

City of La Verkin

435 North Main St., La Verkin, Utah, 84745
(435) 635-2581 Fax (435) 635-2104
www.laverkin.org

La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 6:00 pm.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Kelly Wilson; Council Members: Darren Prince, Scot Pectol, Amanda Barr, John Valenti; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Fay Reber, Derek Imlay, Nancy Cline.

A. Called to Order – Darren Prince gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

B. Appointments:

1. Judge Myers to swear in newly elected City Council members, City Treasurer, City Recorder, and Deputy Recorder.

Judge Myers swore in Mayor Wilson, Councilmembers John Valenti and Amanda Barr, Christy Ballard as City Treasurer, Nancy Cline as City Recorder, and Kyle Gubler as Deputy City Recorder.

2. Mayor Wilson appointments of Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Wilson asked approval to appoint Planning Commissioners Allen Bice for a four-year term, Christian Harrison and Richard Howard for alternates for a one-year term. Also, Joey Church to be appointed to the waterboard for a four-year term.

The motion was made by Councilman Pectol to approve the boards and commission appointments, second by Councilman Valenti. Roll Call Vote: Prince-yes, Pectol-yes, Barr-yes, Valenti-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation:

1. Employee of the Year

Mayor Wilson announced that Macon McMahon was voted employee of the year by the city staff.

2. Nick Wright from HVFD

Nick Wright reported on the fire district stats for the year. He will have councilman Pectol report for the fire district from now on.

3. Chief Nuccitelli

Chief Nuccitelli reported on the police station and animal control stats for 2025.

D. Consent Agenda: (Items on the consent agenda may not require discussion. These items will be a single motion unless removed at the request of the Mayor or City Council.)

1. Declarations of conflict of interest
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Minutes: November 11, 2025, regular meeting.
4. Checks & Invoices: \$ 436,757.36

The motion was made by Councilman Valenti to approve the consent agenda as written. Meeting minutes for November 11, 2025, regular meeting. Checks and invoices in the amount \$436,757.36, second by Councilman Prince. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Price-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution No.2026-01. A resolution designating 2 representatives on the Administrative Control Board of Ash Creek Special Service District.

Mayor Wilson explained that in the Resolution it names himself and Councilman Scot Pectol as the representatives.

The motion was made by Councilman Prince to approve Resolution No. 2026-01. A resolution designating 2 representatives Mayor Wilson and Scot Pectol on the Administrative Control Board of Ash Creek Special Service District, seconded by Councilman Pectol. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

1. 2. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2026-02. A resolution designating a representative on the Administrative Control Board of Washington County Special Service District No. 1

Mayor Wilson explained as indicated in the Resolution that representative would be Amanda Barr.

The motion was made by Councilman Pectol to approve Resolution No. 2026-02. A resolution designating a representative, Councilwoman Amanda Barr, on the Administrative Control Board of Washington County Special Service District No. 1, seconded by Councilman Valenti. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution No. 2026-03. A resolution appointing a representative to serve on the Administrative Control Board of Southwest Mosquito Abatement and Control District.

Mayor Wilson explained as indicated in the Resolution that representative would be Councilman John Valenti.

The motion was made by Councilwoman Barr to approve Resolution No. 2026-03. A resolution appointing a representative Councilman John Valenti to serve on the Administrative Control Board of Southwest Mosquito Abatement and Control District., seconded by Councilman Prince. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve Discussion and Possible action to approve Resolution No. 2026-04. A resolution designating a representative to serve on the Administrative Control Board of Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District.

Mayor Wilson explained as indicated in the Resolution that would be councilman Scot Pectol.

The motion was made by Councilman Valenti to approve Resolution No. 2026-04. A resolution designating a representative, councilman Scot Pectol, to serve on the Administrative Control Board of Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District., seconded by Councilman Prince. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action to approve the work release for La Verkin city secondary water improvements.

Mayor Wilson explained that this would release the work to sunrise engineering to start doing the engineering plans and specs for the secondary water improvement project, which we have approved through the agreements with Washington County Water Conservancy District.

Councilman Valenti responded that he would like to table this item and the copper item to give the new council members a chance to maybe have a work meeting and address some concerns. It's a lot of money for first-time vote for a lot of the newer council members. There's a single source. There's been no bids on that work release. Those were some of his concerns, but he deferred to the council.

Mayor Wilson explained that as far as the single source, Derek has some information on that. Just to justify the fact that even though it's a single source, what they have proposed in their bid is that they're right in line with what everybody else would be. He actually called the sewer district and ask them the question on the same thing to see if that was in line with other engineering firms that they deal with, and he indicated that it was not out of order.

Councilman Valenti asked what the total cost was that they are being asked to approve.

Mayor Wilson responded that it is \$13,600,000, which was in your packet.

Councilman Valenti renewed his concern that he thought delaying it a month or so would not change much of anything.

Mayor Wilson disagreed with him. He explained it would take quite a while to get it ready to bid it by next fall. Unless the board wants to delay it, he recommended no, but ask for any other discussion by the council.

Councilman Pectol added that one of his concerns with delaying is material prices for this specific project are escalating. The longer that we wait, his fear is that we may be tripping over dollars to pick a penny or two. He also read through the packet, had a chance to be able to see what Sunrise was proposing. It seemed well in line with anything that he had any experience with. Their proposal was really quite extensive. They had a chance to be able to address items such as what would happen with overages and construction management. They went into great detail to be able to describe what it is that they may be doing and looked as if they had a chance to be able to do a pretty fair amount of preliminary survey to be able to understand utility conflicts and possible issues that could come down the pipe. You know, these guys have put together a pretty good substantial package that he didn't know that we would be able to see something come back, especially in any kind of a timeline that would justify possible material increases if we were to delay it.

Councilman Price was concerned about affecting two summers instead of one. If the irrigation system goes down and citizens have to use culinary, he wouldn't want that for two summers.

Mayor Wilson replied that they plan on leaving the system on the entire time.

Councilman Pectol added that in the proposal it stated a possible 450-day contract to be able to get that done. It is a long, extensive project. It's going to have the city sitting in some state of turmoil.

Mayor Wilson agreed there might be downtimes while switching the systems.

Councilman Valenti was concerned. This issue had come to the water board in a different form, but the chair of the board, who was a former mayor of the city, also had similar concerns about bids and whether or not we were getting the best price. And that was his statement at the time. The other question he had is how it's going to be reflected in our budget. Is it going to be a revolving account? Is it going to be capital improvement? Is it going to be an enterprise fund? Do you know what form it's going to look like and if we'll have any other discussions on the items as the dollars are spent.

Kyle replied that it will all be paid for by the water conservancy district. That the contractor would submit invoice and the city and district will approve it and then the district will pay the invoice.

Blaine Worrell explained that they use a program and the city and district approve it for payment.

Kyle added that the payment will go to the water district.

Councilman Valenti clarified that it would never come back to the council.

Mayor Wilson explained that all the funding would be paid for by the water district. It's desperately needed. He has been in the water business for a long time. When the system went in, it went in just replacing ditches in town. Now some of those water lines are behind homes where you can't even get in to work on them, other than by hand. And they use the cheapest pipe known to man when they put it in. And so, unfortunately, it hasn't been a good system for us. But the canal company is the one that put it in and they didn't have a lot of money to do it, and so they went the cheapest way they could. We believe that the system is losing close to one cubic feet per second, or just under that, which is 450 gallons per hour.

Councilman Prince asked if there has been some work previously done by Sunrise that ties right into this and that's why Sunrise is doing it? Because they've already invested all of this. To build the scope.

Derek Imlay added they have built the scope, they gather the prices so the district had something to go off of so the district could fund the project. So, they've already invested heavily in the project.

Kyle replied to answer his question either myself or Derek will approve invoices, but it will come back to the city. It makes sense for a staff member because council is part-time.

Councilwoman Barr asked what houses would be affected. Do we have approval of homeowners? Do they understand what's going on? She was concerned that would be a barrier for some.

Mayor Wilson responded that the majority of the area that's going to be affected most by the homeowners is right through here, this area through here. (referring to the map)

Kyle added that there will be some inconvenient times for them, but it's a city utility system, and right now there's some liability that the city takes on when these water lines in backyards break. We'd be responsible for that. When it's in the street, it's easier for us to get to, and maintain. There's going to be times that it's going to be inconvenient for people.

Mayor Wilson explained just a couple years ago when we did the street project that it was a difficult time for all of you that lived on the street, but the result ended up being something really nice. Anytime you have construction you're going to have to deal with that. We'll try to minimize it as much as we can.

Councilwoman Barr asked if they are going to have to go on peoples' properties to do the work.

Mayor Wilson responded that there will be some properties that they will have to enter. They've taken into consideration the possibility of buying the materials for the property owner to get back to where they can connect to their system the way they are. It's going to cause some grief for the property owner, but in the long run it'll be the best thing that we can do as a city and for the property owners. We've already had some situations where water lines broke in the back of somebody's home, and their home flooded and that's been a liability for the city. This system is installed in a way that it would be reliable and good for everybody.

Kyle added he was sure the phone calls would come in but the staff is capable of taking care of it.

Councilman Pectol suggested in the bid the contractors would have a public involvement specialist to be able to help get those notices out and be able to field phone calls, be able to help reduce the amount of impact that it's going to be to folks here. There will certainly be opportunities for us to be able to have negotiations with the

engineers as we go down this road, but as far as their work package and the stuff that they have, it looks like it's well in line with what it ought to be.

The motion was made by Councilman Pectol to approve the work release for La Verkin city secondary water improvements. seconded by Councilman Prince. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-No, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion passed.

6. Discussion and Possible action to approve the funding package for the Lead and Copper project.

Mayor Wilson explained they went to the state drinking water board, and they gave us some money to do this project. It's mandated through the federal government for us to get it done. Their first approach was to give us a 50-50 loan. Forgiveness 50% and loan 50%. We went back and asked for more and they gave us a 70/ 30 so, 70% forgiveness and 30% loan.

Derek added that there was lead and copper that had an impact. It was tested and then we had to send that up and get it tested and then notify homeowners. Everything happened in Dearborn, Michigan, EPA decided to make it mandatory that all cities and towns have to identify all the areas from their main line and the service line running to the yoke, et cetera. And they had until 2030 to accomplish that goal. Then they took a step further because the city never goes beyond the water meter. Everything from the yoke is going towards the houses. So now they have made it mandatory that we have to go out and identify homes on the other side of the meter. If they fall into that same category, then we make sure those are replaced. The normal citizen wouldn't have the ability to financially get that switched out. And so they gave the cities until 2035 to get the customer site done. So, when we applied for a grant to go out and identify the areas in town, the crews sent out, and we identified all the areas. We mapped it all out, submitted it to the state for approval, and then we went a step further and we got it designed ready. It was designed ready to go out as soon as we got the money. We thought there were going to be plenty of money but that's when we started doing the negotiation with the mayor going up north. Kyle and the Mayor got a better deal with our grant loan mix. Our biggest area is in Stowles mobile home park. Almost the whole entire Stowles is on the map, in a packet. So that will just increase the amount of construction work.

Mayor Wilson explained that the payback schedule that was in the packet was wrong and they have been emailed the correct document and handed out a hard copy tonight. We got \$678,000 that we would have to pay back, and we got that at two percent interest over 30 years, and that is the schedule of paying it back

Kyle added they went from a \$70,000 payment to a \$30,000 payment. An overall savings of \$600,000.

Councilman Prince suggested working with the fiber company that is digging up the streets and maybe saving some money if the streets already open. It would be worth a call.

Kyle added that this is federal job so cost will be higher.

The motion was made by Councilwoman Barr to approve the funding package for the Lead and Copper project, seconded by Councilman Pectol. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion passed.

7. Discussion regarding ratifying the secondary water conservation plan.

Mayor Wilson explained that when house bill 242 passed they were requiring all secondary systems to meter their systems and part of that requirement was to get a meter that would be warrantable for that system. He attended several meetings with the Water Task Force before they actually passed that bill. He explained to them that there's not a meter that they can get a warranty on for a secondary system unless it is culinary grade water. And they didn't pay much attention to him, so they went ahead and passed it. They used their poster child, the

Weber Basin Water District, which runs the secondary system for the Weber Basin up there. He asked them multiple times if they would show him a copy of their warranty for their meters from the company, they bought the meters from, and they couldn't do it, and didn't do it. He has researched them all. They guarantee you they don't have a warranty. But the problem we had is our water is so dirty at different times during the year, that it would be futile to try to meter it. So as a result of that and attending those meetings and going to the state, they gave us a waiver that we wouldn't have to meter our system. But each year we have to turn in a report to the state indicating the things that they ask for to receive that exemption. This year they added to that that we turn in a secondary conservation plan with that. And also that we have paperwork from the meter company that we use for our AMI system, that they're not warrantable. We didn't get that letter for the secondary water conservation plan until the 10th of December and they wanted it turned in by the 31st. We had a special meeting for the water board and went over what they were asking for and they approved it. This item is just to ratify that. The state has accepted it and we're good for the next year. So next year we'll have to fill out the same report. Same as the culinary water each year we have to fill out a report on the culinary water incentive to the state. So, this is to the board just to ratify the secondary water conservation plan that we turned into the state already.

Fay added that the water conservation contains various provisions from our own city code that's already there, already in it.

Councilman Valenti was concerned with the aggressive nature of the savings. We're required to come in at a much lesser standard. He had a feeling that this is tied into the water agreement with the Conservancy District, and that's why we're trying to hit that number. But my concern is what effect this will have on the contract holder's water.

Mayor Wilson responded it would have zero effect on the contract holders. We have a contractual obligation to deliver water to those that have contracts, and the Water District understands that. He explained it to them many, many times. They've even asked, what if we get to a situation where we're in a drought stage and we have to have all the cities tell their citizens they can't water their lawns? And they ask every city there in that meeting, are you willing to do that? And then when they asked him, he said, we're going to have green lawns. And that's just the nature of the beast because our water rights are some of the best water rights on the river. And if the river quits flowing, we'll be one of the last people to take water out of the river. And we have a contractual obligation to give water to those contract holders. And so, they understand that.

Councilman Valenti added the long-term projection is 1,300 plus acre feet out of the city's right to 2,600 acre feet. Are they going to get that 1,300 acre feet, that's going to be a haircut for a bunch of people.

Mayor Wilson responded that it's not going to affect the contract holders. But the state is still requiring, even though people have water rights, they still want everybody to conserve water. And so that's just part of what they're asking everybody in the state to do. He thought we need to be judicious in how we use our water as well. There's no need to over water even if you do have the right to do it. In that contract that we signed with the water district, we already are not using roughly around 700-acre feet of water that we have rights to in the secondary system. We believe that if we improve our system we could probably, based on the way we're doing it right now, that it could go up as high as maybe a thousand-acre feet that we're not going to be using. Then as these fields that are being watered almost 24/7 during the watering season as they get developed there's going to be less and less water that they will need. It will be there, but we'll still maintain that water right which by that agreement with the water district, we'll be able to turn it into drinking water and they'll reserve it for us.

Councilman Valenti's concern was that basically we're giving them quite a bit of water. We're getting a one-time payment from them to fix our system which actually gives them more water. We're getting a one-time grant of 13 million to fix our system. The agreement they're going to make possibly hundreds of millions of dollars off our water. None of those dollars are going to come back to us in any real way.

Mayor Wilson explained that it's no different than the water rights we have out of the springs we're not using all that water right now and, if we don't use it, it goes to the next person. Hurricane City's been using more water than they're entitled to out of the spring because it's there and we've agreed and, even with the secondary system if we don't use it it goes to the next canal company down the river. And so, it's in that sense we're still really not losing anything because we're maintaining that for future generations to be able to grow here in the community

Councilman Valenti was concerned that at the beginning of the agreement there was a much better agreement to be had. We probably could have leased water to the county whether they would have gone along with that or not, that's another question. We could have timed the agreement out for 20 years or 30 years or 40 years and revisit it at some point. Because, again, we're going to lose an awful lot of cash that could have been helpful to the city in any number of ways.

Mayor Wilson replied if the district wouldn't buy it then there would be no money.

Councilman Prince asked about the drought plan and the hours they require. Would that affect the city?

Mayor Wilson replied that it is in our conservation plan. The Squires field has sprinklers on all day throughout the summer. Individuals don't need to water all day long they need to be responsible.

Councilman Pectol commented in the report it stated the city should be the example and water responsibly within the time limits, he thought that was a good addition. He asked if the city had any break in the middle of the night with its own sprinkler systems.

Derek replied that they haven't had any problems. The system has its own clocks and if it malfunctioned it would send an alarm to the employees. The system the city has on the irrigation and culinary lines alert if there is a break by increased water consumption it will alert the employees. The new pump station will have one also.

Councilwoman Barr commented that the school, which is run by the county, had water running all day and she has notice they have cut down their consumption.

Councilman Valenti asked if the M&I conversion chart, is that drinking water and secondary water that they are looking to save on that percentage rate? Or is it only secondary water?

Derek replied it is both culinary and irrigation.

Councilman Valenti asked if it they will get follow up reports on how they are doing with conserving water.

Mayor Wilson replied at the end of the year they have a report on it and they have to turn it into the state also. They can check to make sure that we're not abusing our water rights or going over. The good thing about having the city owning the water rights to the secondary system is that cities can protect those water rights much better than a canal company. If, for instance, it was still the canal company and they kept sending 700 acre feet down the river every year and if it went higher, the state could come in and re-adjudicate that water right and take it away, adjust it so we're not sending more water down the river. And that's by having the city own the water right, which the canal company turned it over to the city in 2009. And now all we have to do is tell the state we're saving that water for future generations. The other good thing about it is it's a one-to-one ratio on the conversion from secondary to culinary. Generally, they take a big haircut, which was good of the state to allow that to happen for us, so that's a good thing.

Derek told Councilman Valenti he would send him the water reports.

The motion was made by Councilwoman Barr to approve ratifying the secondary water conservation plan, seconded by Councilman Valenti. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes. The motion passed.

8. Discussion regarding the cemetery Ordinance.

Derek explained they wanted to update the ordinance in line with the surrounding communities. We did allow people to come in and plant plants within six inches from the base of the headstone, only if they maintained it. And as you can see in the cemetery, a lot of people have planted a lot of plants and didn't maintain it with the exception of us. And as those plants grow and get bigger, we use up more time maintaining and they're harder to trim and get around in the cemetery. He changed that to they could plant within the base of the headstone. With the same criteria, if they don't maintain it then we take them out. The other one is the hooks that everybody has. Those are used outside the base of the headstone. We're requiring those to be within the headstone. That way it doesn't conflict with our trimming. When we have a burial, when people put flowers down in the burial, they could stay there until the wind whipped them somewhere else. They have a five-business-day timeline. And then the biggest thing is changing the names on the plots. When someone comes in and swears, they are left to them by a deceased family member but there is no proof. We have gotten in some trouble with that. So, there's three options now, and this is what St. George, and Washington used. For example, if Scott passes, his wife has the ability, where he's the spouse, to make that decision on who can be buried there. If both of them pass, then it would go to whoever has the legal authority for the family. Or the third is if somebody wanted it, you have to reach out to all the family members, get a response back from everybody and bring it to the city so that we aren't guessing on who should be able to use what. It takes staff out of it because it's a stressful time. People's temperament is a lot different during that time. There are a lot of times that they try to unintentionally battle the staff. It's a very uncomfortable situation. It's hard enough when they watch you fill in the grave. We need a little compassion. So, we're trying to eliminate staff being involved. This is kind of reason we've done this is to try to alleviate how they come about getting the plot and how the plots are being taken care of. We did away with advertising the holidays that you put flowers out. It states any holiday you've got X amount of time that they can be displayed out there. If they don't remove it the staff will do it. If we pass this, we're actually going to post signs in four locations so that everybody understands the rules and regulations. Now, we have done that in years past, and all the signs we put up got stolen. We'll do a little better job of putting better signs up there. He asked for some feedback. We did give you the secondary water plans. He wanted them to look at it before the work meeting in two weeks.

F. Mayor & Council Reports:

Mayor Wilson: Reminded the past and current council to come to dinner January 15th.

Kyle Gubler: Reported that UDOT didn't have a start day on the fence by the bridge. The survey is done that was connected to the lead and copper project is done. He gave them the information.

Valenti: Reported on the planning commission meeting December 10th. He is on the council for league and cities.

Prince: Reported they had our final mosquito abatement meeting of the year, and the mosquito abatement still stayed way well within their budget. They have stockpiled a ton of money that they're just earning interest on, possibly to buy a new building down the road with that. They did hire a new employee, a full-time, specifically to have public outreach for this Aedes aegypti that we've talked a lot about in the city. That's causing us so much grief, that little mosquito, as we discussed, in a lot of potting soil from California states. It doesn't need much water, in fact, they found the larva in a kid's shovel. We're just going to have to be vigilant. John Valenti asked if the open ditches around the city are going to be taken care of during the irrigation improvement project. Derek replied that it would be filled in. Darren Prince added they had problems in confluence park while doing the construction with standing water. And standing water from citizens that over water. Mayor added to report any mosquitoes they see.

Micah Gubler: Not present.

Pectol: Reported he went to a training course for new leaders. They are on the list for emails.

Barr: Nothing to report

Fay: No comment

G. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

Patricia Wise commented she wanted more information readily available to the public. She requested we include the council packet to the public on the city website as well as the public website. She checked with other cities. Santa Clara sends out packets before the meeting. Ivins said it was the best thing they had done because the citizens come up with better questions. St. George has always done it. Hurricane, Springdale, Virgin, Rockville, Toquerville do. La Verkin and Enterprise were the only cities that don't do that. She knows planning commission should not be lobbied. She asked other cities and they said citizens are going to ask questions regardless of that.

Kyle Gubler responded that it was discussed in key staff meeting and they decided that the packets would get emailed on Fridays to the council and commissioners and then the city would put them on the state website Monday. That way they had a chance to read the packet before getting asked questions. The city website will have a link to the state website.

Patricia commented that the other cities did it at the same time and they did it on the city website. She said its too many steps to go to the link.

Kyle responded he did remember in the meeting they mentioned putting it on the city website. He asked the council if they wanted time to review it first or if they put the packet on the same day they received it. The council was ok with it happening on the same day.

H. Adjourn:

The mayor closed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

01-21-2020

Date Approved

ATTEST:

Nancy Cline
Nancy Cline
City Recorder

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor Kelly B. Wilson

