

Minutes of the Hurricane City Council special meeting held on November 18, 2025, in the Council Chambers at 147 North 870 West, Hurricane, Utah at 5 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Nanette Billings and **Council Members:** Kevin Thomas, Clark Fawcett, Drew Ellerman, and Joseph Prete.

Members Excused: David Hirschi

Also Present: City Manager Kaden DeMille, City Attorney Dayton Hall, City Planner Gary Cupp, Assistant Planner Fred Resch III, Power Director Mike Johns, Public Works Director Mike Vercimak and City Recorder Cindy Beteag.

AGENDA

5:00 p.m. Call to Order –

Mayor Billings welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Prayer and Thought: Councilman Thomas

Pledge: Dave Imlay

Mayor Billings asked when the new Council would hold its swearing-in ceremony. Councilman Fawcett stated it is scheduled for January 5th at 4:30 p.m. Mayor Billings then invited the new Council members to the Council Christmas party in December. She also asked Gary Cupp if staff had designated members for the Economic Development Board. Mr. Cupp explained that staff has determined which departments should be represented, but specific individuals have not yet been assigned. He noted that he will include the Mayor on the board as well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Canvassing of the 2025 General Election

Cindy Beteag reported on the results of the General Election. Voter turnout was 45.2%, an increase from the 34% turnout for the primary election. The City has 13,165 registered voters, and a total of 5,956 ballots were counted. Of these, 5,725 were mail-in ballots, 23 were early in-person votes, 202 were cast in person on Election Day, one was an overseas ballot, and five were provisional ballots. Seventy-nine ballots were challenged, and 59 were ultimately rejected because voters did not correct them; 20 voters successfully cured their ballots after notification.

In the mayoral race, Clark Fawcett received 3,941 votes, followed by Nanette Billings with 1,996 votes. In the City Council race, Dave Imlay received 3,669 votes, Lynn Exhale received 2,872 votes, Michael Hirschi received 2,396 votes, and Kevin Thomas received 1,960 votes. A detailed precinct-by-precinct breakdown for all 14 precincts was also provided.

Councilman Prete requested a map showing each precinct with the corresponding percentage of votes. Mrs. Beteag confirmed that staff could prepare such a map.

Kevin Thomas motioned to approve the election results as presented. Seconded by Drew Ellerman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Billings congratulated the new Mayor and Council.

Councilman Prete noted that with Councilman Fawcett switching seats midterm, his current Council seat will need to be filled by appointment. He explained that during the last vacancy, he helped facilitate one-on-one meetings between the Council and candidates in a way that did not violate the Open Meeting Law and offered to do so again if the Council was in favor. Councilman Fawcett suggested holding meetings at different locations for the candidates. Dayton Hall reminded the Council that candidates must be interviewed in an open and public meeting and cautioned that interactions outside of an open meeting involving two Council Members and the Mayor could skirt the law. Councilman Fawcett expressed concern that one meeting may not allow sufficient time to interview all candidates. Councilman Ellerman noted that during his experience, the one-on-one meetings were preferable, as public interviews felt rigid and impersonal. He also appreciated having candidates go to a different room so that they did not answer the same questions in the same way, giving each candidate a fair opportunity. Councilman Fawcett added that he has asked staff to invite all candidates eliminated in this election and suggested holding two meetings to allow more thorough interviews. Councilman Ellerman reiterated that the meetings should remain one-on-one without two Councilmembers present. Mayor Billings noted that the final vote must occur in a public meeting. Cindy Beteag explained that during the previous vacancy, Councilmembers wrote down their votes, which were then read aloud, but the individual votes were not identified until the minutes were published. Mr. Hall stated that he could not find a way to justify that process, noting that the vote must occur in a public meeting. Councilman Fawcett suggested repeating the same procedure of writing down votes and passing them to the Mayor to read aloud including who made the vote. Mr. Hall clarified that, under state law, the Council has discretion over procedural matters, as long as they remain within the parameters of the law. The method of the Mayor collecting and reading the Councilmembers' votes aloud is acceptable as a procedural approach, provided it complies with the legal requirements.

Dave Imlay thanked Councilman Thomas and Mayor Billings for their service and support.

2. Closed Meeting held pursuant to Utah Code section 52-4-205

Mayor Billings invited the future council members to stay for meeting. Councilman Prete motioned to go into a closed meeting at 5:41 p.m. regarding pending or reasonably imminent litigation. Seconded by Kevin Thomas. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Joseph Prete motioned to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Kevin Thomas. Motion carried unanimously.