



UINTAH CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025
6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

City Council Present: Mayor Cutler, Council Member Bell, Council Member Combe, Council Member Roberts, Council Member Patterson

Staff present: City Attorney Bryan Baron, City Recorder Michelle Mortensen, Public Works Jack Burton, Sergeant Babinsky

Attendees: Chief Minton, Brandon Everett, Don & Marilyn Pearson

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cutler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Cutler.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marilyn thanked the Mayor and council for all they do.

3. CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

A. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2025

B. Approval of Invoices - November

C. Financial Reports – November

Motion made by Council Member Roberts to approve the consent agenda.

Second by Council Member Bell.

All in favor; the motion carries. Council Member Combe, aye; Council Member Bell, aye; Mayor Cutler, aye; Council Member Roberts, aye; Council Member Patterson, aye.

4. PRESENTATION ON WILDLAND INTERFACE CODE:

Presenter: Chief Minton

- Chief Minton, representing Weber County Wildland Fire, discussed wildfire-related issues, emphasizing his background in wildland fire and his role as a liaison for wildfire mitigation. Much of the discussion focused on House Bill 48 and the associated Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code, which has generated significant concern due to unanswered questions at the state level. Fire departments are still waiting for clarification from Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL) regarding their specific responsibilities, including implementation timelines and enforcement roles.
- Council Member Roberts questioned why the City would be required to approve the code before all details are finalized. It was explained that the WUI maps being referenced come from multiple sources. The County-generated WUI map is separate from the map identifying properties subject to assessments. Local maps were created using analytics and wildfire risk modeling, showing that only limited high-risk wildfire areas extend into the City. The WUI Code itself is a building code, and the State is expected to release an official WUI map in the future.
- Council Member Patterson raised concerns about insurance impacts, noting that insurance companies initially supported the bill but later appeared to reverse their position. Chief Minton stated he was unaware of that change and could not confirm how adoption of the WUI Code might affect insurance companies. Council Member Roberts asked whether delaying adoption could result in fines. Legal counsel responded that failing

- to adopt the state code would make the City ineligible for state fire response funding and wildfire mitigation grants, although there is no clear language preventing the City from adopting the code at a later date.
- Mayor Cutler referenced a significant wildfire in 2017, recalling that the City declined to participate in a state safety program at that time and subsequently incurred nearly \$100,000 in firefighting costs. Although payment arrangements were later paused, the matter remains in litigation. The Mayor emphasized the concept of safety in numbers, expressing support for adopting the WUI Code to avoid similar financial exposure and ensure continued eligibility for state assistance. The vote under consideration was to recognize the Weber Fire WUI map, acknowledging uncertainty about future impacts.
- Council Member Roberts expressed internal conflict, noting that after past catastrophes there is often regret for not acting sooner, yet she remained concerned about adopting a policy that could negatively affect residents, particularly with potential insurance implications. City Attorney Bryan Baron clarified that adopting the WUI Code would primarily impact new construction and significant renovations, requiring stricter building standards. City responsibilities would involve code enforcement and assisting homeowners with compliance. He suggested that increased fire-resistant construction could potentially lead to lower insurance rates, though this remains speculative.
- Council Member Patterson questioned the overall impact of adoption and asked why the City should not move forward. The City Attorney and Chief Minton noted that Weber Fire can assist homeowners with creating defensible space and that other cities have adopted the WUI Code without major issues. Council Member Combe remained hesitant, citing the lack of finalized maps, unanswered questions, risks to City parks and subdivisions, and concerns about unmanaged railroad property contributing to wildfire risk. However, he acknowledged that failing to adopt the code could leave the City vulnerable, like the 2017 wildfire situation.
- Chief Minton stated that cities are expected to adopt the WUI Code and recommended doing so. Council Member Bell asked whether adoption would ensure continued eligibility for state support, and Chief Minton confirmed that it would. Legal counsel was asked for a recommendation and advised that adoption was appropriate.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE 299-25 WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE CODE: AN ORDINANCE OF UNTAH CITY, ADOPTING CHAPTER 11.11 ENTITLED "WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI) BUILDING CODE" INCLUDING THE WUI SENSITIVE LANDS/HAZARD AREA MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2025 UTAH LEGISLATURE HB 48; SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Presenter: Mayor Cutler

- There was no further discussion on Ordinance 299-25.
- Motion made by Council Member Combe to approve Ordinance 299-25 Wildland Urban Interface Code adopting Chapter 11.11 entitled Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Building Code including the WUI sensitive lands/hazard area map in accordance with the 2025 Utah Legislature HB 48.
- Council Member Bell seconded the motion.
- All in favor; the motion carries. Council Member Combe, aye; Council Member Bell, aye; Mayor Cutler, aye; Council Member Roberts aye; Council Member Patterson, nay.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

None

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Planning Commission: None

B. Public Works Report: Jack Burton

- Mr. Burton presented the annual fleet report and requested council review. He reported that the blue tractor is inoperable due to a locked front wheel and recommended placing it on the surplus auction. He noted the park mower is aging (2000–2003) and may be replaced with a newer model with a bagger in the next budget year. Funds have been set aside to rent a tractor for roadside mowing.
- Mr. Burton also reported the new truck is performing well, including plowing operations, with the white Ford serving as a backup plow truck. The International truck is being started daily to maintain functionality.

C. Sheriff's Report: none

D. Council Reports:

- Council Member Bell took a minute to thank the Mayor. They have served together for the last eight

- years, which means they have seen a lot. They have done some really great things for this city and have made some really hard decisions. None of which came with an instruction manual. Through it all, the Mayor's leadership has been steady, thoughtful, and always focused on what was best for Uintah City. Because of that, the city truly is better off. She also personally thanked the Mayor for supporting her and her efforts within the city. That support has meant a lot, and she has never taken that for granted. As she steps into this next role, her goal is to continue the good things they have built together to keep moving the city forward. She thanked him for his years of service, his leadership, and everything that he has given to the city.
- Council Member Roberts echoed what Council Member Bell said. We have made hard decisions, and your leadership has allowed us to voice our concerns even if we do not agree and still walk away as friends and shake hands. Your example has trickled down to the council, and she believes that is super important and she has learned a lot from the Mayor.
- Council Member Combe you should get an award for all the texts for Combe Road.
- Mayor thanked the council for being able to sit down together and have good discussions. We must have open communication, and everyone should feel like their vote counts, and he supports everyone and their votes. He thanked those that come to city council meetings. We have a good team working for our City. Things change and evolve and he appreciated the staff for all they do.

8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion was made by Council Member Combe to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.
- Motion was seconded by Council Member Patterson.
- All in favor; the motion carries.

Michelle Mortensen
Michelle Mortensen, Uintah City Recorder

1/6/26
Date