

TOWN OF LEEDS

RESOLUTION 2026-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE LEEDS TOWN COUNCIL TO ADOPT A POLICY FOR THE OPENTING CEREMONY FOR TOWN COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Leeds, Utah (the “*Town Council*”) desires to adopt a policy to include an Opening Ceremony at the start of Town Council and Planning Commission meetings;

WHEREAS, beginning with Benjamin Franklin, who called for prayer to open each meeting of the Continental Congress, and proceeding to the present day, such invocations have been a traditional and institutional act of local, state, and national legislative bodies;

WHEREAS, the Leeds Town Council and Planning Commission have traditionally invited an invocation along with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, as an Opening Ceremony before Town Council and Planning Commission meetings;

WHEREAS, the Leeds Town Council fully supports and upholds the First Amendment to the United States Constitution which guarantees freedom of religious expression and this resolution is not a violation of any constitutional principle based upon previous rulings of various courts, including the United States Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 572 u.s. 542 (2014), that invocations to open public meetings are not in violation of the constitution, but are deeply rooted in the history of our great nation from its inception to the present time;

WHEREAS, the Utah State Supreme Court has confirmed that a city council’s practice of allowing public prayer to open meetings are not inherently unconstitutional when conducted in a non-discriminatory manner;

WHEREAS, the Town Council intends for the invocation to be nondenominational, non-proselytizing in character, and encourages a wide variety of churches, individuals, organizations to offer the invocation to support the Town Council or Planning Commission in achieving their stated purposes;

WHEREAS, the invocation shall be carried out on a volunteer basis, equally accessible to all persons, regardless of belief or non-belief, and without cost to the Town;

WHEREAS, by enacting this resolution the Town Council does not intend to establish a religion; to advance, disparage or exclude one religion over another; nor to show preference to or persuade any person concerning the beliefs of the volunteer providing the invocation or the content of the invocation; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held an open and public meeting on January 14, 2026, and by majority vote adopted a policy for the opening ceremony for Town Council and Planning Commission meetings to become effective January 28, 2026, the Town council invites persons of all faiths and persuasions to join with them in presenting an invocation to open its regular public Council meetings, pursuant to the procedures outlined in the attached Exhibit "A", incorporated herein by this reference.

PASSED BY RESOLUTION THIS 14TH DAY OF January 2026.

LEEDS, WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH

Mayor, Wayne Peterson

Clerck/Recorder, Cari Bishop

Mayor Wayne Peterson, Voted _____

Councilmember Christine Harvey, Voted _____

Councilmember Kohl Furley, Voted _____

Councilmember Jeffrey Allen, Voted _____

Councilmember Aaron Price, Voted _____

EXHIBIT “A”

Leed's Town Council Invocation Procedures

1. There shall be available one invocation on the agenda at each regular Town Council or Planning Commission meeting preceding all legislative business, which invocation should not exceed ninety (90) seconds.
2. Invocations shall not be used to proselytize or disparage any faith or belief, which may be or include, quotes or inspirational phrases, from within or without, any religious doctrine or literature.
3. Any person may volunteer to provide an invocation.
4. Invocations shall be scheduled on a “first come, first serve” basis, except as described below for repeat participants.
5. Anyone interested in providing an invocation may contact the City Clerk to be placed on the agenda a minimum of five (5) days prior to the scheduled meeting.
6. The person who will be providing the invocation must be the one who contacts the City Clerk to sign up. A third party may not sign up others to provide an invocation.
7. To allow opportunity for persons of different beliefs to participate, preference shall be given to persons who have not yet given an invocation over persons who have already done so.
8. Council members or city officials are not prohibited from receiving or giving invocations. To avoid the appearance of establishing or promoting a certain religion or belief, if a city employee, appointed or elected official desires to provide an invocation, the agenda shall state the following near his/her name on the agenda: “Mr./Ms. [name] is delivering the invocation today in His/her capacity as a private citizen, and not in his/her official position as a city employee/official.”
9. No city employee or official or anyone else in attendance shall be required to participate in an invocation.
10. No city employee or official shall screen, inquire about, or prescribe the content of invocations to be given.
11. No employee or official or attendee shall be required to stand during an invocation. Persons scheduled to provide an invocation shall be informed that they should not request that those present at the meeting stand for the invocation.
12. No compensation shall be given for providing an invocation, nor shall any fee be required to participate.