegiance, members of the Youth Council shared information regarding the meaning behind it.

1.2 **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Overson acknowledging Constitution Day and noted that in 2024, September 17 had been officially recognized in Taylorsville as Constitution Day.

In her report, the Mayor also mentioned:

- Her celebration with other elected officials of 89 individuals from 40 countries taking the Oath of Allegiance in the US naturalization process
- The City's Day of Service at several different locations around Taylorsville
- The ChamberWest Gala where Taylorsville business Markosian Auto received the *Best Place to Work* award
- Her visit to Ms. Ford's second-grade class at Taylorsville Elementary to speak about government and civic responsibilities
- Her attendance at Arcadia Elementary's Safety Patrol Swearing In program
- Her appreciation for the police department's work in elementary schools and their dedication to building positive relationships in the community
- The upcoming remodeling of Fire Station 118
- Her thanks to firefighters for their ongoing service to the community
- The Manilow Music Revue held the previous week at Centennial Plaza
- The Youth Council's service project, *Wreaths Across America*, which aimed to honor veterans buried in the Taylorsville Cemetery with a Christmas wreath at each of their graves. Donations continued to be sought to fund 193 more wreaths

1.2.1 Historic Preservation Proclamation

The Mayor presented a proclamation to Susan Yadeskie, Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, declaring the week of September 14-20, 2025, as Historic Week and Tombstone Tales Week in Taylorsville. The proclamation highlighted that the Taylorsville Historic Preservation Committee and Arts Council would present a dramatic historical tour at the Taylorsville Cemetery

featuring local actors portraying original settlers and others who had affected the community. Mayor Overson emphasized that these tours would be free to the public on September 18-20.

1.2.2 Introduction and Administration of Oath of Office for the 2025-2026 Taylorsville Youth Council

The Mayor then introduced the Youth Council members for the 2025-2026 school year, explaining that the Youth Ambassadors would be Bethany Dieckman, Brinley Shields, Emilee Taylor, and Lexi Walker. Mayor Overson then administered the oath of office.

1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chair Harker provided an overview of upcoming city events.

1.4 Citizen Comments

The Chair invited residents who wished to address the council to step forward and do so. However, no one indicated a desire to speak.

2. APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Prosecutor Report – *Tracy Cowdell*

Mr. Cowdell highlighted several aspects of the prosecutor's office:

- The excellent relationship between prosecutors and the defense bar, describing it as a "symphony" in the justice court where everyone had a part to play
- The post-COVID court operations where the judge conducted court and ran two different calendars concurrently, with one prosecutor in the courtroom and one online
- The challenges of scheduling with district court changes, sometimes requiring coverage of multiple matters simultaneously
- The development of a proprietary prosecution system that scraped court data daily and allowed prosecutors to access case information electronically rather than using paper files

- The process of reviewing cases that did not go well, using it as an opportunity for improvement

3.2 Indigent Defense Report – Doug Stowell

Doug Stowell of Stowell Crayk, PLLC agreed with Mr. Cowdell about their good working relationship and explained that his firm handled about 700 cases every quarter, with approximately 5% going to trial.

Mr. Stowell discussed how the attorneys in his firm prioritized helping clients with class B and C misdemeanors get their lives back together, while recognizing that domestic violence and DUI cases were treated more seriously. He expressed concern about how DUI penalties had evolved over time, noting that the removal of lesser plea options had made these cases more impactful on defendants' employment prospects.

He explained that his firm currently had 15 attorneys handling criminal defense for 10 cities in the valley-- Taylorsville, Midvale, Herriman, South Jordan, Draper, Cottonwood Heights, Holladay, Millcreek, Lehi, and South Salt Lake. He noted that the firm acted as conflict counsel for West Valley City and Salt Lake County, handling numerous serious felony cases, including approximately 10 current homicide cases.

4. Minutes – September 3, 20205 City Council Meeting

MOTION: Council Member Knudsen moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 city council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Burgess and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Resolution No. 25-24 A Resolution of the City of Taylorsville Approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with West Valley City for Federal Funding Related to 3900 South – Scott Harrington

Mr. Harrington presented Resolution 25-24 regarding an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with West Valley City for federal funding related to a transportation project on 3900 South.

He explained that this was a joint venture with West Valley City to install sidewalks, curb and gutter along 3900 South from Redwood Road to the river bottom. The total project cost was

approximately \$12 million, with funding secured for all but about \$800,000. The resolution would authorize the design phase of the project, with construction likely to begin in fall 2026 or spring 2027.

He displayed a diagram showing the project scope, noting that the improvements would include a 12-foot trail with a 5-foot park strip and curb and gutter with landscaping. The costs would be split evenly between Taylorsville and West Valley City, with each responsible for about \$6 million.

Mayor Overson highlighted this project as an example of how Taylorsville regularly sought partnerships and grants to improve the City while having others help pay for it.

Council Member Barbieri asked if the project would include improvement of the road itself, and City Administrator John Taylor interjected that it would not.

Council Member Knudsen sought clarification on the funding breakdown, which Mr. Harrington explained included \$2.6 million from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), \$3 million from Salt Lake County, \$1.1 million from Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and \$2 million from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), totaling \$8.7 million.

MOTION: Council Member Barbieri moved to approve Resolution No. 25-24, a Resolution of the City of Taylorsville Approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with West Valley City for Federal Funding Related to 3900 South. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cochran and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

6.2 Fraud Risk Report – *Scott Harrington*

Mr. Harrington then presented the City's annual fraud risk report, which had been implemented by the state auditor several years before. The goal was to reach 395 points, which meant the City was meeting all requirements. He reported that Taylorsville currently had 375 points out of 395.

The report evaluated various risk factors such as whether the entity had a formal audit committee, credit card policy, and other measures related to fraud prevention. Mr. Harrington explained that the only area where the City missed points was the requirement that employees and elected officials annually commit in writing to abide by a statement of ethical behavior. The City had a conflict-of-interest policy, but not a specific ethics commitment requirement.

Council Member Cochran asked if this would be a simple process to fix, and Mr. Harrington confirmed it would be.

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Ordinance No. 25-09 An Ordinance of the City of Taylorsville Amending Taylorsville Municipal Code Chapter 2.24: COMMITTEES – Jay Ziolkowski

Jay Ziolkowski presented Ordinance No. 25-09 regarding amendments to the Taylorsville Municipal Code Chapter 2.24 concerning committees.

Mr. Ziolkowski explained that the ordinance needed updating as it had not been revised since the city's 1996 incorporation, when many committees were formed. He noted that some originally formed committees were no longer part of the City's operations, while it currently had five standing committees on the executive side with Council representation.

The new ordinance outlined three different areas for committees: joint committees, legislative committees, and executive committees. It addressed general provisions for how committees were constituted, their governance following Robert's Rules of Order, attendance requirements, and leadership rotation.

Chair Harker expressed appreciation for the clarity in the ordinance, particularly the provision allowing non-residents who demonstrated interest in serving on committees, and the clear statement that committees provided advice but did not make binding decisions on the City's behalf.

Mr. Ziolkowski emphasized that the ordinance still allowed the legislative body, the mayor, or both together to create committees as needed, whether standing or temporary project-specific committees. He also mentioned that staff tracked all volunteers in the city, including those on the five standing committees, 501(c)(3)s, and ad hoc groups like the amateur radio group.

MOTION: Council Member Knudsen moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-09, an Ordinance Amending the City of Taylorsville Municipal Code Chapter 2.24: COMMITTEES. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cochran and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

7.2 Ordinance No. 25-10 An Ordinance of the City of Taylorsville Amending Taylorsville Municipal Code Chapter 2.13: JUDICIAL CODE - Tracy Cowdell

Mr. Cowdell presented Ordinance No. 25-10 regarding amendments to the Taylorsville Municipal Code Chapter 2.13, the Judicial Code.

He explained that the ordinance would designate the location of the Taylorsville court in West Jordan rather than its current location at city hall. He stated that the legislative body must make this determination, and passing the ordinance would satisfy the legal requirements to move the court to West Jordan.

Chair Harker asked how residents would be informed about the court's new location. Mayor Overson noted that there had already been an article about the change published in the city journal,

and the city would also use social media to communicate the change. Court citations issued after September 24th would include the West Jordan address, and staff would work with anyone who missed a court date due to the location change.

MOTION: Council Member Cochran moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-10, an Ordinance Amending the City of Taylorsville Municipal Code Chapter 2.13 JUDICIAL CODE. The motion was seconded by Chair Harker and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

The council members had no new items for consideration.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEXT MEETING)

Chair Harker briefly stated the upcoming meeting dates for both the Planning Commission and City Council.

10. CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Cochran moved to adjourn. Council Member Knudsen seconded the motion, and Chair Harker declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

Minutes Prepared by: Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

