



City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah

City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2025

ATTENDING: Mayor Ren Hatt, Council Members Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff and Guy Webster; Planning Commission Members; Stephanie Crabtree, Gayna Salinas, Tonya Bigelow, Glenna Brown, Dylan Keele; Employees; Edward Bennett, Julie Spadafora, David Wilson, Loni Meadows, Bryan Meadows; Citizens: Ed Korycan, Conra Weber, Della Ekker, Dorothy Carter, Sandi Silliman, Lance Erwin, Ken May, Robert Koch, Bryce Delaney, William Leggett, Steven Young, Cynthia Beyer, Julie Steuer, Gary Cox, Sandra Dildine, Heidi Blankenship, Kyle Ekker, Ruth Ekker, Candice Cravins, Gaye Marie Ekker, Janet Smoak, Josh Graves, Casey Hopes, Steve Evers, Cindy Bowerman, Kenny Fallon, Anne Elliott, Jackie Nelson, Wade Ryan, Jo Anne Chandler, Bridgett Meadows; Airbuild; John Bucur,

CONDUCTING: Mayor Ren Hatt, the meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

ABSENT: Bo Harrison asked to be excused.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Pledge of Allegiance directed by Larry Packer

1. Public Comment

Kenny Fallon invited the Council and public to a grand opening for new houses by the Epicenter on Saturday, December 13th. He noted that flyers would be posted around town.

2. Presentation on Biddlecome Ranch Buildings by Happy Canyon Research & Field Foundation

GayeMarie Ekker, representing the Happy Canyon Rim Research and Field Foundation, presented their proposal regarding historic ranch buildings built by her grandfather, Joe Biddlecome. She explained that the buildings, built before 1928, are deteriorating and need to be relocated for preservation.

Ekker emphasized that the foundation was not asking for money, only for land to place the buildings. She noted they would take responsibility for restoration,

maintenance, and fundraising, requesting only a right of way to access the property.

Ken May, who identified himself as having Ekker family connections, reiterated that no city money or land ownership transfer would be required. The foundation only sought permission to use a small parcel behind the museum.

Several speakers voiced support for the project:

- William Leggett (District Ranger for Mays District of Canyonlands) spoke about the buildings' historical significance as one of the first permanent ranching operations in the area
- Bryce Delaney described the remote area's history and the buildings' cultural importance
- Robert Koch emphasized the educational value of preserving local heritage
- Cynthia Beyer highlighted the educational opportunities, noting Ekker has preserved original furnishings
- Steve Young discussed the disappearance of historical ranches throughout the region
- Heidi Blankenship noted the buildings would allow more people to experience the history
- Sandra Dildine, a visitor from California, spoke about tourism benefits
- Jo Anne Chandler offered to assist with paperwork and history tours at no cost

3. Discuss/Approve/Deny proposal to accept Biddlecome Ranch Buildings from Happy Canyon Rim Research & Field Foundation

Mayor Hatt expressed concern about proceeding without a formal agreement in place. He suggested the city should perform due diligence before making a final decision.

Council Member Webster voiced support for the project, noting it would enhance Green River's historical offerings beyond just river rafting history. He suggested preparing legal documents for council approval at a future meeting.

Council Member Nelson agreed the buildings represented a "priceless" opportunity but wanted legal documentation regarding financial responsibilities before final approval.

The Council reached consensus to move forward administratively to develop an agreement with the foundation, with the goal of presenting it for approval at the next meeting.

4. Presentation by Airbuild on the expansion of their system

John Bucur from Airbuild reported that their wastewater treatment demonstration site was operational as of that day. He explained that the site treats wastewater from the sewer lagoons using algae, which is then mixed with organic waste to create biochar.

Bucor outlined plans to scale up from a half-acre to three acres, noting the system is approximately four times more efficient than conventional sewer ponds. He explained that Airbuild has contracted to sell carbon offsets to companies like Microsoft and Apple.

Bucor emphasized they were not asking for money from the city but would return next month with a formal development agreement and a proposal to expand their land use. He mentioned they were working with consultants to secure state funding rather than city money.

5. Presentation by Dorothy Carter on the proposal for the position of Outreach Specialist

Dorothy Carter proposed creating an outreach specialist position to help local businesses grow. She described how she would connect businesses with resources, trainings, and potential grant opportunities. Carter highlighted her experience working with businesses in Roosevelt and her connections with various organizations.

She noted the position would work with all types of businesses, including agricultural operations, and mentioned she was already involved in helping local farmers address raccoon problems.

6. Discuss/Approve/Deny proposal for Outreach Specialist position with DATC Consulting

Mayor Hatt explained that Carter was seeking approximately \$1,600 per month, with the city potentially paying half and another entity like the county paying the other half. He noted that he had checked Carter's references, who all spoke highly of her.

The mayor suggested a six-month trial period with measurable outcomes. Council Member Webster asked about the specific costs and whether the position should be advertised. Mayor Hatt clarified that as a contracted position under \$7,500, it did not require public posting.

Council members discussed whether to approve funding contingent on securing matching funds from another entity. City Manager Bennett expressed support for the position, noting it could provide needed assistance and should include measurable outcomes for evaluation.

After discussion, Council agreed to move forward with the proposal.

MOTION: Guy Webster made a motion to approve the proposal for the position of Outreach Specialist with Dorothy Carter for a 9-month trial period, contingent on another entity matching the funds that Green River would contribute, with the 9-month period beginning when matching funds are secured. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

7. Update on EMS

Council Member Webster provided an update on the Emergency Medical Services situation. He reported that 15 EMTs were currently going through training, though none were from Green River. He expressed frustration with the situation and encouraged Green River residents to consider becoming EMTs to help address the problem.

Mayor Hatt discussed a potential opportunity to utilize tourism tax revenue (TRT) funds to help support EMS services in Green River. He noted that Commissioner Jensen had mentioned a \$1.5 million surplus in TRT funds that might be available, though meetings were needed to determine if such use would be legally permissible.

The Mayor mentioned plans to meet with the Utah Office of Tourism to explore options and also discussed potentially amending the city budget in January to provide additional funding for EMS.

Council Member Webster explained that Green River's ambulance service consistently operates at a financial loss, partly due to serving many tourists and uninsured individuals with uncollectible bills.

Stephanie Crabtree expressed concerns about the lack of leadership in EMS and the negative perception that discourages new volunteers. She suggested bringing in someone to help rebrand and build up the service.

The Mayor proposed holding a workshop the following week to further discuss solutions.

8. Update on Replacement of the Veteran's Memorial

Edward Bennett reported that the insurance company was sending a check to cover most of the cost of replacing the veteran's memorial, which had been damaged in November 2023. He explained that a monument company in Price had the design and was beginning construction.

Lance Erwin and Jackie Nelson expressed the importance of the memorial to the community. Nelson described the enthusiasm of the committee that had worked to create the original monument, noting how devastating its loss had been to local veterans.

Sandi Silliman mentioned that she had collected 90% of the original funds for the project and had turned over excess funds to the city for future maintenance. She offered to share her files and information about the original project.

9. City Council, Mayor, and/or Employee comments and concerns

Mayor Hatt thanked everyone involved in the recent elections and expressed appreciation to his opponents.

Bryan Meadows Public Works Director, provided an update on the water treatment plant, reporting that granulated carbon had been installed and would be backwashed for the first time the next day. He noted that the state would conduct a walk-through of the project on December 2nd, and that two generators ordered nearly a year ago had finally arrived.

10. Discuss/Approve/Deny Consent Agenda

- Financial Report September 2025
- Payment Approval Report November 2025
- Treasurer Report October 2025
- City Council Special Meeting Minutes October 1, 2025
- City Council Regular Meeting Minutes October 14, 2025

MOTION: Guy Webster made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Kent Nelson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Kent Nelson, Larry Packer, Ben Lehnhoff, and Guy Webster voted aye. The motion carried.

11. Closed Session, if necessary, pursuant to Utah Code § 52-4-205

No closed session was held.

12. Adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Bo Harrison, Mayor

Julie Spadafora, City Recorder

Approved: December 9, 2025