

CASTLE DALE CITY
City Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2025



The City Council of Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah, met in an open meeting on December 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
20 S 100 E, Castle Dale, Utah

ATTENDEES

Mayor: Danny Van Wagoner

Council:

Bradley Giles

Joel Dorsch

Julie Johansen

Michael Jorgensen

Emily Mills

Maintenance Supervisor: Ignacio Arrien

Fire Chief: Ignacio Arrien

EMS: -

Land Use Administrator: Kerry Lake

Code Enforcer-Animal Control: Terry Lofthouse-Excused

Treasurer: Carolyn Montgomery-Excused

Recorder: Rebecca Norton

Others in attendance: Glen Gerber, Kevin Raypush, Brett White, AnnDee, Jaydon, Axel, Jaxon Mead, Bliss Mead, Jordan Engman, Seth Christiansen, J. Crosby

WELCOME

Mayor Danny Van Wagoner was presiding and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

All City council members were in attendance.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Council member Jorgensen motioned to approve the November Minutes, Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Citizen of the year award:

Axel Mead was recognized as Citizen of the Year. The mayor praised Axel's selfless attitude, leadership, and outstanding efforts, noting how inspiring it is to see a young person step up in this way. Although the mayor was not present at Axel's event, he shared that he heard about Axel's accomplishments and emphasized that this award is the first of many. The mayor stated that Axel is setting a high standard for future recipients and expressed pride in presenting him with the award.

Electronic Speed Limit Signs-

The council discussed electronic speed limit signs and available options. Joel explained that signs range from basic models costing around \$700 to more professional-grade signs costing about \$5,000 each. Key differences include sign size, durability, battery and solar panel size, warranties, mobile app features, data tracking capabilities, and whether the sign displays a violator alert. Joel recommended a larger 30x36-inch sign for a more professional appearance and effectiveness, suggesting placement on the east side and at town entrances.

The mayor emphasized that the goal is to raise driver awareness and encourage slower speeds, not necessarily to include advanced features. Council members discussed whether all features were necessary if the purpose is psychological deterrence. Gerber suggested contacting the City of Huntington to learn about their sign and costs. The mayor agreed, and the item was tabled for further information.

Council member Giles motioned to table the electronic speed limit sign: Council member Mills second the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Ordinance ADUs:

The council reviewed the modified ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) ordinance that was previously discussed and presented at a public hearing. The ordinance has been revised and is now before the council for review and approval. Giles asked whether a sample permit application had been created; Kerry said it has not but offered to prepare one. Council Member Dorsch asked for clarification on what an ADU is, and the mayor explained it is an accessory dwelling unit, often referred to as a mother-in-law apartment. The ordinance is identified as Ordinance No. 121125A.

Council member Johansen motioned to adopt ADU's ordinance number 121125A; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Presentation and discussion on motorcycles:

A presentation and discussion was held regarding children riding motorcycles and OHVs in Castle Dale. While riding on city streets has long occurred in the small-town setting, state law prohibits OHVs on city streets unless they are street legal, licensed, and insured. Recent issues, including property damage and near accidents involving unlit vehicles, prompted the city to strictly enforce the law.

A parent proposed creating a city ordinance or permit system, including a safety class and a local "dirt bike license," to allow children to travel safely between home and designated riding areas, with privileges revoked if abused. The mayor explained that modifying or overriding state law could expose the city to liability and that insurance requirements must be considered.

Council members and citizens discussed possible alternatives, including designated routes, recreation land through the Recreation and Public Purpose Act, BLM land, the old city dump property, and existing ATV trails such as the covered bridge route. However, access to these areas remains an unresolved issue. The mayor stated he would consult with the city attorney regarding legal options and liabilities and report back.

Council member Giles motioned to go into a public comment; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Open public hearing

Comments on public hearing on raising water rates

Giles explained that the Castle Valley Special Service District conducts a cost study every two years to determine the cost of producing and delivering culinary and secondary water. The most recent study showed higher costs than the previous analysis used to set current rates. As a result, the district director recommended a multi-year rate plan for 2026–2030 to avoid holding annual public hearings.

The proposal includes a **7% increase in 2026**, raising the bimonthly rate from **\$30.00 to \$32.10**, followed by **automatic 3% increases each year from 2027 through 2030**. Over the five-year period, this results in an overall increase of about **\$3.20 per bill**, covering culinary water, sewer, and garbage services. **Secondary water rates will remain unchanged** during this period.

Hookup fees were also discussed:

- **¾-inch culinary water hookup:** increase from **\$1,850 to \$2,200** due to higher material and labor costs.
- **Sewer connection fee:** increase from **\$1,600 to \$1,725**.
- **Secondary water connection fees:** no change.

Proposed changes to secondary water shares would require the number of water shares to match the number of acres irrigated (e.g., 1 share for up to 1 acre, 2 shares for 1–2 acres, etc.), based on recommendations from the irrigation company.

It was confirmed that **all cities in the district will see similar rate increases**, using this multi-year approach to reduce the need for yearly reviews. Three related resolutions/ordinances are tied to these changes: two would be amended to reference the new rate ordinance, and one would be rescinded.

Council members noted that while rates may still change if the Special Service District adjusts its rates, the city would then respond accordingly. It was also stated that Castle Valley Special Service District rates remain among the lowest in the state, and while future funding changes could require adjustments, current expectations are that the city should be okay moving forward.

Close public hearing

Council member Giles motioned to close the public hearing; Council member Johansen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Raising water rates

121125B resolution Castle Dale City water rates

Council member Giles motioned to adopt resolution 121125B Castle Dale City water rates; Council member Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Resolution setting forth culinary, sewer, secondary water rates and connection fees charges for Castle Dale City, Utah inside city limits and for culinary and sewer rates and connection fee charges outside Castle Dale city limits and there are no secondary rates outside city limits

The document was reviewed, and the only changes made were to replace specific dollar amounts with wording that refers to the current rates on file. The updated language now

references **Castle Dale City Water Rates Resolution 121125A** and states that fees will be charged at the rate amount on file at the City Recorder's Office. These updates resulted in the new version labeled **Resolution 121125C**.

Council member Giles motioned Adopt resolution 121125C setting forth culinary, sewer and secondary water rates and connection fee charges for Castle Dale City, Utah inside city limits and culinary, sewer rates and connection fees outside of Castle Dale City limits; Council member Mills seconded the motion

Result: Approved

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Abstain: Julie Johansen

Resolution 121125D addresses secondary water fees, fines, and penalties. The primary change was removing specific dollar amounts and replacing them with language referencing the rates indicated in **Castle Dale City Water Rates Resolution 121125A** and the rates on file at the City Recorder's Office. Additionally, the Mayor noted one change on the back of the resolution: references to refilling the city pond were removed since the city no longer maintains a pond, and the watering days language was updated accordingly.

Council member Giles motioned to adopt resolution 121125D secondary water fees, fines and penalties; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Abstain: Julie Johansen

We want to rescind resolution 18-13-2020C resolution establishing fees for the connections for culinary, sewer and secondary water systems of Castle Dale City, Utah. It is now contained within resolution 12112025B so we want to rescind this resolution.

Council member Giles motioned to rescind resolution 18-13-2020C; Council Member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Amendment to section 8 water sales agreement

The city discussed an amendment to **Section 8 of the 2006 Water Sales Agreement** with the Cottonwood Creek Consolidated Irrigation Company. The proposed amendment allows **Castle Dale City to purchase up to 20 water shares on the open market** and use those shares to

assess **impact fees** for new culinary and irrigation connections. This change would allow individual homeowners if they don't have shares themselves that they could pay an impact fee equal to the cost the city paid for the shares, since the city cannot sell water shares directly.

The amendment has been negotiated with the irrigation company, and its executive board has approved the proposal, with final board approval expected at their next meeting. Once approved by both boards, the city may purchase up to 20 shares.

The agreement operates in **two-year increments**. If all 20 shares are used within the two years, the city may purchase additional shares to maintain the 20-share limit. Any unused shares at the end of the two years may be retained for this purpose, but no additional shares may be purchased unless the agreement is reapproved by both the city and the irrigation company. The mayor emphasized that this agreement is intended to maintain a maximum of 20 shares at any time.

To receive a water connection, applicants must submit an application and provide proof of buildable land and construction within city limits. Homeowners will not own water shares.

City Council Member Giles motioned to accept the water sales agreement amendment to section 8 for the purchase option of an impact fee of limited availability; Council member Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Who is going to the league of cities and towns in St. George in April?
Brad Giles, Glen Gerber, Danny VanWagoner, Rebecca Norton

Fraud risk assessment-

Fraud Risk Assessment- we went through and got our fraud risk assessment, and we scored a total of 345 out of 395 and that puts us in low risk. Johansen asked why we scored so low and mayor stated that is what we want. Low is good.

Council Member Jorgensen motioned to accept our fraud risk assessment; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

2026 Holidays

January-

1st -New Year's Day

19- MLK

February-
16th- President's Day

May
25th- Memorial Day

June
19th Juneteenth

July
3rd- Independence Day
24th- Pioneer Day

September
7th- Labor Day

October
12th- Columbus Day

November
11-Veterans Day
26th & 27th- Thanksgiving

December
24th- Christmas Eve
25th- Christmas
31st- New Year's Eve

Council member Jorgensen motioned to approve the holidays; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

2026 City Council meeting schedule

January 8th

February 12th

March 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

Council member Giles motioned to approve the city council meetings; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Land Use committee- Kerry Lake

The Land Use Committee, led by Kerry Lake, discussed regulations for yard, garage, and estate sales, noting that more work is needed and the item will be finalized at the next meeting. The committee also discussed the ADU public hearing. Home occupation licenses for a tattoo business and for Dallin Fausett were approved. Next year's meeting schedule was set, and a mobile home storage unit ordinance was discussed and will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Animal control/code enforcement- Terry Lofthouse

Terry Lofthouse is out for surgery and recovering well. Kevin Raypush is covering for Terry during his recovery and has completed training with Nosh and some training with Terry prior to the surgery. Kevin also responded to a call involving an aggressive dog, which is still under investigation.

The mayor noted that the current ticket book does not include space to record fines and stated this issue will be corrected. Councilmember Johansen shared that family members advised her to contact the sheriff's office, and the mayor confirmed that a report should be made. Brad assigned Kevin to address violations of the city sign ordinance by collecting and disposing of unauthorized roofing and siding signs.

Maintenance: Ignacio Arrien

Maintenance staff donated time on Tuesday and today to set up the ice rink. Nosh reported being two reports behind due to updates being made to the donation waiver report, specifically for the Boulder Festival and the ice rink, and stated they will be completed next week. Other than that, work has been slow and focused mainly on routine vehicle maintenance.

Fire department:

The Fire Department year-end report shows a total of 30 callouts for the year, including 16 outdoor fires, 3 indoor fires, 2 structure fires, 5 vehicle accidents (2 involving extrication), 2 EMS assists, and 1 incident at the school. Numbers have dropped and staffing is down to approximately 12 firefighters. We are going to have a recruiting event in the spring or summer and have a BBQ.

Treasurer/recorder report

Treasurer stated: Carolyn was excused from the meeting, so the recorder did her report, and she reported that their Sales Tax Compared to last year was down - \$5,579.05 and Transportation Tax Compared to last year is down -\$560.98

Recorder stated:

I got Christmas cards sent out.

Pelorus is going to be doing training on the change made to overtime w2 reporting and it's an online training next Thursday that we are going to watch online.

I learned how to renew animal licenses so hopefully I will be able to do them in January.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Julie- Julie thanked everyone for their support and cooperation over the past 16 years. She shared a few ongoing concerns and hopes, including continued attention to the northeast cemetery, the installation of a crosswalk near her home, and completing improvements discussed years ago for Covered Bridge Canyon, such as adding grass and a bench on city property. She also noted she has been working with the school board to have them put their property up for sale and that the matter was discussed in a closed session the previous night.

Mike- Mike thanked Julie for her many years of service and expressed appreciation, and welcomed Glen, noting they look forward to having him attend next month.

Bradley Giles- Bradley thanked the city office and maintenance staff for hosting a great party. He reported that most Special Service District annual projects are complete, with the final major project being the spring above Botts, which has long caused issues. The project is finished and

functioning, and it is expected to reduce drainage problems at 5th and Main Street and further downstream. Work on the hill has also been completed, with additional curb, gutter, and drainage improvements planned for next year. Overall, Special Service District projects went well this year, and the city will continue addressing ongoing water issues.

Emily-Emily thanked Nosh and the crew for their excellent work and also expressed appreciation to Joel for all his efforts at the arena.

Joel- Joel reported that the outdoor arena is about 80% complete with panel installation. In the indoor arena, one light is malfunctioning and will be replaced. The remaining 10 lights on the spectator side have been installed, significantly improving lighting, and they are hoping for colder weather and snow.

Mayor Danny Van Wagoner- The Mayor wished Johansen the best and reported that there was one ambulance run last month for Castle Dale and Orangeville. He also noted that the EMS budget was finalized at \$1,061,000 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Giles motioned to go into a closed meeting for negotiations; Council Member Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

We went into a closed meeting to discuss negotiations.

Council Member Mills motioned to come out of the closed meeting; Council Member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

BILLS PRESENTED FOR SIGNATURES

Council member Mills motioned to pay the bills; Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

ADJOURN

Council member Johansen motioned to adjourn the meeting; Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Julie Johansen, Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills and Joel Dorsch

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

12/11/2025