

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
Council Chambers – Room No. 140
2600 W Taylorsville Blvd
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

ATTENDANCE

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Kristie S. Overson
Council Chair Meredith Harker
Council Vice Chair Robert Knudsen
Council Member Anna Barbieri
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Curt Cochran

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Betsy Valora, Receptionist
Ben White, City Engineer
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

Others Present: Hon. Chris Bown, Carlton Christensen, John E. Gidney, Mason Harker, Mike Harker, Hon. Ryan Holtan, Susan Knudsen, Aimee Winder Newton, Brent Overson, Lorin Palmer, and Jared Tingey

6:00 P.M. SWEARING IN CEREMONY

1. Administration of Oath of Office to Mayor Overson and Council Members Harker and Knudsen

The meeting began with a swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected city officials. Chair Harker welcomed everyone and noted that while they had served previously and been re-elected, they still needed to be officially sworn in. Judge Bown then administered the oath of office to Mayor Overson and Council Members Harker and Knudsen, with each offering some brief remarks.

6:30 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Kristie S. Overson
Council Chair Meredith Harker
Council Vice Chair Robert Knudsen
Council Member Anna Barbieri
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Curt Cochran

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Scott Harrington, Asst. City Admin/CFO
Grant Allen, Senior Planner
Terryne Bergeson, Planner
Dina Blaes, Chief of Strategic Engagement
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Barbra Larsen, Business Licensing
Betsy Valora, Receptionist
Ben White, City Engineer

Others Present: Hon. Chris Bown, Hon. Ryan Holtan, Grant Howarth, Chris Hutton, Don Russell, David Young and Tammy Young

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Harker called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A roll call was conducted wherein all council members were present.

1.1 Opening Ceremonies-Pledge and Reverence

Council Member Knudsen led the Pledge of Allegiance and shared some opening thoughts.

1.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Overson began her report by recognizing that January 16th was National Religious Freedom Day. She reminded the council of their resolution from the previous year affirming this observance in alignment with Congress and Utah's governor.

The mayor noted new construction at the southwest corner of 3600 West and 5400 South, where a vacant gas station was being converted to a Mountain America Credit Union. She reported on a recent meeting between Wasatch Front Regional Council and Chamber West regarding transportation plans and priorities for the region, which included representatives from West Jordan, Kearns, Magna, West Valley, and other key partners. She emphasized the importance of exchanging ideas about transportation issues on the west side of Salt Lake County.

The mayor described the previous day's meeting with state legislators in preparation for the 2026 legislative session, thanking Representative Jim Dunnigan, Representative Verona Mauga, Senator Karen Kwan, and Senator Wayne Harper for attending, comparing notes and discussing mutual priorities. Later that morning, initial discussions began with Jim Dunnigan regarding Taylorsville Dayzz 2026, noting this year would mark the city's 30th birthday. She attended a community council meeting the previous night in District No. 3, where approximately 35 community members learned about the legislative process.

Mayor Overson praised the Youth Council for helping to "undecorate" City Hall after the holidays and noted they were now focused on job shadowing city employees in preparation for Youth Council Day at the Legislature. She concluded by expressing happiness that the city was fully staffed with a remarkable team, and she looked forward to what 2026 would bring.

1.2.1 Recognition of the Recent Promotion of Sgt. Jake Griffith

Chief Cottam and the rest of his command staff presented Sgt. Jake Griffith who had recently been promoted to Sergeant. The Chief explained that while promotions were regular occurrences in larger departments, Taylorsville's smaller size made competition particularly stiff. He noted that the department's 67 officers had experience levels equivalent to departments four times their size, with command staff alone possessing 132 years of combined law enforcement experience.

Chief Cottam praised Sergeant Griffith's unselfishness, recalling times when he had volunteered to investigate critical incidents involving fatalities or serious injuries even when he was not assigned. He described Sgt. Griffith as "what you want" in an officer - firm when necessary but also empathetic, with an excellent investigative mind.

1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chair Harker announced the *Evening of Art* scheduled for 7:00 p.m. February 11th at the Mid Valley Performing Arts Center. Taggart, the artist who designed the veteran sculptures in front of City Hall would be speaking.

1.4 Citizen Comments

The Chair opened the citizen comment period.

Grant Howarth congratulated the mayor and council for publicly reaffirming their commitment to Religious Freedom Day. He read excerpts from the state resolution passed in 2015, which designated January 16th each year as Religious Freedom Day and urged Utah's citizens and governments to remember and honor the nation's first religious freedom law written and championed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

Christopher Hutton was called as he had previously stated he would be present to speak. However, he was not in attendance, so Chair Harker closed the citizen comment period.

2. APPOINTMENTS

2.1 Resolution No. 26-01 A Resolution of the City of Taylorsville Appointing David Young to the Planning Commission as a Representative of District No. 1

Chief of Strategic Engagement Dina Blaes presented David Young for consideration to serve on the Planning Commission representing District No. 1. She explained that he had served as an active alternate who often shared ideas with staff and had been incredibly engaged.

MOTION: Council Member Knudsen moved to approve Resolution No. 26-01, a Resolution Appointing David Young to the Planning Commission as a Representative of District No. 1. The motion was seconded by Council Member Burgess and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Justice Court

Judge Bown began his report by first introducing Judge Ryan Holtan from West Jordan Justice Court. Judge Holtan explained he had been Bown's intern 17 years ago when Bown was a

prosecutor, and now as West Jordan's judge, he was again benefiting from Judge Bown's mentorship. He expressed pleasure at the partnership between the two courts.

Judge Bown reported on construction progress on the new courtroom at the Thomas Rees Justice Center in West Jordan. He hoped to finally occupy the space by February 1st.

Reviewing court performance metrics, Judge Bown reported maintaining above 90% disposition rates which was his target benchmark. For criminal cases in January 2025, the court disposed of 509 cases at 92% within 180 days and 1,192 cases at 92% in the 12-month view. He noted increased case numbers since Utah Highway Patrol had taken over traffic enforcement on Bangerter Highway, resulting in more traffic citations. December numbers decreased as was typical for that month due to the holidays. Small claims maintained a 99% adjudication rate, down slightly from the previous 100%. Traffic cases showed 94% adjudication within the required 90 days.

Judge Bown reported that a new Traffic Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) program was being developed. Unlike the current small claims ODR that used mediators, the traffic version would allow qualifying defendants to negotiate directly with prosecutors online, potentially reaching resolutions without court appearances. Successful resolutions would be handled by affidavit, saving court time for more complex cases like domestic violence and DUIs. The program had been successful in the Utah County Justice Court.

When asked about resident feedback regarding the move to West Jordan, Judge Bown reported no negative comments received in court, though some had complained to city administration about the temporary courtroom's appearance. He noted initial issues with people going to the wrong location, but no complaints about the distance. Judge Holtan interjected to praise the Taylorsville clerks who came with Judge Bown, stating the merger would not have worked without their exceptional quality and ability to function as a team despite the temporary conditions and challenges.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes of the December 17, 2025 City Council Meeting

MOTION: Council Member Knudsen moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Burgess and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

Ms. Blaes introduced Grant Allen as the city's new senior planner. She noted he had been with the city for a week and was still "drinking from the fire hose." Mr. Allen had been recruited from Orem City and brought passion for planning along with a variety of other skills. Mr. Allen said he was honored to join Team Taylorsville, noting he felt immediately welcomed. He held bachelor's and master's degrees in planning from the University of Utah and looked forward to working for the city.

5.1 Ordinance No. 26-01 Consideration of an Ordinance of the City of Taylorsville Amending the Zoning Map for the Property at 5418 South 1900 West from Limited Commercial (LC) to Regional Commercial (RC)

Planner Terryne Bergeson presented the rezone application initiated by the City for property at 5418 South 1900 West, located at a corner just outside Crossroads Shopping Center. The property had been vacant since spring 2025 but had previously operated as Trolley Wing Co. with restaurant and bar licenses. When new owners acquired the building and began working with the city on licenses, staff discovered the previous alcohol license type was inconsistent with the zoning, likely due to a permitting software migration dating back to 2020.

Ms. Bergeson explained that Limited Commercial (LC) zoning was characterized as commercial areas with planned commercial and office uses that blended with adjacent residential space through architectural or site design. Regional Commercial (RC) was intended to stimulate economic development and provide diverse commercial uses with access to regional transportation networks. Location criteria specified that RC should be near intersections with Redwood Road, 5400 South, I-15, or Bangarter Highway, and this property met that criteria.

She presented tables showing which uses would change between LC and RC zoning, highlighting that bar establishment licenses were the primary reason for the requested rezone. The Planning Commission had voted 6-0 to recommend approval after public notice to property owners within 300' of the subject property generated only two inquiries - one neutral and one supportive. Ms. Bergeson emphasized that adoption would not approve any operation but would enable the applicant to pursue appropriate approvals under the new zoning.

Council Member Burgess appreciated that the establishment would provide food service, not just alcohol service. Council Member Knudsen thanked staff for cleaning up the previous oversight and appreciated that none of the police activity in the past four years had stemmed from complaints by nearby residents.

MOTION: Council Member Burgess moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-01, an Ordinance of the City of Taylorsville Amending the Zoning Map for the Property at 5418 South 1900 West from Limited Commercial (LC) to Regional Commercial (RC). The motion was seconded by Council Member Cochran and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

5.2 Ordinance No. 26-02 Consideration of an Ordinance of the City of Taylorsville for a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 13.08.020(E) of the Taylorsville Municipal Code, Amending Bar Establishment Use in RC Zone from Prohibited Within 250 Feet of a Residential Zone to Require Nonadministrative Conditional Use Approval

Ms. Bergeson continued with the associated application, noting that the date on the first slide was incorrect. Currently, the land development code prohibited bar establishments within 250 feet of

residential districts in RC zones. Since the subject property had an entrance within 250 feet of homes, the text amendment would allow consideration through a non-administrative conditional use permit process.

She explained that properties farther from residential zones could receive administrative conditional use permits focused on commercial-to-commercial impacts like parking, economic development, and traffic. Properties adjacent to residential use would require Planning Commission review to consider additional impacts including noise, safety, lighting, and air quality. The intended use would match the previous operation.

The police history analysis showed only nine responses over four years: four vehicle-related, four altercations, and one minor with fake ID. All calls originated from employees or customers, not residential neighbors. Council Member Cochran asked if the applicant was present; Ms. Bergeson clarified the city initiated this application and the business owner would need to apply for conditional use approval if the amendment passed.

MOTION: Council Member Barbieri moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-02, Approving a Zoning Text Amendment to Taylorsville Municipal Code Section 13.08.020(E) Amending Bar Establishment License in RC Zones From Prohibited Within 250 Feet of a Residential Zone to Require Nonadministrative Conditional Use Approval. The motion was seconded by Council Member Burgess and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

At this point, the Chair asked to amend the agenda to reopen citizen comment for Christopher Hutton who had arrived. The council agreed.

Christopher Hutton addressed the council about parking restrictions on 2700 West near Bennion Middle School. He explained he had lived on that road for a year and a half, and three weeks ago discovered parking was no longer allowed in front of his house. According to his reading of city law, no parking signs were required for parking restrictions to be enforceable. Officer Lutz had given him a parking ticket but agreed to dismiss it after their discussion.

He requested that the section of road from 6200 South to the neighborhood entrance not have a bike lane so residents could have visitors. He pointed out that without parking, he couldn't legally host family gatherings, his neighbors who owned construction businesses could not park their vehicles, no deliveries could be legally made and even parents picking up children from school would be parked illegally. He noted that seven homeowners faced 2700 West and were affected by this issue.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hutton for coming and noted that administration would review possibilities and contact him. She then closed the citizen comment period once again.

5.3 Discussion of a Possible Vacation of Desert Fox Circle

City Engineer Ben White explained the unusual term "vacation" in this context. The intersection at Desert Fox and Bangerter Highway had been completed five years before, but like most UDOT projects, cleanup work remained. When larger roads were punched through established neighborhoods, pieces did not always fit back together well.

Mr. White showed an aerial view of Desert Fox Circle-- a remnant cul-de-sac on the northwest corner where UDOT had left a small 100-foot stretch of road to provide access to a sewer manhole. Ownership of two UDOT parcels (highlighted in red on his slide) was being sought by adjacent property owners. The city had no use for these parcels or for the road between them. Homeowners had been unsuccessful in reaching the right people at UDOT and had reached out to Taylorsville for assistance.

Mr. White asked if the council was interested in vacating the road. He explained the process would involve surveying, platting, and property transfers, with costs likely borne by the requesters and reimbursed to the city. Council Member Cochran questioned why UDOT wouldn't simply transfer the property directly to residents. Mr. White explained that while UDOT excelled at building and maintaining roads, property management was not their forte, making the process less efficient than one might expect.

Mayor Overson provided context and explained that the two residents had struggled to find help with this issue, repeatedly asking "who do I contact?" before meeting with city staff. This represented the city's effort to help solve their problem. Council Members Cochran and Burgess emphasized the importance of ensuring property owners understood the costs involved and had proper agreements in place before proceeding.

The Council expressed support for helping resolve the situation. Mr. White indicated the next step would involve a public hearing and the presentation of detailed plans showing the lots with the road removed. He confirmed a sewer district manhole would still require access, but property owners could use the space as long as access to that remained available.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 Discussion Regarding Mid-Year Budget Adjustments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

Assistant City Administrator and Chief Financial Officer Scott Harrington proposed mid-year budget adjustments totaling just over \$1.2 million, involving about 20 adjustments in the general fund and four in other funds. Revenue adjustments included an additional \$35,000 in license and permit fees and \$20,000 in charges for service due to higher than budgeted development activity. Miscellaneous revenue would increase by \$200,000, primarily from vehicle surplus sales, though this included expenses for early lease payoffs on some trucks.

Major expense adjustments included \$25,000 for administration and \$900,000 for asphalt improvements including slurry seals and overlays - the single largest line item. The police

department required building improvements for the new radio system to operate correctly as well as market pay increases. Debt service included \$135,000 for the lease prepayment expenses.

Mr. Harrington noted the adjustments would primarily use fund balance, helping keep it within state limits. He confirmed the museum floor improvements requested by council were included at the full amount. He provided council members with both summary and detailed documents, offering to meet with them individually if needed. The public hearing would occur at the next meeting, after which council could adopt the adjustments or wait for further consideration. No hard deadline existed for approval of the proposed adjustments.

7. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

City Recorder Jamie Brooks reported that in anticipation of this meeting Council Members Barbieri, Cochran, and Knudsen had each been nominated to serve as Council Chair in the coming year. For the position of Vice Chair, Council Members Barbieri and Cochran had been nominated and ballots had been provided to each council member. The council members took a moment to complete them and once they were collected and counted, it was announced that Council Member Knudsen had been elected to serve as Chair while Council Member Cochran was elected as Vice Chair. The transition would occur at the January 21st meeting.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

Council Member Burgess requested an update on parking solutions and new parking ordinance development. City Engineer Ben White indicated it might come in the first February meeting.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Chair Harker reviewed the dates and times of upcoming planning commission and city council meetings.

10. CLOSED SESSION (Conference Room 202)

There was no need for a closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Cochran moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knudsen, after which Chair Harker declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Jamie Brooks, MMC



City Recorder

Minutes Prepared with the Aid of HeyGov Artificial Intelligence

Approved 01/21/20

