

CITY OF FOUNTAIN GREEN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

Fountain Green City Hall

Call to Order

Mayor Coombs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all attendees, expressing appreciation for those who regularly participate in City Council meetings.

Invocation – Kerry Farnsworth

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

The Mayor opened the meeting for public comment and reminded attendees that comments should be made at the microphone so remote participants on Zoom can hear clearly.

Public Comment – “Lamb Days” Representative Jerime Ivory:

- The speaker expressed concerns regarding the planned pickleball court near the Bowery.
- Reported understanding that the court will sit approximately six inches higher than the concrete floor, which would interfere with Lamb Days’ annual talent show and reduce usable seating space.
- Stated Lamb Days was unaware of this elevation difference when it contributed \$30,000 toward the project and now feels “a little deceived.”
- Requested a plot and plat for the location of a planned conex container, stating that Planning & Zoning cannot proceed without it.
- Reported that the plans have already been drawn and asked that Curt provide the documents to Heather.
- Curt confirmed he would send them.
- Additional discussion occurred regarding setback measurements, with the speaker requesting that staff provide the application form and handle measurements without requiring his presence.

Additional Public Comment (Lamb Days Representative):

- Jerime returned to request a meeting with Michelle in December to review Lamb Days accounting matters for the year.
- Requested that the meeting be scheduled after the City audit on December 3.
- Michelle agreed to coordinate dates, noting that the week following the audit might be best.

No further public comments were presented.

1. Approval of Minutes.

A. Public Hearing Minutes – October 16, 2025.

Council reviewed minutes previously distributed.

Motion: Rod Hansen motioned to approve the Public Hearing minutes as written from October 16, 2025.

Second: Seconded by Alyson Strait.

Vote:

Kerry – Yes

Allison – Yes

Rod – Yes

Jacob – Yes

Motion Passed

B. City Council Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2025 (Correction Needed).

Motion: Rod Hansen motioned to approve the City Council minutes with the correction of the meeting date to October 16, 2025.

Second: Jacob Littlefield.

Vote:

Jacob – Yes

Rod – Yes

Allison – Yes

Kerry – Yes

Motion Passed.

The Mayor thanked the Fire Department and Councilmember Kerry Farnsworth for assisting the Division of Natural Resources with the recent ATV/OHV training held Saturday at the City Hall.

- Attendance exceeded capacity, and DNR expressed appreciation for the facilities and short-notice support.
- Several participants requested another training session.

2. Culinary Water Impact Fee.

The Council held a public meeting earlier regarding proposed changes.

- The impact fee analysis recommended a maximum allowable amount of \$5,042.
- Council discussed the need to raise water and sewer impact fees for system maintenance, growth, and future projects, including aquifer regeneration.

Motion: Rod Hansen motioned to adopt a flat \$5,000 Water Impact Fee, effective in 120 days, allowing time for ordinance adjustments and the holiday schedule.

Second: Alyson Strait.

Vote:

Rod – Yes

Jacob – Yes

Kerry – Yes

Allison – Yes

Motion Passed

3. Sewer Impact Fee.

The impact fee study recommended a maximum allowable amount of **\$14,756**.

The Mayor emphasized:

- The lagoon system must be protected from non-degradable materials being flushed into the system.
- Mechanical screening equipment is urgently needed and widely used in other communities to extend lagoon life.
- If the lagoons fail, the City would be forced to build a wastewater treatment plant, which is far more costly.

Discussion included:

- Whether \$14,756 is necessary at this time or whether a lower fee (e.g., \$5,000–\$6,000) would be sufficient to address immediate needs.
- Concerns about funding future lagoon expansion, potential land acquisition, and long-term system capacity.
- Clarification that if fees are set too low, a new impact fee study (costing an estimated \$10,000–\$12,000) would be required to adjust them again.

Motion: Alyson Strait motioned to adopt the sewer impact fee at the maximum recommended amount of **\$14,756**.

Second: Kerry Farnsworth.

Vote:

Kerry – Yes

Allison – Yes

Rod – No

Jacob – Yes

Motion Passed

4. R6 Report & Updates.

Shay provided updates on available grants and statewide programs:

A. Open Grants

- **Land & Water Conservation Fund** – supports parks, courts, ballfields; deadline January 15.
- **TPA Grant** – initially considered for code codification but cannot be used for that purpose.
 - Shay recommended **civicleinQ** for an affordable code-hosting platform (\$500/year).
 - Council expressed interest; Shay will follow up.

B. Utah Project Portal

- Now live statewide.
- Serves as a centralized tool for tracking **Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs)**.
- Required for eligibility for CIB funding and the Utah Water Infrastructure Plan (UWIP).
- Shay will work with staff to create accounts and begin populating project lists.

Council discussed prioritizing the **mechanical sewer screening system** as the City's No. 1 CIB project.

C. CIB Funding Timeline

- Projects must be listed in the portal by **May 1** to be eligible for the next application cycle.
- Applications may be submitted June 2026, October 2026, or February 2027, depending on readiness.
- Water and sewer remain high-priority categories for CIB funding.

D. Division of Water Quality Fee

- The state will begin charging communities, with billing expected after 2026 based on 2023 usage levels.
- City will add a **\$0.50 monthly line item** to utility bills beginning in February to accumulate needed funds.

Shay confirmed continued support for the City through 2026 and beyond.

E. Additional Council & Staff Discussion

- Council thanked Shay for regular updates and guidance, noting many surrounding communities were unaware of the new state water-quality fee.
- Staff acknowledged the value of the timely information he provides.

5. Government Privacy Act Update.

- Michelle reported on the new **Government Privacy Act** requirements discussed at a city recorders' meeting.

- Cities must begin the compliance process by December 30, but there is no formal report or portal required this year.
- The law is vague and mainly requires that cities show progress.
- The city has:
 - Assigned the **City Recorder** as the CAO.
 - Assigned Laura and Brenda as **Records Officers**.
 - Begun removing Social Security numbers and other sensitive information from records.
- This is considered **sufficient progress** for compliance at this time.

6. Library Report.

Trunk-or-Treat

- Overall successful, though crowding occurred on the north end of the park.
- Improvements planned for next year:
 - **Assigned, numbered parking spots** to distribute vehicles evenly.
 - Facilitate voting for “People’s Choice.”
 - A sponsor will provide a trophy.
 - Need to enforce **no early leaving**, as cars departed early while children were still present.
 - Plan to organize a **cleanup crew** due to excessive trash left behind.
 - Suggestion made to add more **trash cans** throughout the event area.

Holiday Boutique

- Attendance and sales were **lower than last year**.
 - **Last year:** ~\$7,747
 - **This year:** ~\$6,066
- Positive feedback on the venue layout and use of fire department space.
- Planning to use the **fire department** again next year.

Santa’s Cozy Corner – December 22, 7–8:30 PM

- Following the school Christmas program.
- Activities include:
 - Santa visit
 - Treat bags via drive-through Christmas tunnel (for sick families if needed)
 - Hot chocolate, gift bags, stories, puppet show, ornament craft, cookie decorating
- Request made to decorate the small pine tree by the DUP.
 - Paula Peckham has lights ordered for the other trees on State Street.
 - Library will use lightweight laminated ornaments.

Library Operations

- The barcoding project is underway, but taking longer than expected.

- Working through active patrons first.
- Participation in **story hour and the educational programs** has dropped.
 - Parents will be surveyed on whether they still want these programs.
 - Funds may be redirected to other educational initiatives if attendance remains low.
- Communications with schools have become more difficult due to new district policies.
 - Will contact **Greg Bailey** (school board) for assistance.

Staffing

- Currently adequate but anticipating turnover.
- City will include a request for **library volunteers** in the **January newsletter**.

7. Fire Department Report.

- **Open burn season** began November 1; residents still must notify the department.
- House Bill 48 (WUI Ordinance):
 - Requires cities to adopt a **Wildland Urban Interface Ordinance by January 1**.
 - Will require a public hearing and adoption at the January council meeting.
 - City must identify **hotspot areas** and update preparedness documentation.
 - Inspections will be done by **local fire officers**, not the state.
- Fire department staffing is strong with **20–21 active members**, including new, younger members who are very engaged.

8. Planning Commission Report.

- Three building permits reviewed; **two approved**, one returned with recommendations.
- Major project underway to correct significant **inconsistencies in city ordinances** on the website:
 - Duplicate or conflicting language exists.
 - Ordinances are difficult for residents to find.
- Considering the **civiclinQ** system for publishing and organizing ordinances:
 - More user-friendly and less expensive than competitors.
- If the city chooses to migrate to a new system, this is the ideal time to **clean up, renumber, and reorganize** ordinances.

9. Cemetery Bridge Project.

- Original plan approved for bridge replacement.
- Additional review showed the need to **raise the road going into the cemetery** to prevent vehicles from “nosediving” when crossing.
- Bridge width will increase to **21 feet**—the maximum possible while still fitting under the historic archway.
- Two buried water connections must be protected during construction.
- Updated project cost: **\$340,000** (up from \$289,000).
- State Emergency Department **approved full funding**, with **no matching required**.

- Construction will begin when weather permits.
 - Guaranteed completion **before Memorial Day**.
 - State allows completion by **June 1**.
- The bridge will be **pre-built**, with all demolition handled by the contractor.
- City must develop a **funeral access contingency route** during construction.

10. Cell Tower Updates.

T-Mobile Tower

- Concrete pad has been poured; tower inspected.
- Tower is being pre-built and will be installed once complete.
- The first payment from the tower company has been received.

Existing CentraCom Tower (Upper Water Tank)

- CentraCom had an old tower on the upper water tank but had **not been paying** for its use.
- Discussion with CentraCom resulted in an agreement:
 - Increase the city's internet speed will be increased from **25 Mbps to 1 Gbps**.
 - Any future upgrades to CentraCom's system will also automatically upgrade city buildings.
 - Agreement being drafted for review.

Financial Impact

- Current CentraCom bill: **\$477.08 per month**.
- Expected new cost: around **\$25/month** (only voicemail portion not covered).
- Estimated value of services: **~\$600/month** in savings.

11. Administrative Code Enforcement (ACE Program).

- Ordinance passed to begin issuing fines.
- Requires three roles:
 - **Hearing Officer – Brenda Agard**
 - **Code Enforcement Officer – Amy Morgan**
 - **Coordinator – Michelle Walker**
- No additional cost or hours expected for any position.
- Amy has the paperwork ready and is waiting for the formal appointments.

Sheriff's Office Report

Coordination & Coverage

- Sheriff's office wants to ensure strong communication and teamwork with the city.
- Patrol schedule changed to **12-hour shifts**, increasing coverage to **23 hours/day**.
- Aim: improve response times for high-priority calls.

Recent Activity

September

- 15 traffic stops → 4 citations
- Calls: animal cruelty, civil issue, property damage, stolen vehicle

October

- 15 traffic stops → 6 citations
- Calls: animal problem, attended death, credit card fraud, juvenile problem, follow-up on prior case

General Issues & Notes

- Encouragement for residents to **lock vehicles** to prevent theft.
- Detective division expanded from 1 to **3 detectives + a sergeant**.
- Patrol deputies now spend less time on complex follow-ups; detectives handle major cases more efficiently.
- Sheriff's office open to attending meetings when needed.

ATV Safety Course

- Held recently; **well attended** with more interest than space available.
- Community requested another course.

Food Pantry & Community Support

- County food pantry truck came early because of holidays.
- **Next visit:** December 18.
- Requirements: **Only one name and household size.**
- Demand has significantly increased in recent months.
- Weekend meals program for kids available through **Susan Monsen**; no qualifications required.

12. New Maintenance Shed.

Still waiting for updated plans; no bids yet.

- Previous contractor backed out.
- Shed specs: **40' x 80'**, four 14' doors, 16' eaves, man doors and windows on each side.

13. City Report.

Cemetery

- 3 burials; 5 new headstones set.
- Hydrant and PRV checks completed.
- Annual manhole inspections completed.
- Drains are open.

Water & Infrastructure

- 8 new water connections this month (2 new homes, 6 for Evan Jacobson).
- Evan Jacobson now has 10 of 12 connections complete.
- Water meter order delays:
 - Ordered July; promised 6–8 weeks; now shipping **December 2**.
 - Current rep left the company; dealing through customer care.

Parks & Buildings

- Sprinklers shut off; buildings winterized.
- Branch issues at 500 West / 200 North:
 - Residents trimmed branches claiming sight-triangle needs; also, neighbors added to the pile.
 - Unclear responsibility: the city will monitor moving forward.
- New Veterans Day flags were installed.
- Dance hall door:
 - Door frame separating; needs repair.
 - Plan: ask **Roger Huffman** to restore/repair; if not, check alternative shops.

Other Maintenance

- Cleanup day was extremely busy.
- Power conduit ran between pavilions; sprinkler damage repaired.
- Christmas decorations to be installed on **Dec 1st**, but may be installed earlier if the weather permits.

14. City Bills.

Motion: **Kerry Farnsworth** motioned to pay the city bills.

Second: **Alyson Strait.**

Vote:

Kerry – Yes

Allison – Yes

Rod – Yes

Jacob – Yes

Motion Passed

15. Miscellaneous.

- Alyson checked on previous assignments: body cam ordered, iPad for Amy pending. The meeting for navigating the iPad has not yet been held.
- Sewer impact fee increase: effective after a minimum of 90 days; discussion about increasing monthly sewer fees to fund the sewer screen.
- Pickleball court floor: concern about uneven flooring; cost to level north half ~\$34–35K. Contractor delayed due to business license; work expected to start in December. The possibility of using grant extensions to delay until spring is considered.
- January was chosen for the city party instead of December for scheduling ease.

Training Requirements:

- Officials (Willard, Vaughn, Rich, Jacob, Kerry) need to complete the annual Utah training: Open & Public Meetings Act and Introductory Training for Municipality Officials.

Public Input / State Programs:

- Utah Division of Emergency Management program now covers 100% funding, no local burden. Positive feedback from citizens.

Motion: Alyson Strait motioned to move into a closed meeting at 9:17 p.m. to discuss personnel and real property.

Second: Jacob Littlefield

Vote:

Kerry – Yes

Alyson – Yes

Rod – Yes

Kim – Yes

Jacob – Yes

Motion: Rod Hansen motioned to adjourn the closed meeting and return to the regular meeting.

Seconded: Alyson Strait

Vote:

Kerry – Yes

Alyson – Yes

Rod – Yes

Kim – Yes

Jacob – Yes

Motion: Alyson Strait motioned to adjourn the regular meeting.

Seconded: Jacob Littlefield

Vote:

Kerry – Yes

Alyson – Yes

Rod – Yes

Kim – Yes

Jacob – Yes

Meeting adjourns at 9:57 p.m.



Michelle Walker, City Recorder

