

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Council Chambers – Room No. 140
2600 W Taylorsville Blvd
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

ATTENDANCE

6:00 P.M. BRIEFING SESSION

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Kristie S. Overson
Council Chair Meredith Harker
Council Vice Chair Robert Knudsen
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Curt Cochran

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, CFO/Asst. City Admin.
Dina Blaes, Strategic Engagement
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Ryan Richards, Dep. City Attorney
Ben White, City Engineer
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Dir.

Excused: Council Member Anna Barbieri

Others Present: Carl Fauver and Gordon Willardson

Chair Harker conducted the briefing session which convened at 6:01 p.m. A roll call took place, and all council members were present except Council Member Barbieri who was stuck in traffic but expected to arrive in time for the regular meeting.

1. Review Agenda

The Chair briefly reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting. She pointed out that there would be no vote taken on item number 5.1. It was merely an opportunity for members of the public to speak.

Mayor Overson explained that regarding item number 7.1, the amounts had changed somewhat, and she would provide that update during the meeting and read some required language into the record.

The Mayor then explained that it would be necessary to hold a second meeting in December, specifically on December 17th. A meeting of the Redevelopment Agency Board would take place on the same evening.

There would also be a Board of Canvassers meeting on November 18th at which time the Board would review and accept the election returns.

2. Adjourn

The briefing session adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

6:30 PM REGULAR SESSION

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Elected Officials Present

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Ryan Richards, Deputy City Atty

Others Present: Melanie Bennett, Rhonda Clark Ken Donarski, John E. Gidney, Lynn Handy, Kay McDonell, Barbara Riddle, Christina Walsh, Jason Wheeler, and Rob Wood

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Harker called the regular session to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance & Reverence – *Council Member Burgess*

Council Member Burgess led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Council Member Knudsen offered some comments on the importance of focusing on the light things, especially when there was also darkness.

1.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Overson began her report by congratulating Council Chair Harker and Council Member Knudsen on their recent reelection. She thanked the entire city council for their service to the community despite the challenges that often came with public service.

She noted that Chick-fil-A had recognized Taylorsville City as business of the day for their community contributions. She and city colleagues had enjoyed visiting the restaurant and

81 mentioned that Chick-fil-A offered free bingo every Tuesday night, serving as a wonderful
82 community partner.

83 The Mayor proceeded to highlight recent Arts Council activities, including the Taylorsville-Salt
84 Lake Community College Symphony concert that featured young artists performing piano
85 concertos. She described the performances as "exquisite" and comparable to a "mini Gina
86 Bachauer concert."

87 Mayor Overson reported on the Arts Council's recent art show that showcased talented local artists,
88 with artwork being raffled during the event. She also discussed the Arts Council's production of
89 the show "Quilters," which depicted pioneer stories and legacies through song, dance, and speech,
90 calling it "a delightful departure" for the Arts Council.

91 The Mayor mentioned her representation of the city at Hamlet Homes' thirtieth anniversary
92 celebration, noting Hamlet had built the Muir Homes in Taylorsville west of Bangerter Highway.
93 She described an Evening of Art event featuring three celebrated artists – a metal sculptor,
94 woodturner, and painter.

95 Mayor Overson provided updates on the TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Culture, and Convention)
96 Board, reporting that Taylorsville's application for \$1,500,000 for Phase 2 of Taylorsville Park had
97 been tentatively awarded \$1,250,000, pending Salt Lake County budget adoption. She also noted
98 that dirt was already moving at Summit Park in preparation for Phase 2 there.

99 The Mayor announced that Taylorsville had received a \$21,500 ZAP (Zoo, Arts & Parks) grant to
100 be shared by the Arts Council, Historic Preservation Committee, and the Plaza+Art program.

101 Mayor Overson reported that the Taylorsville Exchange Club had partnered with the Murray City
102 Exchange Club for their Haunted Woods event and mentioned that the Freedom Wall project was
103 complete with new upgrades, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for spring.

104 She highlighted the city's first-ever "Boo Dash" event at the park, thanking the Parks and
105 Recreation Committee for spearheading the event, and noted Council Member Burgess and
106 Council Chair Harker wore costumes to the event.

107 The Mayor mentioned speaking to the Webelos scout troop at St. Matthew Lutheran Church about
108 majority and plurality voting. She also spoke at the Universal Team USA competition held at the
109 Sheraton and Mid Valley Performing Arts Center.

110 Mayor Overson reported on Youth Council activities, including their job shadow selections of city
111 employees and council members, and noted the ongoing push for Wreaths Across America, with
112 116 wreaths sponsored so far and 165 more needed.

113 She concluded by recognizing city employees, reading a complimentary email about Davis Brown
114 and Maribel Cortez, and highlighting recognition of a police officer by a Granite School District
115 bus driver. She noted three current job openings in the City: victim advocate, planner, and
116 receptionist.

1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events – *Chair Harker*

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

1.4 Citizen Comments

Christina Walsh introduced herself as the manager of the Taylorsville branch of the Salt Lake County Library. She informed the Council that the library would be closing for 5-6 months, likely beginning in December or January, for an entryway remodel to address sinking concrete, rotting wood, and other issues. The library hoped to reopen by June 1st. She acknowledged the closure would be disruptive to the community but necessary for improvements.

2. APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments on the agenda.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Audit Report – *Scott Harrington/Rob Wood*

Scott Harrington presented the annual audit report, noting that the document was nearly 100 pages long and had been prepared with assistance from all city departments, with special acknowledgment to Stephanie and Shelley from the accounting department, the mayor, and JT. Harrington explained the report was in draft form, awaiting numbers from two component units, but otherwise complete. The report had been reviewed by the budget committee about a week and a half before.

Rob Wood from the audit firm thanked the council and the budget committee volunteers for their service. He explained that a thorough examination of the city's financial statements had been conducted for the year that ended June 30, 2025, including confirmations with Salt Lake County, the state treasurer's office, Utah Retirement Systems, Department of Transportation, and the State Tax Commission.

Mr. Wood noted the report was in draft form because financial information from two component units – Taylorsville Arts Council and Taylorsville Days – due to medical issues affecting the individual who had that detail. A discussion was held about ensuring all that detail was available to more than one person. The report was due to the state auditor's office by the end of December.

Mr. Wood highlighted that he anticipated issuing an unmodified opinion, meaning no material exceptions were noted in the financial statements. He noted significant capital activity, with \$9.4 million spent in the capital project fund, \$2.7 million on community and economic development projects in the redevelopment agency fund, and \$2 million on public parks. All funds had been spent within their approved budgets.

Mr. Wood mentioned one recommendation regarding a \$831,000 temporary loan between the general fund and storm drain fund that had not yet been repaid, suggesting it should be formalized with an interest rate attached.

He reported that the general fund's balance was at 34.9% of revenues, just under the state's maximum threshold of 35%.

Council Chair Harker expressed appreciation for the positive audit report, noting that Taylorsville prided itself on running "lean and mean" and using taxpayer dollars wisely.

3.2 Unified Fire Authority – Captain Richard Rich

Captain Rich presented the UFA quarterly report, noting that call volumes remained stable compared to previous quarters. He reported that most calls in Taylorsville were handled by the two stations located within the city, with some assistance from other units during training periods.

Captain Rich announced that 20 new recruits would be graduating on November 13th at 6 PM at the Jordan Academy for Technology & Careers (JATC) in Riverton after completing their EMS training. He mentioned that Taylorsville served as a great training ground for new firefighters.

He discussed House Bill 48, which was changing wildland urban interface maps throughout Utah, potentially affecting insurance rates and requiring inspections. Captain Rich explained that currently, no Taylorsville properties rose to the level requiring action under this legislation. He noted that UFA was supportive of the bill and was working to ensure efficient implementation.

Captain Rich highlighted UFA's 13th annual chili cook-off, which began with Taylorsville crews and raised over \$70,000 this year compared to \$6,500 in its first year. The funds supported the University of Utah burn camp for children and young adults who were burn survivors. He proudly noted that the UFA team won awards for best chili, best booth, and most money raised.

Captain Rich concluded with safety messages about checking smoke detectors, having carbon monoxide detectors near sleeping areas, and being aware of the dangers of lithium-ion batteries. He showed a video of a house fire caused by a lithium-ion battery, likely from a charging hoverboard, which demonstrated how quickly such fires can develop. He provided safety tips using the acronym "CHARGE" (Certified Products, Handle With Care, Alert While Charging, Ready to Respond, Get Out, Educate Others).

3.3 ChamberWest – Barbara Riddle

ChamberWest President and Chief Executive Officer Barbara Riddle presented a comprehensive update on ChamberWest activities, stating that the regional chamber now exceeded 400 members representing over 106,500 employees across five cities: West Valley, West Jordan, Taylorsville, Magna, and Kearns.

Ms. Riddle explained the chamber's governance structure, noting that Council Member Barbieri served on both the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors, while Mayor Overson and Ms. Blaes also participated on the Board of Governors.

She reported on key programs including the Chamber's ambassadors who conducted 28 ribbon cuttings from January through September. The Friday Connections networking event, held on the third Friday of each month, regularly attracted 50-60 attendees.

Ms. Riddle highlighted the Leadership Institute, which expanded to 32 participants this year, featuring 10 different sessions. The Legislative Affairs Committee continued to hold monthly meetings with 10 subcommittees, including a childcare task force with Council Member Barbieri's participation.

She discussed major events including their annual breakfast meeting, Women in Business Conference, annual job fair, golf events specifically designed to encourage women's participation, and their annual awards gala. Upcoming events included their fall conference featuring keynote speakers Robert Spendlove on the economy and Representative Jeff Burton on thriving through adversity.

Ms. Riddle mentioned new initiatives including roundtable conversations with federal delegation members, a Washington DC trip, an international trip to Ireland, an inaugural military immersion event in partnership with the Utah National Guard, and an upcoming "Pickle with a Purpose" pickleball fundraiser.

3.4 West Valley Animal Services – *Melanie Bennett*

Animal Services Director Melanie Bennett presented data on animal licenses issued, noting the comparison between dog park tags and city licenses for the past quarter. She reported that for the quarter, the shelter had 225 impounds from Taylorsville, with 124 animals being adopted or rescued. Ms. Bennett highlighted that they performed 30 trap-neuter-release procedures for cats this quarter, which was higher than normal.

Ms. Bennett presented data on animal control officer cases, reporting 615 total cases with 44 specifically at Mill Race Park. Officers issued 59 warnings or citations at the park to encourage compliance. She displayed response time data showing the department was meeting or exceeding their response time goals based on call priority.

The shelter had recently welcomed new officers Miguel Sanchez and Brayson Nobel, who were already handling smaller calls in their own trucks, with Caesar Anaya serving as their training officer after his recent promotion.

She highlighted several events including an August 1st shelter support program featuring pet accessory companies, treadmill demonstrations for dogs, professional photographers, and canine massage therapists. Bennett shared photos from their participation in the Night Out Against Crime event with Taylorsville PD, a Shelter Saturday adoption event in August, and the Pet-A-Palooza event at Wheeler Farm where they found homes for 6 dogs, 12 cats, and 3 rabbits. She also mentioned their participation at Fan X and a visit from Royce's pet studio for animal "glamour shots."

In response to a question from Council Member Knudsen about whether the recent ordinance change allowing three dogs per household without a permit had increased licensing, Ms. Bennett indicated they had not yet seen an increase, noting that education about the change was still ongoing.

Council Member Barbieri asked about raccoon trap procedures, and Bennett explained they use Urban Wildlife services. The city provides traps to residents who sign waivers allowing Urban Wildlife to come onto their property, and when raccoons or skunks are trapped, Urban Wildlife retrieved them.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2025

MOTION: Council Member Cochran moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2025 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knudsen and passed unanimously.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

5.1 Public Hearing- Accept Public Comment to Determine Priorities for Community Development and Housing Activities to Sustain and/or Improve the Taylorsville Community – Dina Blaes/Ken Donarski

Dina Blaes, Chief of Strategic Engagement for the Community and Economic Development Department, and Ken Donarski, consultant, presented information about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Ms. Blaes explained that despite the federal government shutdown, these processes need to continue as this public hearing is a critical first step for the program year beginning July 1, 2026.

She noted that Taylorsville worked closely with Salt Lake County on both CDBG and HOME funds. She explained that the county's Consolidated Plan for 2025-2029 had recently been completed, with Taylorsville contributing its portion. The plan focused on three main priorities: improving housing stability, improving economic mobility, and creating thriving neighborhoods through infrastructure like ADA-accessible sidewalks.

Ms. Blaes outlined the application timeline: pre-applications would be open from November 5-19, and formal applications from November 20 through January 6, with recommendations coming to the Council in spring.

Mr. Donarski added that the city was currently accepting applications for home ownership rehabilitation for low-income homeowners, with \$216,000 available pending Congressional action. He noted they currently had about five applications in process and were looking for more.

Chair Harker opened the public hearing.

Jason Wheeler of Assist Utah described the work his agency had been involved in since 1969 with the help of Community Development Block Grant funds which allowed them to provide small

construction grants to provide critical home repairs for low-income housing as well as accessibility improvements. He expressed gratitude to Taylorsville for their continued support.

Rhonda Clark of YMCA of Northern Utah described her entity's leadership program for youth and explained that almost half of their membership was comprised of Taylorsville kids. She thanked Taylorsville for its previous support and hoped that it could continue.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

There were no financial matters on the agenda.

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Information from the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District Regarding a Proposed Property Tax Increase- Mayor Overson

Mayor Overson presented information about a proposed property tax increase for the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District. She noted that the proposed increase had changed since her initial presentation a few months earlier, with the current proposal being 77 cents instead of 99 cents annually for the average homeowner.

Mayor Overson read the following into the record: *The South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District hereby announces its intent to levy a property tax rate that exceeds the current certified tax rate thereby increasing the current property tax. This proposed increase is necessary to ensure the continued delivery of essential public health services and to address operational and capital needs. The proposed increase amounts to \$320,000 which would bring the District's total property tax revenue to \$1,420,000 for the 2026 calendar year. This additional increase would fulfill the purpose of cost stabilization for essential services of \$160,000, to sustain uninterrupted service levels, restore key programs such as public relations and black fly control, improving the District's financial health. Operational enhancements of \$100,000 to expand drone-based surveillance and treatment, upgrade data systems for improved responsiveness and implement ecologically conscious control measures, a capital budget increase of \$60,000 to support future capital projects, modernize the fleet and equipment, and expand the laboratory capabilities. This represents an approximate 29.09% increase over the current certified tax rate. For context, the average homeowner with a property value of \$600,000 would see an estimated annual increase of .77, while a business owner with a property valued at \$600,000 would see an estimated annual increase of \$1.40.*

Council Chair Harker expressed surprise that the amount had decreased from the previous estimate of 90 cents, and Mayor Overson noted the mosquito abatement district was very frugal and fiscally responsible.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

There were no new items discussed.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Chair Harker briefly reviewed the dates and times of upcoming public meetings.

10. CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Knudsen moved to adjourn, and Chair Harker declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Jamie Brooks, MMC
City Recorder

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