

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Council Chambers (Room No. 140)
2600 W Taylorsville Blvd
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

Elected Officials Present

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

Staff Members Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, CFO/Asst. City Admin.
Dina Blaes, Strategic Engagement
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Dir.
Richard Rich, Unified Fire Captain
Ryan Richards, Dep. City Attorney
Ben White, City Engineer

Excused: Council Member Anna Barbieri

6:00 PM BRIEFING SESSION

1. Review Agenda

Chair Harker conducted the briefing session which convened at 6:00 p.m. A roll call took place and all council members were present except Council Member Barbieri who was excused.

Regarding Agenda Item No. 7.1, City Attorney Tracy Cowdell explained that he would make a presentation about the Open and Public Meetings Act while Deputy City Attorney Ryan Richards would cover the Government Records Access Management Act.

Council Member Knudsen sought ideas as to how some of the leaner citizen committees could increase their membership. Mayor Overson pointed out that one way was for each of the council members to bring up the topic in their community council meetings. She also indicated that the volunteer application provided space for applicants to list *all* the committees they were interested in. That way, if their first-choice committee was full, the city could refer them to another one they had expressed interest in. She was happy to let applicants know of committees that needed participants. Council Member Cochran mentioned that in the situation of the Historic Preservation Committee, they needed younger volunteers who could take on some of the more physically demanding tasks.

2. Adjourn

The briefing session adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

6:30 PM REGULAR MEETING

Elected Officials Present

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

Staff Members Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, CFO/Asst. City Admin.
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
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Richard Rich, Unified Fire Captain
Ryan Richards, Dept. City Attorney
Ben White, City Engineer

Excused: Council Member Anna Barbieri

Others Present: Dean Paynter and Jared Smith

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Harker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., after which a roll call was conducted. All council members were present except Anna Barbieri who was excused.

1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND REVERENCE

Council Member Cochran led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which City Engineer Ben White offered a prayer.

1.2 MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Overson discussed the recent Fall Festival, noting it had the highest attendance ever according to Susan Yadeskie. The weather was perfect for the event. She expressed delight about the soft opening of the Spencer Webster Learning Center. She thanked the Historic Preservation Committee, Chair Harker, and city staff (particularly Joey and his team), for making the grounds look beautiful. The Days of '47 royalty attended, along with the musical group Crossfire. The Public Safety Committee participated as did the Salt Lake County Library and the Youth Council.

Mayor Overson announced that leaf bags were available on the second floor of City Hall while supplies lasted. Residents could bring bagged leaves to Swenson Valley Regional Park and Vista Park for pick up.

The Mayor reported on her visit to Summit Vista where she spoke about the state of the city, accompanied by Chair Harker since it was in her district. The residents had prepared a surprise: their choir sang two songs, including a welcome song with lyrics specifically written for the mayor.

After a productive discussion and question-and-answer session, the choir performed another song they had written about how Taylorsville was now their home.

Mayor Overson shared that she attended a TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Culture and Convention) board meeting where they discussed various projects seeking funding. She mentioned that Taylorsville would likely do well, with Salt Lake County's Mayor Wilson expected to make her recommendation to the county council in a few weeks as part of her budget presentation.

She highlighted the new BRT art installations at four bus stations within the city, praising the Art Selection Committee and Utah Transit Authority following through with the city's vision. She encouraged everyone to drive by and see the installations, which began on Sunstone and circled around to Atherton, with one on 4700 South.

The Mayor had attended the Salt Lake County Clerk's logic and accuracy test for the upcoming election, finding it informative. She announced that ballots had been mailed the previous day, and while Taylorsville was not an *early* voting center, it would be a voting center on Election Day. The ballot box in front of City Hall remained available for drop-offs.

Mayor Overson mentioned attending a Herriman thank you lunch, which she compared to Taylorsville's holiday open house. She valued the opportunity to meet with colleagues, elected officials, and others who held similar positions in different cities.

The Mayor praised the code enforcement team after observing their monthly Administrative Law Judge hearing, noting their efficiency and hard work in a thankless job.

She reported meeting with the Youth Council, who helped with the Fall Festival and set up grid walls for the upcoming art show at the Performing Arts Center. They also discussed Wreaths Across America, with 95 wreaths sold so far and 186 more needed. The deadline for wreath orders was November 28th.

Mayor Overson happily announced that the city was fully staffed after hiring a GIS Planner, though she acknowledged that staffing situations could change quickly.

Finally, she pointed out the newly planted Christmas tree outside city hall. The tree would be used for the city's tree lighting ceremony on December 1st, with plans for it to grow larger each year.

1.3 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

Chair Harker then provided a brief overview of upcoming city-sponsored events. Further details on each were available through the city's website.

1.4 CITIZEN COMMENTS

The Chair opened the time for citizen comments. However, there was no one who expressed a desire to speak, so she closed the citizen comment period.

2. APPOINTMENTS

2.1 Appointment Julia Glade as a Member of the Parks & Recreation Committee
– Jared Smith

Jared Smith explained that Julia Glade worked for the Salt Lake County Health Department as the Healthy City Coordinator. She began emailing Chair Harker and Mr. Smith after Taylorsville received its Healthy City designation. After attending committee meetings to understand how she could help from the county level, she decided to join the committee. Though she wasn't present that evening, Mr. Smith noted that she had Taylorsville connections and would help with future events and securing county involvement.

3. REPORTS

There were no reports on the agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Chair Harker moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2025 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knudsen and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters on the agenda.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

There were no financial matters on the agenda.

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Discussion Regarding Nominations to Serve on the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District – Mayor Overson

Mayor Overson explained that City Administrator John Taylor had been Taylorsville's representative on the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Board for Division Number 3, and his term was expiring soon. The city needed to send a letter of recommendation to the governor with two names for appointment or reappointment. Mr. Taylor had agreed to continue serving if chosen, and Don Russell, who served on the city's Planning Commission and the Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District board, had also expressed interest.

Mayor Overson noted that the city would write a letter to the governor submitting both names, and the governor would make the appointment. She explained that per state statute, when a water conservancy district covered two counties, board members were appointed by the governor, whereas districts within a single county had elected representatives.

7.2 Training Regarding Utah's Open and Public Meetings Act and the Government Records Access Management Act

Mr. Cowdell provided the annual training required by state law on the Open and Public Meetings Act. He emphasized two guiding principles: 1) that government business was the people's business, not personal business, and 2) public business must be conducted openly with public deliberations.

Mr. Cowdell defined a meeting as when a quorum (three council members in Taylorsville) met either in person or electronically. This included workshop sessions and executive sessions. He clarified that chance meetings, holiday parties, and ribbon cuttings were not meetings, but could become meetings if council members began discussing city business.

He explained that public bodies were created by the constitution, statutes, rules, ordinances, or resolutions. These bodies must provide at least 24 hours' notice for meetings, with agendas containing sufficient specificity to inform the public about discussion topics.

Mr. Cowdell cautioned about potential meetings occurring over social media if council members discussed policy matters in that forum. He also reviewed requirements for reasonable accommodations, noting that the city must provide and pay for interpreters for individuals with disabilities but was not required to provide language interpretation for non-English speakers.

Deputy City Attorney Ryan Richards then presented on the Government Records Access Management Act (GRAMA). He explained that the legislative intent language regarding balancing public access to information with privacy rights was removed from the law in May of this year, though practical implications remained unclear.

He pointed out that records could include books, letters, documents, papers, maps, plans, photographs, films, cards, tapes, recordings, and electronic data that were prepared, owned, received, or retained by a government entity. He noted exceptions to what constituted a record, including personal notes, temporary drafts, private calendars, and confidential communications.

Mr. Richards reviewed the process for requesting government records through the city's website and explained the different classifications of records: public (the default), private, controlled, and protected. He emphasized best practices, including remembering that government business was public, not writing anything in emails or texts that one wouldn't want published, and preserving records appropriately.

The training concluded with advice to consult with legal counsel when questions arose about GRAMA requirements or requests.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION

The council members did not raise any subsequent issues for consideration.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Chair Harker briefly listed upcoming meetings of both the city council and planning commission.

10. CLOSED SESSION

183 There was no need for a closed session.

184 **11. ADJOURN**

185 **MOTION: Council Member Knudsen moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by**
186 **Council Member Cochran and Chair Harker declared the meeting adjourned.**

187 The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

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192 *These minutes created with the aid of HeyGov Artificial Intelligence.*

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