

REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BRIGHAM CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 20, 2025
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	DJ Bott	Mayor
	Dave Hipp	Councilmember
	Dave Jeffries	Councilmember
	Matthew Jensen	Councilmember
	Ryan Smith	Councilmember
	Robin Troxell	Councilmember
ALSO PRESENT:	Tom Cooper	Power Director
	Nicole Cottle	City Attorney - <i>Via Zoom</i>
	Tom Kotter	Finance Director
	Derek Oyler	City Administrator
	Jeremy Poppleton	Assistant Fire Chief
	Tyler Pugsley	Assistant City Administrator
	Kristina Rasmussen	City Recorder
	Chief Reyes	Police Chief
	Casey Smith	Power Superintendent

Mayor Bott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The invocation was offered by Bishop Alan Cochran – Brigham City 25th Ward. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bott introduced two consent items:

1. Approval of the November 6, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval to write off utility accounts totaling \$8,792.12 due to being sent to collections.

Councilmember Hipp made a motion to approve the consent item as presented. Councilmember Jensen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mayor Bott turned the time over to Assistant Fire Chief Poppleton for promotions in the Fire Department for Battalion Chief Dustin Yates, Captain Doug Higgins and Firefighter/Paramedic Camden Oswald. The Oath of Office was administered.

Assistant Chief Poppleton first invited Battalion Chief Dustin Yates to join him. He explained that Battalion Chief Yates had been with Brigham City for approximately twenty years. Poppleton stated that Yates assumed the rank of Battalion Chief on October 1st and commended Yates for stepping strongly into the leadership role.

He then invited Captain Doug Higgins to the front and explained that Higgins had been with the department for nine years and was officially promoted to Captain on October 1st. He described the captain role as fundamental to department operations, particularly in providing supervision, mentorship, and leadership among crews.

Next, Poppleton invited Paramedic Camden Oswald to step forward. He explained that Oswald had completed the paramedic program in mid-August and had since been serving in that role. He described

the paramedic designation as demanding and essential, requiring advanced skill, knowledge, and a strong commitment to patient care.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Resolution Amending FY 2025-26 Budget

Mr. Kotter reviewed the first budget item: creation of a journeyman meterman position. He invited Power Superintendent Casey Smith, who explained that the department's aging metering system and rapid growth require a dedicated specialist. Substation crews are currently spending more than half their time on metering—outside of their core duties—which impacts maintenance of major assets.

Mr. Smith emphasized that accurate CT meters are essential for proper billing and system reliability. Many CTs are aging or wired incorrectly, and early testing found wiring problems at three of four commercial locations reviewed by an outside meterman—capturing only about two-thirds of actual usage. A dedicated meterman would handle testing, repairs, CT installation, troubleshooting, and manage non-pay disconnects.

Mr. Kotter stated the personnel cost for the remainder of the year is approximately \$135,000, plus a vehicle, which is expected to cost about \$42,000. He noted the position should pay for itself by improving metering accuracy, and clarified it is not a meter reader role; AMI handles reads. Council asked whether CTs could cause over-billing; staff confirmed the more common issue is under-billing.

After presenting the journeyman meterman request, Finance Director Tom Kotter introduced the second part of the proposed budget amendment: additional funds related to Brigham City's proposed transition from the Box Elder Communication Center to the Weber Area Dispatch 911 and Emergency Services District. He reviewed the funding model, explaining that Weber Dispatch is a separate taxing district with a fixed rate of 0.000163, which—when applied to Brigham City's taxable value—equals approximately \$340,000 annually. Because Brigham City had already budgeted \$250,000 in anticipation of future dispatch costs, the amendment requested \$90,000 more, to be funded from interest income.

Police Chief Chad Reyes and Assistant Fire Chief Poppleton provided a joint explanation of why the transition is being proposed and why public safety personnel overwhelmingly support the move. Their remarks focused on four key themes:

1. Longstanding Concerns With Current Dispatch Operations

Chief Reyes explained that during his four years in Brigham City—and Fire Chief Thueson's five—public safety leadership has repeatedly asked the Box Elder Communication Center (run by Utah DPS) to modernize protocols, adopt national best practices, and correct persistent operational deficiencies. Examples include:

- Failure to consistently run the caller's phone number for associated address/name history.
- Difficulty implementing two-officer response protocols requested by Brigham City.
- Inconsistent call-handling practices compared to modern dispatch standards.

He stated that despite multiple meetings with DPS leadership and statewide dispatch administrators, many of Brigham City's concerns have "fallen on deaf ears."

Chief Reyes described two major events that pushed the issue to the forefront:

a. Dispatch server outage - Earlier in the year, the Box Elder dispatch servers failed, forcing local agencies onto pen-and-paper dispatching for nearly two weeks. Weber and Logan dispatch centers offered immediate help, but their assistance was declined by state dispatch, leaving Box Elder operating manually.

b. The Tremonton tragedy - the fatal shooting of two police officers in Tremonton created renewed urgency. Chief Reyes stated he was not placing blame on dispatch, but emphasized that several of the issues Brigham had repeatedly requested improvements on—such as multi-officer response expectations and faster information sharing—were still unresolved at the time of the incident.

3. Weber Dispatch Capacity & Operational Advantages

Chief Reyes said Brigham City met with Weber Area Dispatch administrators, who conducted a call-volume analysis and confirmed sufficient capacity on Weber's North Channel, which historically has lower call volume.

He highlighted the benefits of Weber's model:

- Alignment with national best practices for call-taking and dispatch protocols.
- Modern procedures better suited to high-risk calls such as domestics and mental-health emergencies.
- Better quality control, more robust supervision, and higher staffing levels.
- Stronger interoperability with Morgan and Weber agencies, all of which operate within the same district model.

4. Mutual Aid, Call Transfers & CAD-to-CAD Integration

Chief Reyes acknowledged concerns raised by councilmembers about mutual aid coordination, cross-jurisdiction incidents, and call-transfer delays. He addressed these in detail:

Mutual aid

- Brigham City radios can scan Box Elder channels, meaning Brigham officers will still hear nearby agency activity.
- If Box Elder needs Brigham's help, Box Elder dispatch can notify Weber dispatch, or use regional channels to request assistance.

Call transfers

- Some transferred calls are unavoidable, such as incidents near city borders (e.g., Walmart property line shared with Perry).
- Utah is implementing a statewide CAD-to-CAD system expected to significantly reduce delays by automatically forwarding call data from one center to another.
- Although the CAD-to-CAD rollout is not complete, Weber dispatch leadership believes it will be operational "within a month or two."

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Councilmember Jensen and seconded by Councilmember Jeffries. The motion passed unanimously.

Dale Smith - Questioned whether dispatch costs may continue escalating after the first year. He also suggested the City should allow the State more time to address its dispatch problems.

He expressed concern that agencies like Highway Patrol may not be able to monitor multiple channels without reprogramming, potentially delaying response and stated that "30 seconds can make a difference" in emergencies.

Brian Smith - shared a recent high-risk incident in Perry and multiple officers from various agencies responded rapidly because they were all on the same channel. He expressed concern that:

- Under Weber dispatch, Brigham officers may not have been notified as quickly.

- The current CAD-to-CAD system is not yet functioning reliably.
- Mutual aid might be delayed until Weber passes the call to Box Elder.
- Citizens and officers should be more aware of the potential change before it is finalized.

Councilmember Hipp made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilmember Smith and passed unanimously.

Council had a few clarifying questions for Chief Reyes and Assistant Chief Poppleton which were clarified below.

Service level for residents

Chief Reyes emphasized:

- Residents will still dial 911 as usual.
- Weber dispatch will answer Brigham calls immediately.
- Service quality is expected to increase due to stronger protocols.

Example of recent misrouted domestic call

Chief Reyes described a call from last week where Box Elder dispatch sent officers to the wrong home based only on GPS “ping,” even though the caller’s number had a long documented history at a different address. He stated this failure to run caller history is *precisely* the type of deficiency Brigham has asked to remedy for years.

Dispatching only one officer

Council asked whether Box Elder dispatch routinely dispatches only one officer to domestics. Chief Reyes confirmed Brigham has repeatedly requested two-officer domestic responses as a safety measure, but Box Elder dispatch still often assigns only one and then calls for backup. This practice is inconsistent with national best practice standards.

Cost stability

City Administrator Derek Oyler clarified that dispatch costs are based on a fixed tax rate, not arbitrary fee increases. Brigham City’s costs will change only if its taxable value changes, just as they do for Weber and Morgan residents.

Motion: Councilmember Hipp moved to approve the resolution amending the FY 2025–26 Brigham City budget as presented including funding for the journeyman meterman position and the additional dispatch funding associated with the proposed move to Weber Area Dispatch. Seconded by Councilmember Troxell.

Roll Call:

Councilmember Hipp – Aye; Councilmember Jensen – Aye; Councilmember Smith – Aye;
Councilmember Troxell – Aye; Councilmember Jeffries – Aye

ACTION ITEM

The Mayor then moved to Action Item 1, consideration of the interlocal agreement with Weber Area Dispatch 911 and Emergency Services District, noting that much of the substantive discussion had already taken place during the public hearing and subsequent questions.

Staff confirmed that the interlocal agreement was included in the council packet and had already been reviewed and unanimously approved by the Weber dispatch governing board.

- **Motion:** Councilmember Smith moved to approve the interlocal agreement between Brigham City and Weber Area Dispatch 911 and Emergency Services District for dispatch services. Seconded by Councilmember Jensen.

Roll Call:

Councilmember Hipp – Aye; Councilmember Jensen – Aye; Councilmember Smith – Aye;
Councilmember Troxell– Aye; Councilmember Jeffries – Aye

Stormwater Management Plan

Public Works Director Tyler Pugsley explained that the City is required to hold two public hearings per year to allow residents the opportunity to comment on the Stormwater Management Plan.

Tyler thanked his staff for their ongoing work and dedication in meeting the State's evolving stormwater regulations. He explained that stormwater management requirements continue to increase, and he expressed appreciation for the highly trained staff who ensure the City remains compliant.

Councilmembers briefly discussed the importance of stormwater management, with one councilmember sharing that stormwater education was one of their first assignments on the City Council and noting the value of residents helping keep gutters and drains clear of debris. The councilmember commented that simple neighborhood maintenance can significantly reduce storm-related costs. Tyler agreed, emphasizing that public awareness is a key component of the program and that residents serve as an important second set of eyes. He also reminded the Council that mandatory annual stormwater training is required for all staff and elected officials.

Councilmember Jensen made a motion to open the public hearing specific to the Stormwater Management Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Hipp and approved unanimously.

No public comments were offered.

Councilmember Jensen made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilmember Jeffries. No action was required on this public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alexis Rowley spoke on behalf of 67 residents who signed a petition titled “*Protect Our Land and Water: Prevent Permit Approval for a Nuclear Power Plant in Brigham City, Utah.*” She expressed concerns about earthquake risk, limited water resources, and encouraged the City to pursue geothermal or hydrogen alternatives. She asked the Council to deny any nuclear-related permit applications.

Ian Harding expressed support for the proposed nuclear project. He stated that modern small modular reactors are significantly safer than older designs and noted potential economic benefits, including substantial job creation.

Dan Taylor shared mixed feelings about the nuclear proposal. While supportive of the technology, he expressed concern about the impact of an estimated 1,300 incoming workers. He also:

- Requested permanent solar radar speed signs on 5th West
- Expressed concern about the appearance of new City vehicles during a time of rising resident costs
- Requested reopening the recycling center on Saturdays

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Troxell attended BRAG Human Services and CADVA meetings. She recognized the critical work these organizations perform across Box Elder and Cache Counties, especially with shrinking budgets. She suggested the City consider hosting informational presentations from companies involved in the nuclear proposal.

Councilmember Smith attended a Box Elder County Economic Development meeting and noted preparations for the March business summit. He thanked residents for participating in the recent municipal election and for his re-election. He also attended a Habitat for Humanity fundraising dinner.

Councilmember Hipp thanked residents who spoke during public comment and encouraged additional community participation.

Mayor Bott thanked Ms. Rowley for gathering 67 signatures in just a few days. He asked her to return to a future meeting with information on nuclear plants across the U.S. and surrounding population data. He explained he has reviewed similar information but believes it would be beneficial for the petition group to research it as well.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

City Administrator Derek Oyler provided updates on two major infrastructure projects:

- **Penstock Replacement Project:** Secondary water will be shut off beginning this week or early next week to continue the second year of the replacement project in the canyon.
- **Forest Street Bridge Construction:** Girders are being installed this week, reflecting significant progress.

Mr. Oyler addressed a public comment regarding green waste site Saturday closures, clarifying that no public survey was conducted. Instead, the schedule was adjusted based on six and a half years of usage data, consistently showing low winter Saturday usage. The schedule was reviewed and approved by the Council two years ago.

He also reviewed Brigham City's wholesale power portfolio, noting the City's active pursuit of diverse resources. Through UAMPS, Brigham City participates in:

- Two geothermal projects
- Two natural gas projects
- A solar + battery project
- A natural gas burn-off resource

The City also receives hydropower and has existing wind investments. The recent nuclear announcement represents an additional resource under evaluation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation of Library Usage and Services

Ian Harding, Tiffany Bollingham, and Library Director Elizabeth Schow gave the presentation.

Ian Harding reported increased library usage, circulation, and program attendance. He highlighted the value of the library's digital resources, including the Chilton automotive database and various online learning programs.

Tiffany Bollingham emphasized the popularity of Libby, Universal Class, CreativeBug, EBSCO, and Learning Express.

Elizabeth Schow reviewed program growth, including a successful Summer Reading Program, new book clubs, and well-attended activities such as Lego Club and the Read With Porter therapy dog program. She also highlighted special events, including local-scapes classes, ghost-hunting programs, and author visits. The library is purchasing additional materials on modern nuclear technology in response to community interest.

Public Infrastructure District for Avian Shores

Mr. Oyler introduced the item, explaining that the City received a certified application for a Public Infrastructure District for the Avian Shores development. He reminded the Council that the zoning for the area was approved two weeks earlier and that the PID discussion was expected to follow. He then turned the time over to attorney Aaron Wade, who joined remotely to give a brief overview.

Aaron explained that a PID is a special district created by the City at the request of 100% of the property owners, used to finance public infrastructure within its boundaries. He clarified that PIDs can levy property taxes or assessments, but those charges apply only inside the PID area—and in this case, the land is vacant, so the future residents would be the ones paying. Assessments, if used, must be paid off before a homeowner takes title, while the PID tax would continue until the bonds are paid off. He also noted that board members are initially appointed by the City but eventually transition to residents through elections.

When asked about the purpose of the board after infrastructure is built, Aaron explained that the board makes decisions about bond refinancing, tax-rate adjustments, audits, and similar limited functions—typically just a few meetings per year.

Councilmember Jensen asked about consent requirements. Aaron confirmed that formation, tax-bond issuance, and any increase in the tax rate require 100% property-owner consent, while other amendments require a majority vote of the board.

Mr. Oyler then reviewed the project costs. Engineers estimate roughly \$26 million in public infrastructure, most of which relates to major regional improvements such as 1200 West, a new regional lift station, and associated water, power, and trail systems. He emphasized that these are off-site, city-scale improvements, not typical subdivision streets.

Key points noted by staff and legal counsel:

- Approx. \$9,500 per lot at closing + a PID property tax levy for the life of the bonds.
- Full disclosures would be provided to homebuyers.
- Once the bonds are paid off, the PID dissolves and the levy disappears.
- The Council has full authority to lower the allowed mill rate if it chooses.
- With recent changes to state law, the PID board can become self-appointing, and doing so helps keep the PID from being classified as a City “component unit” in audits.
- The application proposes a 3-member initial board: Boyd Cook, Garth Day, and Clay Jensen.

The Council briefly discussed whether the City should reappoint the PID board every four years or simply appoint the initial board and allow the board to self-manage from that point forward. Councilmembers indicated they preferred a one-and-done appointment, letting the board transition on its own as allowed under the new statute.

The developer also clarified that the PID does not cover local subdivision costs—they still must install all local roads and utilities—but rather funds the large regional corridors that benefit the broader area. He stressed that without a PID, those improvements would be difficult to finance.

The discussion concluded with the reminder that the full PID application and detailed financial documents will be included in the December 4 council packet, when the public hearing and potential action will take place.

At 8:15 PM Councilmember Jensen made a motion to adjourn into closed session to discuss real property. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith and carried out unanimously.

Councilmember Troxell – Aye; Councilmember Jeffries – Aye; Councilmember Jensen – Aye;
Councilmember Hipp – Aye; Councilmember Smith – Aye

At 8:49 PM the meeting returned to open session. Councilmember Jensen made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hipp and carried out unanimously.

The undersigned duly appointed Recorder for Brigham City Corporation hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete record of the November 20, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Dated this 8th of December, 2025.

Kristina Rasmussen

Kristina Rasmussen, City Recorder

** These meeting minutes were generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence and have been reviewed, edited and approved by Brigham City Staff.