

**IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

Minutes of the Special Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.
September 22, 2025, in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Paul Cozzens	Commission Chair
Michael Bleak	Commissioner
Kenneth Robinson	Commissioner
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

Lucas Little	County Auditor
Ken Carpenter	County Sheriff
Terry Palmer	Building & Zoning
Sam Woodall	Deputy Attorney
Richard Wilson	Chief Engineer
Jennifer Bradbury	Human Resources
Mike Worthen	Natural Resources
Bruce Anderson	Public Works

Others in Attendance:

Darin Bushman	Roger Carter	Grant Cox
Lauren Denhalter	Eldon Harker	Samuel Harker
Kathryn Moster	Eli Steed	Amberlee

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INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Bruce Anderson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Terry Palmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting held on September 8, 2025. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve Claims for Payment from September 8, 2025, to September 21, 2025. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Terry Palmer, Iron County Building & Zoning Administrator, reported on the Building Department. As of September 22, 2025, Building & Zoning had issued a total of 406 permits compared to 416 in 2024, 40 Commercial permits were 40 compared to 25, 101 new dwelling permits compared to 119, and 2564 inspections compared to 2706, and 450 Plan Reviews projects. Terry expressed his appreciation to Crystal Carrizosa, Office Manager, and Ely Navarro, part-time Administrative Assistant, for quickly picking up what needed to be done. Both employees were working well with the department. Trent Sukowaty, Building Inspector, had 3 of the 4 Residential Inspections certifications, and would have the final certificate by the end of this year. He noted that Nate Dennett, Assistant Building Official/Zoning, was in Salt Lake City this week for his last Commercial Certification. Once completed, he will be a Combination Inspector in both Residential and Commercial construction. Terry expressed his appreciation for all his office staff for stepping up to the fraud case. Terry reported on the Zoning Department. Riley Westwood was hired as the new Code Enforcement Officer. He is learning quickly, and he would be a great asset to Iron County. Terry reported on the Planning Department. Brett Hamilton was hired as the new Iron County Planner, replacing Reed Erickson, as Reed was going to retire. Reed has given Brett specific things to accomplish to come into compliance with different state requirements and new Iron County Ordinances. Terry expressed his appreciation to Reed Erickson, Iron County Planner, for all he had done to promote growth and development within Iron County. He was an asset that would be missed with the knowledge and understanding of the ordinances and how things had progressed over the past 20 years. Terry reported on the Maintenance Department. Thayne Hainsworth, Iron County Building//Maintenance Supervisor, and Landon Wall, Iron County Maintenance, had spent many hours working around the Iron County Fair Grounds fixing water lines and sprinklers, cutting down dead trees, and leveling out three different areas around the clinic for extra parking spaces. Terry reported on the work they had done around Iron County. He noted that there was an issue regarding the elevator improvements regarding the cost. There was a discussion on the elevator improvement issue.

Richard Wilson, Iron County Chief Engineer, reported that the Engineer Department was doing well. He noted there had not been any major events during the monsoon season. He continued to monitor flood capacity and the abilities of the channels. Richard reported that he had spoken with Amber Hatch, Iron County Weed Supervisor, concerning vegetation management using goats to eat down weeds. The Engineer Department purchased property for a retention pond and continued to move forward. He noted that he had been working with the designer of the two properties right next to the retention pond, so there could be a relief on the channel. He has asked for a 25-foot right-of-way to cross Midvalley Road and pick up water from the Peak view Subdivision, as well as out of the Webster Ditch. There was a contract with Sunroc to dig out a retention pond. Richard reported that there were numerous opportunities to purchase a corridor right-of-way. He noted that they hired Morley McConkie, St. George Commercial Real Estate Appraiser, to appraise two commercial properties, which would allow Iron County to make an offer on the two properties for the Belt route down in the industrial area on Hwy 56 and Iron Spring Road. Richard reported that he was considering placing a 36-inch culvert across Midvalley Road, which would prevent the backup of water into the 2575 entrance to Peak View subdivision. He noted that he and Reed Erickson, Iron County Planner, sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Capital Improvement Project and an impact fee study. He conveyed that he was contemplating the current detention pond or retention pond sizing and explained why. He expressed his appreciation to Bruce Anderson and the great relationship between the different departments, and working well together. There was a discussion with the Commissioners regarding a company that was putting in a fiber optics line in Right Hand Canyon and proper traffic control.

Bruce Anderson, Iron County Public Works Director, reported on the Road Department. They had resurfaced approximately 80 lane-miles of roads this year, not including skim patching. The Road Department was working on engineering for Gold Springs, Summit Road to Ellen Gardeners, blading mountain roads, cattle-guard cleaning, and culvert cleaning. Bruce reported that he was beginning to work on his 2026 budget. He noted that there was a new rule from the state that says any oiled road that has traffic faster than 35 mph needs to be striped by 2026. Bruce reported on the Landfill Department. The fall water samples would be taken on Wednesday. The State Department of Environmental Quality (DEAQ) was doing a recycling survey, which was about half done. The Front-end cans that they changed to were working well, and he was able to get the work done much faster. He noted that he was planning to expand that effort in 2026. Bruce reported that 2 new employees would begin work at the landfill next week. The Cedar City landfill had received 71,630 tons to date, and Parowan received 25,545 tons. All the Landfill Equipment was in good shape. Bruce reported that fires continued to be a problem at the landfills. He had a meeting scheduled with the state to address the fires. He noted that 99% of the fires were caused by lithium-ion batteries.

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he had been asked to serve on a committee with the Intermountain Health and Cedar City Hospital regarding mental health issues in our area. The committee met on September 9th and toured the Receiving Center in Hurricane. There was an issue with the center not being easily accessible. Law Enforcement has met to figure out how to address the issue between different agencies. Mike explained the accessibility issue for our area. Mike reported that the Utah Economic Development Executive Committee. He explained that this was a 501(c)4 organization that explored the development of the entire southern Utah region. The Cedar City Airport board met, and they continued to work towards putting together information for obtaining a control tower, which was important to have. He noted that the Children's Justice Center (CJC) hosted its Golf Tournament fundraiser this past weekend. Commissioner Bleak reported that he was approached by a group of employees from the Cedar City Airport who reported some minor maintenance issues. Mike met with Tyler Galetka, Cedar City Airport Director, and worked those issues out. Mike met with the AMERICA250 Committee and Jamison Robinett, Cedar City Hospital President. On Saturday night, he had the opportunity to attend a memorial service for Charlie Kirk at Mountain View Ranch by Grant Cox, the owner of Mountain View Ranch. He noted that he asked Grant Cox to speak during the Public Comments today. Commissioner Bleak reported that he completed his

employee evaluation and discussed how to reconstruct the evaluation program to have a more meaningful and sincere evaluation.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he attended the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fall coordination meeting, which included the Division of Wildlife, Weed Department, and SITLA. Everyone had positive reports, and it was very productive. He continued to attend meetings regarding the new Sheriff Complex. Ken reported that he met with Maria Twitchell, Iron County Tourism Director, who explained the responsibilities and the process she goes through, and what was involved with her position. They also discussed the 25-year fair program. He noted that he had a conversation with Jami Evans, Iron County Fair Director, about getting Jumbotrons' place in the arena to help facilitate the rodeos being broadcast on the Cowboy Channel. This would provide notoriety and increase interest in the Iron County Fair. Ken reported that he attended the CJC Golf Tournament, which was well attended. He noted that he had to leave after 5 holes because his son's name was Tyler Robinson, and that situation absolutely turned their world upside down for about 36 hours. He expressed his condolences to the parents of Tyler Robinson, Charlie Kirk's assassin. Ken was able to attend the end of the SUU Memorial for Charlie Kirk. They handed out 600 candles, and they ran out of candles. The memorial was very well attended and gave people the opportunity to get together and memorialize Charlie in a positive way. Ken expressed his appreciation to Governor Cox for doing a great job of pointing out that there was a better way to react, and Utah did that well.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he watched the funeral service for Charlie Kirk, which was very moving and touching. The most touching part was when Charlie's wife forgave her husband's killer. Paul noted that he attended the State Water Planning meeting at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss conservation and other water issues. He attended the Iron County Planning Commission (ICPC) meeting. Paul expressed his appreciation to the ICPC and Terry Palmer for all that they do for Iron County. He spoke with Ron Larson about the building for the Weed Department, which continued to move forward. Commissioner Cozzens expressed his condolences to the John Black family, who passed this last week.

PUBLIC HEARING AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (APN: E-1387-12, #0187390). NOTE: PART OF THIS DISCUSSION MAY BE CLOSED PER UCA §52-4-205(d)

Jon Whittaker reported that Eldon Harker has expressed interest in this parcel for some time. The parcel was a gravel pit that was used up. The parcel was located in Beryl Junction. Mr. Harker owned the property surrounding this parcel and wanted to purchase it to complete the property. Jason Bushnell, Appraising Utah, LLC, appraised the property at \$17K, which was a minimal value for the property. Notice was posted for 2 weeks as required, and it also required a public hearing. Jon reported that there were no other interested parties, and Mr. Harker was willing to pay the appraised amount.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared a public hearing open regarding the sale of real property.

No Public Comments were offered.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the public hearing closed.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the sale of Real Property APN: E-1387-12 for \$17K, as presented. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Grant Cox, a resident of Parowan, spoke about the tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk on September 10th. He waited for someone in the area to do something to honor Charlie Kirk. There was a large gathering at SUU, and he held a memorial at his Mountain View Museum.

PRESENTATION ABOUT A PROVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAM OFFERED BY FIVE-COUNTY ENTITLED "CIRCLES"

Kathryn Moster, 5-County CAP Community Action Project, explained that the "Circles" program was an effective poverty reduction initiative that revolved around building intentional relationships across income lines. Circle participants would be called "Circle Leaders" because they lead themselves out of poverty. Leaders are families that want to become financially stable; they are leading the change in their lives. They commit to being honest, building intentional friendships, attending weekly meetings regularly, being open to new perspectives, and trusting the process even when it is challenging. Each leader was matched with two "Allies", middle and upper-income volunteers, who help the leaders use their unique gifts and skills to reach their personal and financial goals. Kathryn reported that all participants and volunteers received training, Circle Leaders set goals, and Allies support them as they meet their goals, meet weekly as a group, and attend monthly sessions that would engage community leaders in the work of poverty reduction. Commissioner Cozzens suggested that they could use the conference room at the Cedar City Senior Center. Kathryn noted that if anyone needed to get in touch with her about the program, they could email her at kmoster@fivecounty.Utah.gov. Kathryn reported on Iron County statistics: 38.6% live below 200% or 4 out of 10 households, the average was \$2,651, and the state was %5242. Living wage was based on zip code, min 17.25 per hour, poverty is 12. By building community to end poverty through intentional friendships, personal transformation. Allies support them as they meet their goals, meet weekly as a group, and attend monthly sessions that engage community leaders in the work of poverty reduction.

Darrin Bushman, 5-County AOG Executive Director, expressed his appreciation to Kathryn for doing a great job with the Circles Program and encouraged the commissioners to think of people who would be willing and interested in helping with the program.

INTRODUCTION OF FIVE-COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (AOG) LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR (LAA) PROGRAM

Roger Carter, 5-County AOG Administrative Advisor, explained this was a state-funded initiative between the Utah League of Cities & Towns (ULCT) in partnership with AOGs statewide. The program was to provide administrative support to communities, primarily rural, throughout the state of Utah that do not have any professional or full-time administrative expertise. Roger introduced himself and reported on his extensive knowledge in public offices. He noted that 21 communities qualify for assistance in the 5 County area. Roger explained the steps needed to qualify and why this program was needed. Many small towns still have management obligations but lack the staff capacity to keep up with legal, budgetary, and compliance requirements. Tasks like drafting ordinances, preparing budgets, ensuring compliance with state laws, personnel policy, and meeting procedures often fall on elected officials. The state has allocated ongoing funding to support towns through professional administrative support. He reported that Services that the LAA program offered were: reviewing or updating ordinances, resolutions, and policies to align with state code; helping with budget preparation and monitoring, financial oversight, ensuring balanced budgets, and public accountability; creating templates and best practices; advising town leadership on governance matters: meetings, agendas, personnel management, and performance evaluation; strategic planning and goal setting, helping towns define priorities and long-term objectives; and website and technology upgrades, including .gov website conversions and cybersecurity compliance.

Darrin Bushman, 5-County AOG Executive Director, reported that the Iron County AOG was the only organization in the State of Utah to have a City Administrator. Darrin expressed his appreciation to Roger Carter for the experience, resources, and connections he had that were very helpful. Roger does not want to be the administrator of the different cities or replace them. He wants to build capacity. He noted that last year, this program was in the middle of a political tussle. The Utah League and City of Towns were the ones who administered the funding. The legislature decided to hit this program for \$500,000, which was a negative consequence for the program. Darrin explained the three positions in the %-County AOG and what they were responsible for. Darrin reported that they would need the commissioner's help to restore funding

from the legislature. At the next AOG meeting, he was going to ask the commissions to sign a letter of support.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A LOCAL CONSENT FOR A SINGLE EVENT PERMIT, OKTOBERFEST FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 17TH AND 18TH AT THE IRON SPRINGS RESORT

Lauren Denhalter, Iron Springs Resort, noted that this was for the annual Oktoberfest that was held every year. Lauren introduced Amberlee as her Assistant Manager and turned the time over to her. Amberlee explained that this agenda item was to have the Local Consent permit approved to serve beer and wine during the Oktoberfest.

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve the Local Consent for the Single Event Permit, Oktoberfest Festival, as presented. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION OFF-HIGHWAY-VEHICLE (OHV) GRANT CONTRACT FOR MAINTAINING OHV TRAILS IN IRON COUNTY

Mike Worthen, Iron County Natural Resource Management Specialist, explained that the grant was from the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (UDOR) to assist in maintaining Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails. This was a maintenance-type grant that would be for the purchase of a six-way blade and a part-time contractor for running the equipment and maintenance. The grant was \$33,550.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve an OHV Recreation Grant from the Utah Outdoor Recreation Division to assist in maintaining OHV Trails in Iron County, as presented. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF EXTENDING AN AGREEMENT WITH DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST TO FINISH THE CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION AT THE SNOWMOBILE PARKING AREA FOR ONE YEAR AND THE OHV GRANT

Mike Worthen, Iron County Natural Resource Management Specialist, reported that the Forest Service asked to put together a grant application to extend the deadline on the agreement to finish the concrete construction at the snowmobile parking area on the Kane/Iron County line for one year. The grant funds would purchase a six-way blade for the skid steer and hire a part-time, seasonal, or contractor to run the operational equipment. The grant was \$33,550 and lasted two years.

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve the extension of the Agreement with Dixie National Forest to finish the concrete construction at the snowmobile parking area for one year. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PAROWAN CITY'S APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION FUNDING TO AID IN CONSTRUCTING A ROAD AND UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR THE PAROWAN CITY AIRPORT

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, noted that agenda items 8 and 9 were similar, from Parowan City asking for a letter of support from the commissioners to help the Parowan Airport infrastructure.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the letter of support for Parowan City's application for United States Economic Development Administration funding to aid in constructing a road and utility infrastructure near the Parowan Airport. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PAROWAN CITY'S APPLICATION FOR UTAH GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (GOEO) RURAL COUNTY OPPORTUNITY GRANT FUNDING TO AID IN CONSTRUCTING A ROAD AND UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR THE PAROWAN CITY AIRPORT

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve the letter of support for Parowan City's application for the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) Rural Opportunity Grant funding to aid in constructing a road and utility infrastructure near the Parowan Airport. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

PERSONNEL

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, presented the new hire of Hadley Hickman as a Full-Time Corrections Deputy 1 in the Sheriff's Office – Corrections, effective October 12th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the status transfer for Fernando Gomez from Full-Time Corrections Deputy 1 to Part-Time Bailiff in the Sheriff's – Patrol, effective September 14th; the promotion of Lori Neighbors from Full-Time Judicial Assistant to Full-Time Senior Judicial Assistant in the Justice Court, effective September 14th; and the status change for Brad Benson from Part-Time Fair Maintenance Technician to Seasonal Fair Maintenance Technician, effective September.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the personnel changes as presented by Jennifer Bradbury. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

NON-DELEGATED ITEMS

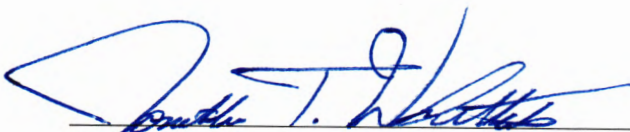
No Non-Delegated items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commission Chair, declared adjournment.



Signed: Paul Cozzens, Chair



Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, Clerk

