

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2025
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman was excused. City Attorney Barry Huntington joined electronically.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Ryan Cottam, Tari Cottam, Royce Orme, Lawrence Barnes, Naketa Martel, Jenny Evans and Rockford Orvin.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Orme moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson and Orme voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2025 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme and Stowe voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

JENNY EVANS

Ms. Evans said she would like to congratulate, complement and thank the committee for the Community Christmas Light Park Event.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

PLANNING PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS AGREEMENT - REMOVE IRON AND MANGANESE FROM TOWN'S WATER SOURCE

City Recorder Steed explained the Planning Principal Forgiveness Agreement. City Recorder Steed said the amount of the agreement is \$21,700.00 with 100% principal forgiveness.

Council member Orme moved to adopt the Planning Principal Forgiveness Agreement. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme and Wilson voting aye.

APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER

Mayor Torgersen explained there is an open seat for Council and Ryan Cottam was the only individual that submitted an application. Mayor Torgersen said she would like to appoint Mr. Cottam to fill the vacant seat through December 31, 2027. **Council Member Stowe moved to appoint Ryan Cottam to fill the vacant council member term through December 31, 2027. Council Member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council Members Orme, Stowe, and Wilson voting aye.** City Recorder Steed administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Cottam.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed said the budget and financial reports are available for review.

City Recorder Steed provided an update on the pickleball court project, and the Christmas Light Grant from Garfield County.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER AND NAKETA MARTEL

Mr. Weppner said both fire trucks passed their pump capability tests, though the E1 truck is currently on observation due to an internal hose rupture that can be repaired.

Ms. Martel explained a potential new paging system and presented a proposal to use the eDispatches app under Tropics' account for \$389.70 from December to August, though the cost would likely increase to around \$65 per month after that period. Mayor Torgersen suggested putting this item on the agenda in January.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen thanked everyone involved in the turn on the Christmas lights at the park event.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson reported he and City Recorder Steed met with State Aeronautics, the FAA, and airport engineers to finalize details for the apron rehabilitation project, which is expected to be advertised for bids in March and potentially proceed in September.

Council member Wilson said there are ongoing issues with the fuel dispenser system supplied by Sphere One Aviation, noting that it has malfunctioned due to obsolete circuit boards. Council member Wilson said Sphere One Aviation is looking at providing a new dispenser.

Council member Wilson said he plans to finalize the hangar contract for review at the January meeting.

Council member Wilson said there is a need for repairs on aging electrical infrastructure, including boxes, circuit breakers, and wiring for the Christmas Lights on Main Street. Council member Wilson suggested that budget allocation might be necessary in the future.

Council member Wilson said his Christmas Train will be out in the evenings.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council Member Orme requested a review of the budget and stressed the importance of ensuring contractors complete all sewer cleanout work. Council member Orme noted that previous issues this year were likely caused by contractors only partially addressing the cleanouts.

COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM

Mayor Torgersen asked Council member Cottam to report on why he would like to be on the Council. Council member Cottam said he had some encouragement and he loves to live in Escalante. Council member Cottam explained he has some experience in public utilities and hopes to contribute and learn. Council member Cottam said he is excited and hopes he can fill the void and help the Council.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Orme moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Cottam and Wilson voting aye.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 1/6/2026