

CASTLE DALE CITY

City Council Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2025



The City Council of Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah, met in an open meeting on November 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
20 S 100 E, Castle Dale, Utah

ATTENDEES

Mayor: Danny Van Wagoner

Council:

Bradley Giles

Joel Dorsch

Julie Johansen

Michael Jorgensen

Emily Mills

Maintenance Supervisor: Ignacio Arrien

Fire Chief: Ignacio Arrien

EMS: -

Land Use Administrator: Kerry Lake

Code Enforcer-Animal Control: Terry Lofthouse

Treasurer: Carolyn Montgomery

Recorder: Rebecca Norton

Others in attendance: Glen Gerber

WELCOME

Mayor Danny Van Wagoner was presiding and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

All City council members were in attendance.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Council member Giles motioned to approve the October Minutes, Council member Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Utility Late Fee:

The City Council discussed the 10% utility late fee listed in the application. Since customers sign a contract agreeing to the fee, the council needs to decide whether to keep or remove it. Council Member Johansen asked what qualifies as “late,” and it was clarified that payment is considered late 30 days after the bill is sent, even though the billing cycle covers two months. The mayor noted that a 30-day net is standard business practice. Giles added that utilities are shut off after two months of non-payment, which the mayor confirmed, emphasizing that the shutoff is separate from the late fee.

Council member Giles motioned to approve the late 10% late fee, Council member Dorsh Seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Canvass of Election:

2025 Castle Dale city Municipal General Election Results

Total Registered Voters were 877

Ballots Cast 392

Voter Turn Out % 46.9%

Castle Dale City Mayor

Amanda Fausett got 127

Danny Van Wagoner got 260

Castle Dale City Council

Mike Jorgensen 348

Glen Gerber 192

Council member Giles motioned to accept the canvass of the election: Council member Mills second the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Employee Christmas Bonus:

Council Member Dorsch stated Nosh \$350, Duston \$350, Buzz \$350, Carolyn \$350, Rebecca \$350, Kevin \$350, Josie \$175, Richelle \$175, Courtnie \$175, Kerry \$175, Terry \$175. After taxes. Council Member Johansen asked who all those people are and the mayor answered her saying Employees. Johansen stated what are they doing for the city? Nosh replied Duston, Buzz, Carolyn, Rebecca are full time Kevin is full time but temporary employee but soon to be back up to animal control. Josie and Richelle are cross guards and Courtnie as secretary and those last 3 only get an hour or two a day.

Council member Dorsch motioned to approve Employee Christmas Bonus: Council Member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Electronic Speed Limit Signs

The mayor presented an option for new solar-powered electronic speed limit signs, noting it may not be the best deal but is the only one currently available. The old sign is gone and was about 15 years old. While plug-in signs are cheaper, there's no available power on either side of town to support them. The group discussed possible placement on the west side, with the mayor suggesting the rock garden near J & D. They also need to confirm radar coverage requirements. The mayor emphasized the need to slow traffic because Main Street feels like a freeway. Joel will contact the county for input and possible funding, and the council decided to table the issue for now. Johansen suggested speaking with Mayor Jackson in the meantime.

Council member Dorsch motioned to table the electronic speed sign; Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Authorizing the 25% payment to Garrett Playgrounds

The council discussed authorizing a 25% payment to Garrett Playgrounds to lock in the current bid and avoid a 3% price increase. The project cost is \$87,499.75, and the city currently has \$270,000 available. The bid includes compacted stone, which significantly contributes to the price. The city and county will handle the digging, while Garrett will return to compact the stone before installation.

Council Member Johansen asked about county funding, and the mayor confirmed the county contributed \$200,000. Johansen and Tuttle will survey the area next week to measure the playground space (approximately 145 ft by 80 ft). The county is deeding the land to the city but not the bathrooms. The mayor also plans to work with Council Member Giles to add trees on the west side for shade, and existing pavilions will remain in place.

Council member Dorsch motioned to pay the 25% payment to Garrett Playground; Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Crosswalks at the High School

The council discussed adding crosswalks near the high school. Nosh confirmed the project is on the list. While he initially planned for one crosswalk, Julie recommended two: one on 10th North and another near the seminary sidewalk where junior high students cross from the bus. They discussed the need for proper approaches and ADA access. Nosh noted that the seminary location may be difficult because it could lead into private driveways, but Johansen suggested shifting it to 9th North, so it connects to sidewalks instead.

There was also confusion about the location of the existing crosswalk, which currently leads into a school driveway. Giles and Nosh agreed to inspect the area and determine the best placement. Weather and temperature will affect when crosswalk paint can be applied. Dorsch moved to install a crosswalk on 10th North and explore adding one near the seminary, as well as returning the area to parallel parking. Giles noted this will be difficult until the road is chipped again, and the group discussed that although parallel parking signs remain, the painted lines currently show a different parking style.

Council member Dorsch motioned to approve of installing crosswalks on 10th North and possibly adding one by the seminary building; Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Update to Beautification

The mayor reported good progress on property clean-up efforts, noting that four homeowners he contacted have responded positively and completed the work needed. He encouraged Terry and Johansen to keep putting in effort—especially before winter—to continue making improvements across the city.

Terry and Johansen shared that they've also been visiting residents to work with them. The mayor asked for a list of properties they've already contacted to avoid duplication and to help coordinate efforts on larger problem areas.

Johansen raised questions about enforceable weed height in the ordinance—whether it is 12 or 18 inches. The mayor confirmed it is **18 inches** and suggested taking a tape measure when checking properties. Dorsch added that dry weeds near buildings are also a concern.

The mayor also mentioned the county's mineral lease funding is tightening, and it's uncertain how that will affect future resources.

Land Use committee- Kerry Lake

Kerry Lake reported that the Land Use Committee met to discuss several items, including a home occupation license for a tattoo business and finalizing the business license for Tavo's. The committee is also working on a new yard sale ordinance and will hold a public hearing at the next meeting, along with a hearing on an accessory dwelling ordinance.

There was concern from the county recorder about the city's minor subdivision ordinance, which exempts certain small subdivisions from plat requirements. After researching state law and consulting with Todd, Kerry believes the ordinance is valid but plans to meet with the recorder before the next committee meeting to confirm. Minor subdivisions must meet strict criteria, such as being on a city street and having no more than ten lots.

Council Member Giles also noted that door-to-door salespeople have been visiting without permits, and he directed them to City Hall to address it.

Animal control/code enforcement- Terry Lofthouse

Terry Lofthouse reported that there was a dog bite incident. The victim did not go to the hospital, but the dog was located and quarantined for 10 days, and Terry checked on it daily. At a museum event, two pit bulls were reported but were gone when he arrived after someone told the owners to remove them. He also assisted with two dogs that escaped from the Pound. Glen asked whether city ordinance requires obedience training after a dog bite, and Terry explained that it does not—but if the dog bites again, it must be euthanized. A resident called with concerns about how many cars are allowed in a driveway. Kerry explained that it depends on whether the vehicles are licensed and not abandoned. Another complaint came in about a neighboring property with tall flowering bushes that have died back for the fall. Neighbors believe they are weeds, but Terry confirmed the homeowners removed their lawn, replanted bushes, and the plants are under the 5-foot limit. The mayor asked whether the bushes block visibility, which they do not. Nearby residents worry the unkempt appearance affects home sales. The mayor suggested telling the homeowner to clean up or trim the bushes to address neighbor concerns.

Maintenance: Ignacio Arrien

Christmas lights are being put up, and after finishing a few remaining tasks on the left side of town, the crew will begin shutting down equipment for the season.

Fire department:

The fire department is slowing down training for the season, though some members will attend a live-fire training in Green River on Saturday. The fire board announced there will be no mineral lease funding starting in 2026, but they are financially prepared for one year without it. A hardship request for Fossil Rock was approved, with a second request pending. The department

may still have funds to give firefighters bonuses this year from last year's PELT funds, but next year will be uncertain since no PELT funds were received this year.

Most of the fire ordinances mailed out have been completed, though two involve deceased individuals and require contacting next of kin. One notice was returned, and a few properties are still being worked on, including a greenhouse on 2nd East that received an extension and a property owned by Art Olsen currently in limbo. Overall, about 80% of the work is finished, and the city is pleased with the progress.

Treasurer/recorder report

Treasurer stated: Sales tax revenue is down again. The mayor asked why, noting that one of the city's largest tax contributors is the liquor store, which also donates funds to other areas. The store is making improvements, including new shelving and approval for two new signs.

Transportation revenue is down **\$1,164.26**, and sales tax is down **\$11,868.16**.
The city placed liens on two homes, and both have now been paid off.

Nosh and Becca and I have been working with Itron to resolve issues with utility meters not reading correctly. The hardware is now reading properly, and the problems have been fixed.

Recorder stated:

Business Licenses: Tavo's got renewed with an alcohol license also

Dog Licenses: I got the new Licenses for 2026

Newsletter was sent out.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Julie- I went to the LAPC meeting and about the big pipelines that go through the county where the valves were and hazmat training

Mike- I am happy to have mayor back. I just want to say thanks to Council Member Giles as Mayor Pro Tem, he was always down at the office and for all his efforts, and the staff and secretaries for all their help.

Bradley Giles- Giles reported that sidewalk construction is underway, but repair work is delayed because contractors are booked for the rest of the year. The city plans to address needed repairs early in the spring and is coordinating with the Special Service District (SSD) to have them replace sidewalks they damaged.

Currently, two new sidewalks are being installed alongside SSD curb-and-gutter projects to save costs. Of the **\$70,000** sidewalk budget, **\$30,000** will be spent this calendar year, with the remaining funds used in the spring.

Johansen asked whether the SSD's proposed increase (40% or \$40 per month) to cities requires a public hearing. Giles confirmed the SSD will hold its public hearing next week, and the city has scheduled its own for December, with changes taking effect in January.

Emily- The city's Christmas party is scheduled for **December 10 at 6:00 PM**. Fliers have been distributed, and Joel was thanked for his help at the arena. Mills asked to be informed of any additional places where the event should be advertised.

Joel-Elves have been set up at the city park, a new arch is being installed, and Candy Cane Lane has been updated. Thanks to Nosh, there will also be a holiday display on the lawn in front of Stewart's.

Mayor Danny Van Wagoner- The Mayor reported that the EMS service board is facing a major budget shortfall, and the city will soon receive a bill for the amount previously approved. Additional information will be presented later to show how serious the situation is.

He shared recent data from various EMS garages:

- **Huntington:** \$143,500 revenue, 38 runs, 100% staffed
- **Green River:** 20 runs, -\$61,777 revenue, 69% staffed, receives an annual stipend to help with staffing
- **Castle Dale/Orangeville:** 5 runs, \$28,703 revenue, 30% staffed

Staffing shortages are widespread, not just in Green River. EMTs are urgently needed, but training is difficult with only one instructor, and adding a second is costly.

Significant county budget cuts are expected, which will impact EMS, the Sheriff's Office, the fire station, and the Special Service District (SSD). The mayor emphasized these are essential services, and budget adjustments will likely be necessary during the next budget cycle. The SSD will also feel the impact, and the city benefits heavily from their services.

Johansen mentioned hearing about combining garages, but the mayor clarified that the only combined garage is Castle Dale/Orangeville.

Council Member Giles motioned to go into a closed meeting; Council Member Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

We went into a closed meeting to discuss negotiations.

Council Member Jorgensen motioned to come out of the closed meeting; Council Member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

BILLS PRESENTED FOR SIGNATURES

Council member Dorsch motioned to pay the bills; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

ADJOURN

Council member Giles motioned to adjourn the meeting; Council member Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Ayes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

11/13/2025