

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 6, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 65 NORTH CENTER STREET**

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, Marlene Stowe, Ryan Cottam, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Lenza Wilson arrived at 6:04 p.m. Council member Chad Lyman was excused.

Also present were Bill Weppner and Julie Brugger.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SWEAR IN NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS**

City Recorder Steed administered the Oath of Office to the Newly Elected Mayor Melani Torgersen and Council member Sally Orme. City Recorder Steed explained she administered the Oath of Office to Council member Chad Lyman on January 5, 2026.

**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, Orme and Cottam voting aye.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2025 MEETING**

**Council member Stowe moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe and Cottam voting aye.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

**PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES**

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

Council member Wilson arrived at this time.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT - E-DISPATCH**

**BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner explained with the ongoing pager issues the Fire Department and EMS would like to work with Tropic Town and get on their E-Dispatch system. Mr. Weppner said the cost will be \$43.30 a month to add 100 people which will be split with the ambulance service (506). Mr.

Weppner said it will be around \$25.00 a month for the Fire Department and the County will pick up \$25.00 a month for 506. Mr. Weppner explained in August they can establish their own subscription but the price will increase. Council member Orme said she likes the idea of testing the system before getting our own subscription to make sure we like it. City Recorder Steed asked Mr. Weppner if the County will be paying for 506 or if Escalante City will. Mr. Weppner said the County will pay a monthly portion for 506. **Council member Orme moved to approve a monthly subscription for E-Dispatch services, to be shared between the fire department and EMS, with the county covering EMS costs, as a temporary solution while exploring a permanent subscription. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Cottam, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT - EQUIPMENT**

#### **BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner explained the Fire Department would like to purchase a tool chest to improve equipment organization at the firehouse. Mr. Weppner said he has a quote from Lowes for \$748.00. **Council member Orme moved to purchase the tool chest from Lowes for \$748.00. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Cottam and Wilson voting aye.**

### **APPOINT PLANNING AND ZONING MEMBERS**

City Recorder Steed said Paula Shakespear and Hayden Taylor have been on Planning and Zoning for three years and have done an excellent job. City Recorder Steed said Mr. Taylor and Ms. Shakespear are willing to serve another three year term. **Council member Wilson moved to reappoint Hayden Taylor and Paula Shakespeare to their planning and zoning positions for another three-year term. Council member Cottom seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Cottam, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

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

City Recorder Steed reported on the Pickleball Grant explaining Landon Carter will be the contractor for this project.

City Recorder Steed explained she has not heard if the grant for the Community Center has been approved.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner reported that the E1 truck is back in service after a temporary repair for a hose rupture, and they are working on a permanent fix.

Mr Weppner explained the ongoing efforts to recruit and retain volunteers for the fire department, including potential legislation for tax credits.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN**

Mayor Torgersen expressed appreciation for the fire department, acknowledging that they have faced a challenging few months.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN**

Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON**

Council member Wilson said the core drilling for the airport repaving project is scheduled to begin tomorrow and Thursday.

Council Member Wilson said he completed the revisions to the Airport Hanger Contract and forwarded them to City Recorder Steed.

Council members Wilson expressed appreciation for recent improvements to the water tank road.

Council member Wilson said he will send a letter to Sphere One regarding the replacement or removal of the outdated fuel dispenser system at the airport

### **COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM**

Council member Cottam reported that he is focused on learning his assigned responsibilities.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE**

Council member Stowe raised the issue of the library following the passing of Ray Christian, noting that a decision is needed on its future. Council member Stowe said the roof is currently leaking, and asked for input on how to fix it, as well as whether the library should be retained or decommissioned. Mayor Torgersen said the east side of the wall is deteriorating and affecting the windows and she would suggest having someone inspect it. Council member Wilson said the building is in poor condition, and previous inspections indicated that a simple repair is not feasible. This item was discussed at length.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME**

Council member Orme explained the state inspector recently found the landfill in good condition but identified the need for an emergency contact number and operating hours on the sign.

Council Member Orme said she is concerned about accepting items containing refrigerant, such as refrigerators and air conditioners at the landfill, because the City faces a \$25.00 per unit cost for their proper disposal. This item was discussed at length and will be put on the next agenda.

## **UNPAID BILLS**

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

**Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.**

/s/ **Stephanie Steed**  
Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC  
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 01/20/2026