

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FRUIT HEIGHTS CITY
910 South Mountain Road
September 16, 2025

WELCOME:

Mayor pro temp Gary Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

PLEDGE & OPENING CEREMONY:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Eileen Moss with Council Member Mark Cottrell conducting the opening ceremony by prayer.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council Members, Gary Anderson, Mark Cottrell, Eileen Moss, Florence Sadler, and Shon Stevenson. Mayor John Pohlman was excused.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Darren Frandsen and Deputy Recorder Hailee Ballingham.

VISITORS:

Mary Monson, Lane Monson Jim Crismer, David Hale, Jeanne Groberg, Blake Winslow,

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT(S) OF INTEREST: None

TRAINING:

Council Member Anderson provided the training. A power is something the council **can** do, while a duty is something the council **must** do. Council members, the mayor, and the city manager each have defined “lanes,” and conflicts about those roles are resolved by looking to the **Utah State Code** and **Fruit Heights City Ordinances**. The **Powers and Duties Handbook** provides guidance, but state code always prevails. Fruit Heights operates under a **six-person council form of government**, where the council is the legislative body, and the mayor only votes in the case of a tie.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS:

4.1 The report was given by lieutenant Josh Boucher and Elizabeth Pinto who is an Investigative Criminal Analysis. They presented the 3rd Quarter 2025 activity in Fruit Heights. (The full report can be found @<https://www.fruitheightscity.com/AgendaCenter>).

4.2 YCC Report

Jeanne Groberg, the liaison for the YCC, gave the report:

At our last meeting, we heard from Mrs. Homer about this year’s Fable Forest, happening October 24–25 at the Hollow, with new stories, more volunteers, and even a Rapunzel Tower. Several YCC members will participate as characters, alongside other community volunteers, making the event even more engaging than last year. For September, Public Works has asked the YCC to help distribute stormwater education flyers as part of a five-year outreach effort to residents. While passing out flyers, the group will also complete a litter cleanup along the sound wall where trash often collects.

5.1 Upcoming franchise agreements

Franchise Agreements & Possible Franchise Tax. The city is in the process of updating **franchise agreements** with utilities such as Enbridge Gas. Current agreements are past due, and there are points of disagreement (e.g., who pays for excavation permits). Staff are reviewing the proposed agreements before bringing them to council. As part of this process, the idea of adding a **franchise tax** is being considered. This would be a usage-based tax collected through utilities, with revenue going to Fruit Heights City. Most neighboring communities already collect one, while Fruit Heights does not. A related issue is a new **state law (HB 48, effective January 2026)** that will impose a per–square foot **wildfire assessment fee** on homes located in state-designated wildfire zones. Residents cannot appeal for three years, and cities/fire departments will eventually be required to assign staff to conduct property reviews for mitigation. The fee is collected by the **State of Utah**, not the city, and funds will be used for wildfire response and mitigation. Fire chiefs across Davis County have expressed concern about the cost and burden this law creates. The council should begin discussing whether a **franchise tax** is an appropriate option to help maintain city revenues in light of these changes and state-imposed property costs.

ACTION ITEMS:

6.3 August 19, 2025, City Council Minutes

Council Member Shon Stevenson made a motion to approve August 19, 2025, City Council Minutes. Council Member Mark Cottrell seconded the motion it was unanimously approved by the council (0:36)

TABLED ITEMS: None

CALENDAR:

September 23,2025 Planning Commission Meeting

September 25,2025 Meeting the Candidates 6:30pm at Burton Elementary

October 07, 2025 City Council Meeting

PAST DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Cottrell: Founders Day was a great success with positive feedback, strong youth participation, and excellent staff. The Planning Commission is reviewing issues such as outdoor lighting, noise, sports courts, and yard coverage, which may come to council later. He also noted that Davis County Mosquito Abatement has already sprayed more in Fruit Heights this year than the past two years combined due to weather conditions and reminded residents they can request spraying for events or heavy mosquito activity.

Council Member Anderson: Serving on the Mosquito Abatement Board, he noted that Fruit Heights has had a reported case of West Nile virus this year, which unfortunately resulted in a resident’s death. In response, Mosquito Abatement significantly increased spraying, with more activity in the past two months than in the last two years combined. He also mentioned that a proposed tax increase from Mosquito Abatement will be coming forward for council discussion at a future meeting.

Council Member Moss: She thanked the Citizen Corps Council for their monthly Sunday night check-ins, noting that the new monthly schedule is well received and helps reduce pressure on participants.

Council Member Stevenson: For the National Day of Service, approximately 165 people participated on Gaily Trail, spreading bark along about 90% of the trail and logging nearly 400 volunteer hours. City staff provided strong support, and attendees included both Fruit Heights and Kaysville residents. He also noted that a few wheelbarrows and shovels were left behind and asked that anyone missing them to let him know.

MAYOR REPORT:

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

City Manager Darren Frandsen reported That the audit will start in the next week.

CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Eileen Moss made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Council Member Florence Sadler seconding the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Council. (7:43)

Not approved until signed.

/s/ Hailee Ballingham

Hailee Ballingham, City Deputy Recorder

Date approved by City Council: October 07,2025