



**CITY OF KEARNS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

September 8, 2025, 6:00 PM

KEARNS LIBRARY - 4275 W 5345 S, KEARNS, UTAH 84118

**CITY OF KEARNS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2025**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kelly Bush, Mayor
Chrystal Butterfield
Patrick Schaeffer
Alan Peterson
Tina Snow

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Diana Baun, Recorder
Nathan Bracken, City Attorney
Dan Torres, Economic Development Manager

Others Present:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly Bush, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She excused Council Member Peterson, who would be joining the meeting soon.

2. DETERMINE QUORUM

Mayor Kelly Bush announced that a quorum was present allowing the meeting to proceed.

3. VISITING PUBLIC OFFICIALS – None

4. CITIZEN PUBLIC INPUT - None

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Council Meeting Minutes**
 - a. August 11, 2025 City Council Meeting**
 - b. August 26, 2025 Board of Canvass Meeting**

Council Member Snow moved to approve the August 11, 2025 City Council Meeting and August 26, 2025 Board of Canvass Meeting Minutes as published. Council Member Butterfield seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Peterson absent from the vote.

CITY OF KEARNS COUNCIL

MAYOR KELLY BUSH, DEPUTY MAYOR TINA SNOW
COUNCIL MEMBER CHRYSTAL BUTTERFIELD, COUNCIL MEMBER ALAN PETERSON,
COUNCIL MEMBER PATRICK SCHAEFFER

6. WORKSHOP

A. Discussion on Internal Communications During an Emergency

Madison Warner, Municipal Emergency Planner, presented two topics to the City Council. The first was a communication and coordination training session designed to improve the council's situational awareness and response capabilities during city emergencies. Ms. Warner explained that council members should establish an internal communication system to quickly share verified information among themselves. She recommended tools such as Signal, GroupMe, or even a simple text thread, and noted that Mayor Kelly Bush served as the designated emergency manager. She emphasized that if an urgent or time-sensitive issue arose, council members should immediately hold a group call to ensure everyone had the same information. Ms. Warner continued by explaining the importance of contacting the city's liaisons—those with specialized roles in fire, police, and other areas—when incidents occurred. She advised council members to verify reports and avoid spreading rumors by reaching out to these experts. She provided examples such as calling the Unified Fire or Unified Police Department liaisons, or contacting Chuck Jorgensen from the Olympic Oval for verification of information. She also discussed the importance of maintaining a clear line of succession in city leadership so that in the absence of Mayor Bush, other stakeholders and liaisons would know who to contact in an emergency. She introduced the council to the Wireless Priority Service (WPS) program, which prioritizes designated government phones for repair and connectivity during communication outages. Mayor Kelly Bush inquired about the renewal of WPS cards, and Ms. Warner responded that she would provide the link for sign-up and follow up to ensure all council members were properly registered. She then explained the need for “horizontal and vertical” information sharing, meaning communication should flow both within the council and between neighboring jurisdictions. She gave examples such as informing Taylorsville Emergency Management if an evacuation occurred in their city, or vice versa, so that all local entities remained informed.

She then discussed the process of declaring a state of emergency, explaining that smaller jurisdictions often exhaust their resources quickly, and that a formal declaration allowed for activation of support from Salt Lake County, the state, and federal agencies. Ms. Warner offered to provide an updated template for such a declaration, which Mayor Bush agreed would be useful. Ms. Warner then described how to evaluate information accuracy during emergencies, urging the council to verify whether incidents were actual crises before making public statements. She advised that if details were uncertain, it was better to communicate that the city was still gathering information rather than sharing unconfirmed reports. She also emphasized the importance of empathy and creating a trusted source of information for residents. She suggested maintaining an official and reliable presence on social media and the city website, so citizens knew where to find verified updates during emergencies. Mayor Bush asked whether the Red Cross could be invited to present to the council about their procedures for assisting displaced families, noting her prior experience working with them. Ms. Warner agreed and offered to help coordinate such a visit, noting that the Red Cross was currently updating shelter locations across the county.

Ms. Warner then spoke about public information responsibilities, referencing that Council Member Tina Snow had previous Public Information Officer (PIO) training. She stated that

council members should be prepared to engage with the media but coordinate closely with fire, police, and MSD PIOs to ensure consistent messaging. She encouraged the use of the Municipal Services District (MSD) PIO for support when necessary, especially during smaller emergencies, and stressed that messages should be accessible, simple, and consistent across platforms. She recommended pre-writing message templates at a third-grade reading level and preparing translations or alternative communication methods for residents without internet access.

Mayor Bush mentioned that the city's CodeRED emergency alert system already had templates in place and could incorporate additional ones. Ms. Warner acknowledged that this was a strong step forward and transitioned into explaining the Incident Command System (ICS). She provided an overview of the "Planning P," a model guiding ongoing emergency response and planning cycles, and described how city officials might interact with the MSD or county Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) during large-scale incidents. She explained key emergency service functions (ESFs) such as transportation, energy, public health, and animal services, which serve as specialized sectors during crises. Ms. Warner gave examples of how to coordinate with these sectors, such as contacting Animal Services during an incident involving multiple animals.

Ms. Warner outlined the type of information that should be collected during emergencies—such as weather conditions, road closures, evacuation numbers, and shelter statuses—and emphasized that accurate situation reports were vital for coordination and reimbursement from agencies such as FEMA. She highlighted the need to time-stamp and maintain public records of communications and to distinguish between internal and public information to avoid releasing sensitive material prematurely.

To conclude, she advised against common pitfalls such as sharing unverified information or working in isolation. She encouraged over-communication with MSD and other partners to ensure resources were properly tracked and delivered. Ms. Warner also recommended that council members complete FEMA's online ICS 100, 200, and 800 training courses, as well as attend the in-person G-402 course for senior officials hosted by Salt Lake County Emergency Management. She mentioned that a tabletop exercise would be organized within the next year to help the council practice emergency response scenarios.

Mayor Kelly Bush asked Ms. Warner to send the council the links for the ICS training courses.

B. Kearns Municipal Code Restatement

Nathan Bracken presented a draft restatement of Kearns Municipal Code Titles 3–14, stating that the sections most relevant to the council were Title 5 (Business Licensing) and Title 8 (Animals), and that input from Municipal Services District (MSD) staff would be needed for vehicles and traffic, parks and recreation, and highways and sidewalks under Title 14. He described the document as a 221-page draft that drew from other cities' codes for consistency, emphasized that it would change based on feedback, and indicated an aspirational October target but a more realistic November timeline after consultation with MSD. He explained that the updated appeals structure would route business license appeals to an administrative law

judge (ALJ) rather than to the mayor or council, with limited instances potentially delegated to the planning/development director to avoid unnecessary costs. On animal control, he noted the city's limited latitude because services are provided by Salt Lake County Animal Services, and he proposed adding provisions authorizing the city to act if the county could not. He added code language memorializing existing municipal energy and telecommunications taxes and drafted optional language for a transient room tax under consideration as part of redevelopment and potential Olympic-related planning. He also flagged a state requirement for cities to adopt a Wildland-Urban Interface code by year-end, while observing that Kearns likely had little or no such area, and said additional legislative updates to subdivision and zoning (Titles 17–19) would proceed separately with staff such as Brian Tucker.

Mayor Kelly Bush supported limiting the number of specialty tobacco retailers through business licensing and referenced state-law constraints on cannabis businesses, explaining that the city had been inundated by “smart shops.” Mayor Kelly Bush confirmed the city had already been operating with appeals handled by an administrative law judge or hearing officer and asked whether contracting directly with Salt Lake County Animal Services might allow more community-specific provisions, while acknowledging the county's preference for uniformity. Mayor Kelly Bush directed council members to review the emailed draft with embedded comments and provide feedback to Nathan Bracken to meet a November goal.

Council Member Tina Snow agreed that specialty tobacco and cannabis were the only business categories presently requiring additional regulation beyond the baseline.

7. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS – None

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

A. South Kearns Elementary

Cassandra Hodges, representing the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at South Kearns Elementary School, addressed the council to encourage stronger partnerships between the city and local schools. She began by explaining that the Utah PTA had asked members statewide to reach out to their mayors and councils to promote civic engagement with schools. Ms. Hodges described the mission of the PTA as giving every child a voice in matters affecting education, health, and safety, while fostering collaboration between families, schools, and communities. She emphasized that PTA work extended beyond fundraising, focusing instead on building support systems to help students thrive and strengthen the community's future leadership. She noted that anyone could join a PTA, membership was not limited to parents or guardians of students, and that funds raised largely remained at the local school to support student activities, field trips, and attendance incentives. She invited council members and residents to participate in school events or volunteer opportunities, even on a drop-in basis, assuring that schools would welcome any level of community involvement.

Mayor Kelly Bush asked whether Ms. Hodges had a proclamation prepared that the council could approve in October. Hodges responded affirmatively and said she could provide one. She then described an upcoming event hosted by the South Kearns Elementary PTA called the “School Yard Mentor Bash.” The purpose of the event was to encourage more male

participation in schools, as current volunteer numbers were extremely low; only two male volunteers at South Kearns Elementary and none at Kearns Junior High. Ms. Hodges explained that the initiative aimed to challenge the perception that schools were primarily for mothers to engage in, highlighting research showing that children perform better academically and socially when male role models are present. She detailed plans for the Mentor Bash, noting that it would include free food, games, and community activities, and that both news media and local radio stations would attend. The event would feature two car shows, community booths, and opportunities for men and women alike to participate as mentors and positive figures for students. Ms. Hodges stressed the importance of building a sense of unity across the community, stating that simple gestures such as men greeting children at school with smiles and high-fives could meaningfully impact student morale, attendance, and academic performance, which she said were currently areas of concern in Kearns schools. She also distributed a list of all PTAs within Kearns, encouraging each council member to join multiple associations to support students citywide (Attachment A). She said she had already joined every PTA in the area and was actively volunteering at each school. She added that she was working to strengthen PTA programs at Thomas Jefferson Junior High, Bacchus Elementary, and Kearns High School, but that additional membership was needed to reach the minimum of ten members required to pass bylaws and officially establish active PTAs at those schools.

Mayor Kelly Bush expressed appreciation for Ms. Hodges's efforts and confirmed that the council already participated in various school events throughout the city, including activities at South Kearns and Western Hills. Ms. Hodges thanked the council for its continued involvement and reiterated her gratitude for the community's support of local students.

B. Resolution R2025-10, A Resolution of the Kearns City Council Adopting the Salt Lake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Plan

Council Member Al Peterson joined the meeting.

Madison Warner, Emergency Planner for the Municipal Services District (MSD) and Emergency Management, presented an overview of the Salt Lake County Hazard Mitigation Plan to the council (Attachment B). She began by explaining that hazard mitigation referred to sustained actions designed to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to human life and property from potential hazards. The updated plan was countywide and provided organized evaluations of various hazards, including tornadoes, earthquakes, extreme temperatures, snowstorms, wind events, and other natural or environmental threats. She noted that the plan assessed both countywide and jurisdiction-specific vulnerabilities and capabilities while identifying strategies to lessen future risks. It also included information on available funding opportunities to support mitigation projects. She stated that the plan was updated every five years, building on the previous version completed in 2019. The current plan incorporated 23 cities and towns, two school districts, and Salt Lake Community College, updating previous goals rather than starting from scratch. She explained that the plan was multi-jurisdictional because emergencies did not stop at municipal boundaries, and collaboration among cities, special service districts, utility providers, and private industry was crucial. By joining together under one plan, jurisdictions also increased their eligibility for Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) grant funding, which many smaller cities could not qualify for independently. She noted that FEMA required local jurisdictions to adopt the plan under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to qualify for hazard mitigation grants and reimbursement after disasters. Ms. Warner outlined the five major FEMA grants that adoption would make available, emphasizing that cities declining to adopt the plan would not be eligible for such federal assistance. The plan was divided into two volumes: Volume 1 served as the countywide base plan detailing hazards, impacts, and capabilities, while Volume 2 contained annexes specific to each jurisdiction. Kearns's annex included local hazard assessments, historic incident data, identified vulnerabilities, and updated five-year mitigation goals.

Ms. Warner explained that the county's planning process included broad stakeholder engagement. Public and private organizations, nonprofits, school districts, and residents were invited to participate through surveys, outreach events, and public comment periods. The county published QR codes linking to surveys asking residents which hazards most concerned them, and hosted public review sessions and outreach booths at community expos. Describing the plan's methodology, Ms. Warner explained that the process began with identifying and profiling hazards, cataloging community assets, and analyzing potential impacts. Each jurisdictional annex then summarized local geography, demographics, and unique risk factors. In Kearns's case, this included specific facilities such as the Utah Olympic Oval and nearby railroad tracks. The plan also outlined opportunities for public education, strategies to strengthen resilience, and compliance measures necessary to maintain FEMA eligibility. She presented examples of mitigation actions included in the plan, such as infrastructure reinforcement, drainage improvements, and community preparedness programs. Each action listed the hazard addressed, the lead agency, potential partners, expected benefits, estimated costs, suggested funding sources, and projected completion timelines. She explained that while some actions were "shovel-ready" and could be implemented within months, others would take several years and carry over into future updates. Ms. Warner clarified that the list of tasks was not mandatory but represented suggested priorities identified through hazard analysis. She informed the council that the Salt Lake County Council had adopted the updated plan in July and that it was currently circulating among all other city councils in the valley for approval. The MSD had also adopted the plan to facilitate support for shared service areas such as flood control and stormwater management, making local projects eligible for federal and county-level funding assistance. Warner emphasized that the hazard mitigation plan was a "blue sky" plan—designed for proactive risk reduction and not for operational emergency response. She concluded by recommending formal adoption by the council so that Kearns could access federal hazard mitigation funding once the plan became official.

Council Member Snow moved to approve Resolution R2025-10, Adopting the Salt Lake County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Plan. Council Member Peterson seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

B. Convention and Tourism Assessment Area Update

Tyson Lippert, Chief Sales Officer at Visit Salt Lake, and Christa Perry, Chief Brand and Experience Officer, provided an update (Attachment C) to the council on the success of the Convention Tourism Assessment Area (CTAA) program. Mr. Lippert reminded the council that

Visit Salt Lake had presented two years earlier to request the city's participation in the program, which adds a 2% assessment to hotel room charges to be reinvested into tourism promotion and event attraction. He thanked the council for its support and reported that the results had been highly positive, explaining that the "West Region" of the county—which includes West Valley City and Kearns—was performing exceptionally well. Although Kearns did not yet have hotels of its own, the region benefited from proximity to the Utah Olympic Oval, which continued to draw significant visitor interest. He reported that West Valley City's hotels maintained an occupancy rate exceeding 74% for the year, the highest among all tracked municipalities. Visit Salt Lake compared occupancy trends across twelve major western U.S. destinations and seven regional submarkets within Salt Lake County, and the West Region ranked at the top, outperforming larger markets such as Denver, San Antonio, and Portland. Mr. Lippert noted that while eight of the twelve western destinations saw occupancy declines, Salt Lake County continued to show strong growth, attracting attention from hotel developers encouraged by the area's robust economy and preparations for the upcoming Olympic Games.

Christa Perry then provided additional context on the broader impact of tourism, stating that Salt Lake County accounted for 46% of Utah's total visitor economy. She explained that tourism-generated tax revenue supported not only the county but also local municipalities, helping fund community amenities and improvements. She highlighted how CTAA funds had already been used to bring major events to Kearns facilities, including the Utah Olympic Oval and the Kearns Aquatic Center. Over the past summer, Visit Salt Lake helped host a USA Water Polo event in Kearns, and the organization continued to work with Lisa Benny Rasmussen and Utah's global outreach team to attract additional events. Ms. Perry mentioned that the Utah Hockey Club's growing activity had also generated more opportunities to host large-scale tournaments in the area. Even without a local hotel base, she emphasized that events held in Kearns benefitted the local economy, as visitors patronized nearby restaurants, shops, and services. She described Visit Salt Lake's goal as not only promoting tourism but also improving residents' quality of life through investments that enhance public amenities. She cited the example of Centennial Park in West Valley City, where Visit Salt Lake partnered with the city to fund improvements to softball fields to enable the hosting of major tournaments. She said similar partnerships could be explored in Kearns to expand event opportunities and community engagement.

Ms. Perry and Mr. Lippert both expressed appreciation to the mayor and council for their early support of the CTAA program and stated that the continued collaboration between Visit Salt Lake, Kearns, and the Municipal Services District would help attract additional events in coming years.

Mayor Kelly Bush responded enthusiastically, expressing excitement about the region's success and Kearns's potential for future development tied to tourism and event growth. She joked with audience members and noted the strong cooperation between the city's public safety departments and Visit Salt Lake's ongoing efforts. Council members and attendees expressed appreciation for the update, and Mayor Bush encouraged Visit Salt Lake to stay closely connected with Kearns, remarking that the city had "big plans" for continued growth and partnership.

Ms. Perry concluded by noting that the visitor economy created significant opportunities for local improvement, emphasizing that the focus of tourism promotion extended beyond visitors to directly enhancing residents' quality of life.

Mayor Bush noted that Council Member Schaeffer had pointed out a member of the audience who had arrived late but would like to make a public comment. Mayor Bush invited the audience member to speak.

Resident Misty Leavitt addressed the council, explaining that she had received multiple code enforcement violations at her property, which was legally owned by her father, Calvin. She stated that she had corrected all of the cited issues, including clearing weeds and addressing other listed violations, but that daily fines of \$150 continued to accrue under her father's name since August 15. She expressed frustration that despite her efforts, fines were still being assessed and said she felt she was being harassed by ongoing inspections.

Mayor Kelly Bush asked whether Ms. Leavitt had allowed code enforcement officers into the backyard for verification. Ms. Leavitt responded that she had not yet done so but planned to, though she was confused because the backyard was not listed among the cited violations. Mayor Bush explained that the fines would continue until all parts of the property were verified as compliant, noting that the backyard was indeed part of the inspection area. Mayor Bush clarified that because Calvin owned the home, code enforcement was required to communicate with him directly. Council Member Patrick Schaeffer added that compliance applied to the entire property, not only the front or side yard.

Ms. Leavitt explained that one of the contested issues involved the family's stored firewood. She said that her household relied on wood for heating and that code enforcement had given conflicting information—first requiring the wood to be placed on pallets, then later saying it must rest on concrete underlay. She stated that their wood was already stacked neatly on pallets and asked for clarification on the code. Mayor Bush replied that she was unaware of any requirement for concrete and said that the city's code only required wood to be stacked, not scattered or in large piles. She promised to call Code Enforcement Officer Mike the next morning to verify and correct any miscommunication. Ms. Leavitt's father, Calvin, confirmed that he had spoken with both Mike and another code officer in an effort to resolve the issue. He reiterated that the family had attempted to comply and said they had been told conflicting requirements. Mayor Bush restated that the official code had not been changed and that the original requirement—wood simply needed to be stacked—remained in effect. She requested that the family allow inspectors to verify the backyard cleanup so the fines could be cleared. City Attorney Nathan Bracken confirmed that there had been no amendment to the code section in question. Ms. Leavitt explained that her family had already disposed of a large camper that had previously been cited by cutting it into pieces and using a city-provided dumpster for removal. She said she felt they were being penalized even as they worked to comply, especially after spending \$4,000 on landscaping rocks that code enforcement later said must be replaced with concrete or asphalt. Mayor Bush reassured her that she would speak directly with the code enforcement department to clarify expectations and stop unnecessary confusion.

Officer Angie Oldham volunteered to be present during the next inspection to serve as a neutral mediator and witness. Mayor Bush supported this idea and instructed Ms. Leavitt and her father to coordinate with Officer Oldham to schedule a visit. She again emphasized that Calvin, as the property owner, should handle communication with code enforcement to avoid escalation.

Council Member Tina Snow asked for clarification regarding heater placement in homes, referencing her own property, and Mayor Bush confirmed that attic-installed heating units were acceptable under current code.

Ms. Leavitt and her father said they would work with Officer Oldham to arrange an inspection and mentioned that they could also film the backyard and send a video to code enforcement, as had been suggested previously. Mayor Bush agreed that this would be acceptable and said she would inform code enforcement that video verification would suffice. She stated that her goal was to resolve the issue quickly, ensure the fines were removed once compliance was confirmed, and allow the family to focus on staying warm through the upcoming winter. The meeting concluded with Ms. Leavitt and Calvin agreeing to the plan, and Mayor Bush assuring them she would contact code enforcement the next morning to finalize the arrangement.

9. **WORKSHOP** – None

10. **Stakeholder Updates/Information**

A. Kearns Improvement District (KID) - ***Greg Anderson, General Manager***

Greg Anderson addressed the council, first acknowledging the earlier discussion on emergency preparedness and response. He stated that his agency was eager to collaborate with the city on emergency management efforts, explaining that they were already heavily involved in coordinated response activities with partner agencies and first responders. Mr. Anderson noted that his organization maintained cooperative agreements with neighboring cities and service entities and played a critical role in many emergency operations. Mayor Kelly Bush affirmed that his agency was already included in communication networks related to emergency coordination and that the city would continue to keep them informed and involved. Mr. Anderson then provided an update on several ongoing infrastructure projects. He reported that construction along 5400 South had reached a key milestone over the previous weekend, as the contractor finally achieved the required water quality standards. This allowed crews to begin connecting the new water line that night at the intersection of 5400 South and 5600 West. He explained that three connections at the intersection would take approximately one week to complete, after which work would progress westward. Once the connections were finalized, the paving phase would begin, and he estimated that the entire project would be completed by the first week of October. He also shared that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had granted approval for his agency to submit final paperwork for a funding grant related to the Sam's Boulevard and Kearns Junior High water replacement project. The plan was to open bidding for that project in October, begin construction in the spring, and complete the work before the start of the next school year in August. Finally, Mr. Anderson informed the council that his organization's board would begin its annual budget process the

following evening. He said that extensive work had gone into developing a sound proposal and that preliminary results would be shared publicly after the board's initial review. Mr. Anderson encouraged residents and interested parties to attend upcoming Board of Trustees meetings to participate in the budget discussions. He concluded by expressing confidence in the proposed budget solutions and appreciation for the city's continued collaboration.

B. Kearns Library - *Lee Whiting, Librarian*

Lee Whiting, manager of the Kearns Branch Library, welcomed the mayor and council and presented the library's annual Community Assessment Report (Attachment D), an overview of how the facility serves the local population and its evolving role in the community. He began by explaining the library's financial and ownership structure. The building, completed five years earlier, was financed through a New Market Tax Credit arrangement—a federal program allowing private investors to fund public infrastructure projects in exchange for tax credits. A private corporation built the library, which the county library system currently leases under a rent-to-own agreement lasting about eight years. After that period, ownership will transfer to the county. Mr. Whiting noted that rent costs remained high for several more years but were part of the original financing arrangement. He described the library's performance and usage statistics for the prior year. The Kearns Branch housed approximately 80,000 items, circulated roughly 300,000 materials, and welcomed over 180,000 visitors. Staff and community partners hosted more than 1,400 programs, drawing nearly 52,000 attendees. He said that data from a survey of approximately 3,000 patrons between July and September 2023 showed that about 65% of library users lived within two miles of the facility, and 80% within three miles. He emphasized that this confirmed the library's strong local reach, serving primarily Kearns and western Taylorsville residents, with additional patrons coming from as far west as the Mountain View Corridor. Mr. Whiting described the library as "the heartbeat of the Kearns community," highlighting its intentional role as an anchor for community redevelopment when the building was planned. He noted that the branch's visitor numbers continued to rise steadily, increasing 10% from 2022 to 2023 and another 5% the following year. He also discussed data from the Utah Healthy Places Index, which showed that Kearns faced several public health challenges. Recognizing this, the library had focused on programs that addressed wellness and community health, such as hosting the Wellness Bus, diabetes screenings, fitness and nutrition classes, and blood drives. Mr. Whiting stated that the library served an estimated 60,000 residents and invited the council to use the demographic data from the report to cross-reference with city data for planning purposes. He outlined additional usage metrics, including 36,000 Wi-Fi sessions, nearly 3,400 meeting room reservations by community groups, and extensive computer use by residents seeking internet access for homework, job searches, and daily needs. He said roughly 10% of all visitors engaged directly with librarians for assistance, whether for reference help, insurance applications, tax filing, or educational support. He described the extensive partnerships that allowed the library to sustain community programs. The facility regularly hosted local organizations, including PTAs, senior and dementia support groups, music programs such as the Mundi Project, and naturalization ceremonies in collaboration with the Salt Lake County Mayor's Office. He encouraged groups to reserve meeting or study rooms, explaining that organizations could book one meeting per week for an entire year and up to 90 days in advance. The assessment included a strategic analysis identifying the library's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and external challenges. He said

this SWOT and TOES (Threats, Opportunities, Weaknesses, Strengths) analysis helped staff identify how to adapt programs to community needs. Top priorities included improving public health, financial literacy, parenting skills, education access, and workforce development. He highlighted several active collaborations, including the My Kearns Co-Op Coalition and Proxima Career Paths, a University of Utah Hospitals initiative helping residents pursue healthcare careers such as nursing or medical technology. He encouraged the council to consider how the city could promote these workforce pipelines, particularly with the new hospital under development in West Valley City. Mr. Whiting said new programs launching that fall included a diabetes prevention course, an exercise and nutrition class beginning in January, and a “Wellness Bus” partnership that would allow residents to undergo same-day health testing. Parenting and early literacy classes continued to be in high demand, and the library sought to expand offerings in teen programming and family mental health support. He also discussed the library’s community safety and workforce initiatives. The branch hosted two paid technology interns through the Department of Workforce Services to provide young people with workplace experience. Mr. Whiting noted that Unified Police worked closely with the library under an interagency agreement to ensure a safe environment, with posted security shifts that officers could volunteer to fill. He encouraged any officers seeking additional hours to sign up.

Looking ahead, Mr. Whiting said the county library system was considering placing social workers in selected branches, with Kearns likely serving as a pilot site. The goal would be to connect patrons experiencing homelessness, trauma, or family crisis with social services while balancing the library’s resources and maintaining a welcoming public space. He closed by thanking the mayor and council for their support, emphasizing the library’s central role as a hub for learning, wellness, and community connection. He invited city leaders and residents to reach out with ideas or partnerships that could further strengthen Kearns’s civic and educational foundation.

C. Wasatch Front Waste Recycling District (WFWRD) - *Renee Plant, Manager*

Renee Plant from Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District began her remarks by distributing service vouchers to the council. Mayor Kelly Bush mentioned that she already had some vouchers on hand but asked Renee to give additional ones to Diana so they could be provided to code enforcement officers for community use. Council Member Tina Snow inquired whether the vouchers were still available online, noting that some residents had asked about them during her neighborhood outreach efforts. Ms. Plant confirmed that they were, explaining that some residents preferred paper copies and that the vouchers could be given directly to those individuals if needed. Mayor Bush added that residents could also contact her office or code enforcement to obtain a voucher.

Ms. Plant then provided a significant update, announcing that Pam Roberts, the long-serving General Manager of Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling, would retire at the end of the month. She introduced Evan Tyrrell as Pam Roberts’s successor and said he would assume the position as the new General Manager. Mayor Bush acknowledged Ms. Roberts’s upcoming retirement with humor, remarking that in her recent photo, Ms. Roberts appeared quite happy about it.

Evan Tyrrell then addressed the council, introducing himself formally. He stated that he would be working alongside Pam Roberts for several weeks to ensure a smooth transition before she retired at the end of September. Mr. Tyrrell shared that he held dual graduate degrees in Public Affairs and Environmental Science and had extensive experience in solid waste management. His prior roles included serving as Solid Waste and Fleet Services Director for the City of Flagstaff, Arizona, and as Executive Director of the Grand County Solid Waste Special Service District in Moab, Utah. He explained that his goal as the incoming general manager was to continue providing high-quality waste and recycling services at the most reasonable rates possible, acknowledging the current challenges posed by inflation and workforce shortages, particularly in recruiting and retaining CDL-licensed drivers. He informed the council that the district's Board of Trustees was reviewing the seasonal container reservation program—also known as the “scrap” or dumpster program—to improve efficiency and customer satisfaction. He said one improvement being implemented was to prioritize residents who had reserved a container the previous year but were unable to receive one, allowing them first opportunity in the next cycle. He acknowledged that the program was extremely popular and sometimes caused frustration due to high demand.

Mayor Bush congratulated Mr. Tyrrell on his new position, welcomed him to his role, and expressed her appreciation for the update. She also reiterated the city's enthusiasm for continued collaboration with the district. The discussion concluded with Mr. Tyrrell thanking the mayor and council and affirming his commitment to maintaining strong service partnerships with Kearns and other member communities.

D. Unified Fire Authority (UFA) - *Chief Lintz*

Tyler Lintz, recently promoted to North Battalion Chief for the Unified Fire Authority (UFA), introduced himself to the council and provided an update on operations within Kearns. He explained that he had previously served as captain at Station 109 and wanted to introduce his crew, who he said “loved being here.” Chief Lintz then distributed handouts regarding Article 48, a new piece of legislation related to fire and building safety. He explained that the law was still evolving and that both local and state officials were learning about its implications as updates continued to emerge weekly. The handout summarized frequently asked questions and clarified what was currently known. Chief Lintz said that Chief Watkins was closely monitoring developments and providing updates to ensure cities remained compliant. He reminded the council that all municipalities were required to adopt the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code by January. City Attorney Nathan Bracken confirmed that this matched his earlier report, and Mayor Bush noted that while the requirement primarily targeted communities bordering natural vegetation—such as Emigration Canyon or Brighton—it was still advisable for Kearns to formally adopt the code. She added that keeping vegetation trimmed and properties maintained contributed to wildfire mitigation efforts overall.

Chief Lintz agreed, explaining that the new requirements would most significantly affect communities like Herriman and those near open spaces, while Kearns's compliance would be relatively straightforward given its urban environment. He and Mayor Bush briefly joked about the city's recent work mowing along the railroad corridor, with the mayor remarking that she hoped conditions would remain calm. Transitioning to emergency management, Chief Lintz

described a major multi-agency incident that occurred in Murray the previous month when a power outage affected the Intermountain Medical Center (IMC). He said the event provided an example of effective coordination between Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City agencies. During the four-hour outage, UFA managed both hospital response and ongoing 911 calls throughout the valley. Approximately 25 ambulances and five medical helicopters were used to transport patients to various facilities, and during one point on the west side, including Kearns and West Valley, only two ambulances remained available for active emergency calls. Chief Lintz said the situation was tense for a time but ultimately resolved smoothly thanks to interagency cooperation and the support of Gold Cross Ambulance.

He then presented local response statistics for Kearns stations. Truck 109 had responded to 263 incidents in the last reporting period, Ambulance 109 handled 190 incidents, and Ambulance 107 handled 144. He said UFA still anticipated that Engine 107 could be operational again by either November or January, depending on scheduling. He praised his crews for maintaining excellent response times, explaining that each platoon's goal was to leave the station within two minutes of receiving a call, and the current average was one minute and twenty seconds—even during nighttime calls when firefighters were asleep. Mayor Bush asked whether the reinstatement of Ambulance 107 had made a noticeable difference in service levels, and Chief Lintz confirmed that it had. He said multiple calls often occurred simultaneously in Kearns, and having additional units available had improved coverage and reduced response strain.

In closing, Chief Lintz informed the council that UFA would soon launch a public education campaign focused on fire safety and lithium-ion battery hazards. He explained that incidents involving these batteries—commonly found in household devices and electric vehicles—had been increasing, prompting the department to expand community outreach and prevention messaging. He briefly reviewed his attached presentation materials (Attachment E), emphasizing proper storage, charging, and disposal practices to help reduce future fire risks.

E. Unified Police Department (UPD)

Chief Levi Hughes shared the recent UPD statistics with the Council (Attachment F) and moved to commending his team's recent enforcement efforts. He recognized one of his sergeants, who was at the precinct processing evidence following a warrant operation earlier that day. Chief Hughes reported that the precinct had executed four warrants in the past several weeks, successfully shutting down several drug houses and removing multiple offenders from the community. He noted that the public had expressed significant gratitude for these actions and that the operations had helped improve neighborhood safety. He highlighted that Sergeant Sean Fawcett had received an award earlier that day from the District Attorney's Office during the command staff meeting, acknowledging his outstanding service and leadership. Chief Hughes expressed pride in his team's work and said that the department remained fully committed to maintaining public safety and quality of life in Kearns. He also informed the council that the precinct was preparing for its annual "Carmageddon" initiative, a program that focuses on clearing abandoned and inoperable vehicles from streets and neighborhoods before the onset of winter.

Chief Hughes then turned his attention to Mayor Kelly Bush, stating that he had a special presentation to make on behalf of the Kearns Precinct. He presented Mayor Bush with the Division Commander Award, accompanied by an American flag that had been flown over the police station—a gesture he described as the highest honor he could bestow. He explained this honor was reserved for individuals who made an exceptional impact on the betterment of the City of Kearns and who consistently went above and beyond in their service. He said that in his five years serving Kearns, Mayor Bush had continually demonstrated dedication, compassion, and tireless effort for the community, adding that the precinct deeply valued and appreciated her leadership.

Mayor Kelly Bush expressed heartfelt thanks to Chief Hughes and the entire Unified Police Department staff for the recognition. She said the award and the gesture of the flag meant the world to her and thanked all those who had supported her and worked alongside her in service to Kearns.

F. Kearns Community Council – *Cassandra Hodges*

No current updates.

11. Other Business

A. Future Agenda Business – None

Council Member Snow moved to recess the City Council Meeting and moved to Closed Session for the reasons indicated below. Council Member Schaeffer seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

12. Closed Session if Needed as Allowed Pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-205

- A. Discussion of the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual**
- B. Strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation**
- C. Strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property**
- D. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and/or**
- E. Other lawful purposes as listed in Utah Code §52-4-205**

13. Adjourn

Council Member Snow moved to adjourn the September 8, 2025 City Council Meeting. Council Member Butterfield seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

The September 8, 2025 meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

This is a true and correct copy of the September 8, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes, which were approved on October 14, 2025.

Attest:

Diana Baun, City Recorder

Kelly Bush, Mayor

DRAFT