



**Tooele
County**

Council Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2025

Council Chambers

07:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Scott Wardle called the Council Meeting to order at 07:00 PM. The time, place, and agenda of the meeting had been provided to the Tooele Transcript Bulletin and to each member of the governing body by posting the notice and agenda at least two days before on the Tooele County website and emailing them a link.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chris Sloan.

3. Roll Call

Council Member Roll call as follows:

Erik Stromberg: Present

Jared Hamner: Absent

Tye Hoffmann: Present

Scott Wardle: Present

Kendall Thomas: Present

Also, present were Nathan Harris- Deputy Attorney, Andy Welch- County Manager, Brittany Lopez- Assistant County Manager, and Nicole Rash- Chief Deputy Clerk.

Staff in attendance were Alison McCoy- Auditor, Jed Bell- Roads Director, Paul Wimmer- Sheriff, Brian White- Deputy Sheriff, Corey Bullock- Parks and Recreation Director, Wayne Anderton- Solid Waste Director, Jerry Houghton- Recorder/Surveyor, Cari Mausling- Auditor's Office, Joy Peters- Assessor, Carrie Gillie- Assessor's Office, Emily Jones- Recorder's Office, Hayden Langston- Recorder's Office, and Bucky Whitehouse- EOC Director.

Guests in attendance were Jeff Clifford with the Small Business Development Center, Chris Sloan, and Tim Gillie with the Transcript Bulletin.

4. Public Comments

Jerry Houghton, Recorder, stated when he was elected in 2011 there were 10 full-time employees in his office. There are now 7.75 full-time employees in his office. He stated there are 45,656 parcels in Tooele county, which equates to 4,945 parcels per full-time employee. Recorder Houghton provided stats from other counties, comparing how many employees they have per parcel. He stated that Tooele County is innovating and operating with less, but staffing needs equivalent to growth.

5. Recognitions, Presentations, & Informational Items

a. SBDC Report, Jess Clifford

Jess Clifford from the Small Business Development Center will provide an update on SBDC activities and initiatives of 2025, highlighting local business support efforts, available resources for entrepreneurs, and upcoming opportunities for small business development in Tooele County.

Jess Clifford stated the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has brought \$3.7 million into Tooele County, 165 clients were served, 361 counseling hours were provided, and 45 new jobs were created. Their business was up by 20% last year. A video was shared which highlighted the business of the year. Mr. Clifford thanked the Council for their support. He discussed the Custom Fit program, which is a grant program funded by the State.

b. Settlement Canyon Irrigation Reservoir Hydro-drone Survey Presentation, Jerry Houghton

Provide the Council with an overview of the hydro- drone (bathymetric) survey completed at Settlement Canyon Reservoir. The survey used an autonomous surface drone with GNSS and down-looking sonar to map underwater topography, quantify sedimentation, and update storage-capacity curves. Results support water- rights accounting, dam safety planning, emergency operations, and long-range capital planning.

Jerry Houghton, Recorder, introduced Hayden Langston, Senior Field Surveyor, and Tanner Hussey. Hayden and Tanner worked on surveying the Settlement Canyon reservoir. The data collected in this volume analysis survey allows the county to determine silt build-up and water levels in real time rather than relying on estimated data collected from the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1990s. The goal is to gather this data on every body of water in Tooele County. Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked how the county knows when the reservoir needs to be dredged. Recorder Houghton explained the history of surveying reservoirs and explained that this new data is meant to allow Tooele County to be proactive rather than relying on old estimations. Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked when the next reservoirs would be surveyed. Mr. Langston stated within 4–5 months.

6. Minutes

a. November 5, 2025 Work & Business Meeting Minutes

Agenda Attachments

1. 11.05.2025.Work.Draft.pdf
2. 11.05.2025.Business.Draft.pdf

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve the November 5, 2025 Work & Business Meeting Minutes. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

7. Consent Agenda: Check Register

a. Check Register

Check Register: 10.30.25 & 11.06.25

Agenda Attachments

1. Check Register 11.18.25.pdf

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve the Check Registers dated 10/30 & 11/6. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

8. Discussion Items

a. Council Discussion of the 2026 Budget, Jared Hamner

The Council will hold a brief discussion on the 2026 budget, reviewing key priorities, proposed allocations, and any updates from department submissions.

COLA (cost of living) and merit increases: These items were discussed as presented in the tentative budget at 3.5% for COLA and 2% for merit. Council Member Tye Hoffmann stated he would rather see COLA at 3%. The remaining Council Members stated they are okay with the recommended COLA and merit increases.

Personnel requests: These items were discussed as presented in Department Heads' presentations in previous meetings. The impact to the salary budget would be \$1.3 million in total if all personnel requests were granted. Sheriff Wimmer stated he received a \$250,000 COPS grant from the Department of Justice. These funds are to be used over the next 3 years to help hire two road deputies. Council Member Tye Hoffmann provided more stats on the estimated impact to the salary budget if every personnel request were granted; the cost impact over 10 years would be over \$14 million. In 20 years, the impact would be over \$27 million. In 30 years, the impact would be over \$40 million. Council Member Scott Wardle and Manager Andy Welch clarified that all positions will go through a refresh with the pay study.

Council Member Erik Stromberg had questions about the Assessor's and Recorder's personnel requests. He asked for clarification on what is needed now, and questioned if the county will still need all those positions in 5–10 years. Auditor Alison McCoy provided more detail of the assessing and collecting funds and explained what the taxing offices are trying to achieve with these positions. She stated they are trying to build a more robust plan and compared it to a preventative maintenance plan that would allow the offices to avoid deferred maintenance. Council Member Kendall Thomas clarified that the assessing and collecting tax has not been raised in 11 years. Much discussion took place between the Council, Assessor Peters and Recorder Houghton. Council Member Tye Hoffmann stated he would like to see more metrics. Council Member Kendall Thomas asked how long it takes for Assessor employees to become certified. Assessor Peters said at least 1 year. Council Member Scott Wardle stated he is concerned about increasing taxes. He advised he is not comfortable funding all four requested positions for the Assessor's Office, but would be comfortable funding two. He asked the taxing offices to provide a plan to the Council for what their needs will be in the coming years. Council Member Kendall Thomas stated he wants to ensure the deadline to raise taxes is met. The request for a Deputy Recorder was denied. The consensus was that the Data Manager and Personal Property positions for the Assessor's office will be funded. The consensus was that Sheriff Wimmer will take advantage of the grant for two sheriff's deputies while the opportunity is there. The two corrections deputies will also be funded. The Council agree that a staffing study needs to be done for the Sheriff's Office. Council Member Scott Wardle asked Sheriff Wimmer to wait until March to hire the road deputies to allow time for the Erda contract to be evaluated. The consensus was the Roads Department Office Manager's position will be funded. The Solid Waste Admin Associate position will be funded. The Human Services Financial Analyst will be funded. The request for the Aquatics Supervisor to move from part-time to full-time was approved. The request to move the Events Program Coordinator position from 1/4 time to full-time was held until the December meeting. The request to return .51% of the salary budget for the Internal Auditor position to the Auditor's office was held until the December meeting. The request to move the Victims of Crime Coordinator from part-time to 3/4 time was approved. The request to move three Adult and Aging positions from part-time to 1/2 time was held until the December meeting.

Capital Projects: These items were presented by Manager Andy Welch. He reviewed each department's requests, line by line. Manager Welch presented the Council with a spreadsheet that listed the Manager's Department recommendation for each request. He advised the Council that he would share the spreadsheet with them which would allow them to enter each of their selections. The USU Extension request to have the county provide the funds to move the Create Better Nutrition Program position from 1/2 time to full-time was denied. There was discussion on unmet needs and projects that need more discussion.

Council Member Kendall Thomas stated he would like to help fund Public Defenders better. He would like to see a more thorough presentation in January or February of 2026.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned for a 5 minute recess. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor.

The meeting resumed at 9:13 pm. The Council postponed the discussion on tourism and positions to a Work Meeting which will be held on December 2, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

9. Consent Agenda: Contracts

a. Public Defender Agreement with Zacchary Sayer for Juvenile Court Parental Defense, Scott Broadhead

This public defender agreement replaces an agreement adopted in August. It's with the same attorney, but he has moved to a new law firm.

Agenda Attachments

1. Public Defender Agreement - Juvenile Court Parental Defense, Zacchary Sayer.pdf

Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney, presented this item as outlined above.

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the Public Defender Agreement with Zacchary Sayer for Juvenile Court Parental Defense. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

10. Line-Item Transfers

a. Line-Item Transfers

Solid Waste \$85,000: The transfer is due to an increase in Republic Service's residential garbage haulage rates.

Roads \$31,000: The transfer is due to replacing signs, installing a cattle guard, adding a crosswalk, and increased supply needs.

Agenda Attachments

1. 2025-1118 Line-item transfer Roads.pdf
2. 2025-1118 Line-item transfer Solid Waste.pdf

Alison McCoy, Auditor, presented this item as outlined above.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve the Line-Item Transfers. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

11. Resolutions/Ordinances

a. Resolution 2025-29 - Amending (Increasing) the 2025 Budget, Alison McCoy - PUBLIC HEARING

This resolution increases the General Fund by \$155,124, the Human Services Fund by \$3,500, and the Public Health Fund by \$25,000.

Agenda Attachments

1. Res 2025-29.pdf
2. Requested Budget Increases.pdf

Alison McCoy, Auditor, presented this item as outlined above.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to open a Public Hearing. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

No Comment.

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to close the Public Hearing. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve Resolution 2025-29. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

12. Action Items

a. Presentation and Approval of 2025 Fraud Risk Assessment, Alison McCoy

Presentation and Approval of 2025 Fraud Risk Assessment by Tooele County Auditor Alison McCoy

Agenda Attachments

1. 2025 Fraud Risk Assessment Cover Letter-combined.pdf

Alison McCoy, Auditor, presented this item. She stated this year's audit is substantially better than last year, scoring 380 points out of 395. Two specific policies are missing; one related to travel and the other related to credit card purchasing. If the County has not adopted a specific policy, the State policy becomes the default. Auditor McCoy stated she has drafted these two policies, and she will forward the drafts to the Council for consideration. She recognized the HR Department's efforts in getting payroll reconciliations on track. The formation of the Audit Committee has been a benefit toward the improved score as well.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve the 2025 Fraud Risk Assessment. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

13. Boards & Committees

a. Board Vacancies

The Audit Committee has 1 vacancies.

The Historic Preservation Commission has 2 vacancies.

The Housing Authority has 1 vacancy for an Attorney.

Lake Point Cemetery and Park has 1 vacancy.

The Planning Commission has 1 vacancy for an alternate.

Recreation Special Service District has 1 vacancy for an alternate.

Rush Valley Water Conservation District has 1 vacancy.

The Tourism Tax Advisory Board has 3 vacancies - applicant must represent cultural attractions, hotels, restaurants, recreational facilities, convention facilities, or museums.

Weeds Control Board has 1 vacancy

14. Council Update

Council Member Kendall Thomas stated he attended a homeless re-integration training and he was very impressed.

Council Member Erik Stromberg did not have an update.

Council Member Scott Wardle stated that he attended the Waste Management Radiation Control Board meeting where there was discussion of hazardous waste from Canada coming to Tooele County. He also reminded the Council of the upcoming USACCC (Utah State Association of County Commissions and Councils) Meeting.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann reminded the Council to register for the Legislative meeting in Washington DC in February. He stated he received a call from Ian with 47G. They may need help with writing a grant.

15. Manager Update

Manager Andy Welch did not have an update.

16. Manager Update: Ratifications

a. 1 MVA

Refund on motor vehicle

Agenda Attachments

1. 1 MVA.pdf

b. 2025 Election Poll Worker Agreement

Agenda Attachments

1. 2025 Election Poll Worker Agreement- Melodi Gochis.pdf

c. Tooele County Health Department Cell Fire Alarm Monitoring Contract

This is the contract with Pye Barker for monitoring of the Tooele County Health Department's Fire Alarm Monitoring.

Agenda Attachments

1. Pye Barker - TCHD Cell Fire Alarm Monitoring.pdf

17. Adjournment - Closed Session if needed

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to adjourn at 9:24 pm. All in favor. The motion passed.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE APPROVED:


Jared Hamner, County Council Chairman


Tracy Shaw, County Clerk



Tracy Shaw, County Clerk