



NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2026

The North Ogden City Council convened on January 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Ogden City Public Safety Building at 515 East 2600 North.

Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah Public Notice Website on December 31, 2025.

Notice of the annual meeting schedule was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah Public Notice Website on December 10, 2025.

Note: The timestamps indicated in blue correspond with the recording of this meeting, which can be located on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbPBxTucXEzRr6fc1hQ/videos> or by requesting a copy of the audio file from the North Ogden City Recorder.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

S. Neal Berube	Mayor
Ryan Barker	Council Member / Mayor Elect
Tera Carney	Council Member Elect
Blake Cevering	Council Member
Jay D Dalpias	Council Member
Chris Pulver	Council Member
Christina Watson	Council Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
Rian Santoro	City Recorder
Joyce Pierson	Deputy Recorder
Dylan Hill	Public Works Inspector
Dave Espinoza	Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager
Brian Eynon	Police Chief
Ryan Long	Lieutenant
Scott Hess	Community & Economic Development Director
Peter Brown	Finance Director
Paige Hamblin	Police Records Supervisor

VISITORS:

Kevin Burns	Zach Ward
Brenda Ashdown	Brett Hamblin
Sandy Cochran	Mike Mabey
Merrill Sunderlund	Phil Swanson
Randy Wynn	Gordon Tobson
Charlotte Eckstrom	

0:00:12 Mayor Berube welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Council Member Cevering offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

0:02:14 Mayor Berube noted that the agenda was light and asked whether any members of the Council had conflicts of interest to disclose. Hearing none, the Council proceeded. Mayor Berube stated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to swear in the newly elected Mayor and a new Council Member, and to reaffirm support for Council Member Dalpias. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the residents of the City, acknowledged that there were ongoing matters still to be resolved, and stated that he was most proud of the City's Staff and Department Heads, noting that they are committed to the City and well-positioned in their roles. He remarked that the organizational culture has improved in recent years and attributed much of that progress to leadership, and expressed confidence that the incoming Mayor and Council would continue to advance the City.

Mayor Berube then invited the City Recorder to administer the oath of office to Mayor-elect Ryan M. Barker.

2. SWEARING IN OF MAYOR-ELECT RYAN M. BARKER

0:03:53 The oath of office was administered to Ryan M. Barker, formally swearing him in as Mayor.

3. SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT TERA CARNEY

0:04:32 The oath of office was administered to Tera Carney, formally swearing her in as Council Member.

4. SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT JAY D DALPIAS

0:05:22 The oath of office was administered to Jay D Dalpias, formally swearing him in as Council Member.

Following the administration of the oaths of office, Mayor Barker and Council Members Carney and Dalpias took their seats on the dais and officially commenced their terms of office. Mayor Barker then announced a five-minute recess to allow those in attendance for the swearing-in to depart.

The time noted in the minutes reflects the timestamp of the uploaded audio recording, during which the recess portion was not captured.

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2, 2025, AND THE DECEMBER 9, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

0:06:53 Council Member Pulver motioned to approve the December 2, 2025, and the December 9, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Watson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye
Council Member Carney	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

ACTIVE AGENDA

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:06:59 No public comment was made.

7. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE OF FILLING THE MID-TERM COUNCIL VACANCY**

0:07:35 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained that, due to Mayor Barker's election, a vacancy now exists on the City Council that must be filled to complete the remaining two years of the original four-year term. He outlined the statutory requirements and proposed process for filling the vacancy, including publicly noticing the application and interview schedule. Applications must be submitted in person by January 21, 2026, with appointments available through the City Recorder if needed. Interviews will be conducted during the January 27, 2026, City Council meeting. All qualified applicants will be interviewed in an open meeting, with applicants not yet interviewed sequestered from the proceedings. The Council will vote in public, typically by voice vote, to select the appointee.

Jon further explained the voting procedures, noting that if no candidate receives a majority vote, additional rounds of voting will occur, narrowing the field to two candidates. In the event of a tie, State law allows the tie to be resolved either by a coin flip or by the Mayor breaking the tie, and the Council may wish to determine its preferred method in advance. He noted that the vacancy must be filled by February 6, 2026, or the Lieutenant Governor's Office would assume responsibility for filling the seat. The notice will be posted on the City's website and public notice platform and shared via social media, and Council Members were encouraged to inform interested individuals.

In response to questions, Jon confirmed that voting is typically conducted by voice vote for transparency. He clarified that Council Members would receive the submitted applications on January 21, 2026. He also stated that Council Members may speak with prospective applicants outside of the meeting to answer questions and explain the process, but should avoid making any commitments regarding votes.

Council Member Dalpias motioned to approve the schedule and procedure of filling the Mid-Term Council Vacancy. Council Member Pulver seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye
Council Member Carney	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON REVIEW OF PENY SOFTWARE PILOT AND CITY WEBSITE AI SEARCH CAPABILITIES

0:14:58 City Recorder Rian Santoro clarified that PenySoftware would not be presenting and explained that, at staff's request, she evaluated the AI search and chatbox capabilities offered through the City's current website provider, Revize. She stated that the Revize AI chatbot is fully integrated into the existing City website, learns directly from current pages and documents, and aligns with the City's goal of maintaining accurate and up-to-date public information. She noted that this option preserves existing workflows, avoids creating a separate public-facing platform, includes ongoing retraining, analytics, and multilingual support, and provides a fixed annual cost for budget predictability. Rian explained that the PenySoftware pilot was conducted in good faith as a no-cost opportunity to explore emerging technology and invited CED Director Scott Hess to speak about the staff's experience with the trial.

CED Director Scott Hess described the PenySoftware platform and the staff's experience during the pilot. He explained that Peny is an intriguing tool but would require significant duplication of work, including manually re-entering social media posts, events, website content, and documents into the Peny platform. He noted that Peny appears to be developing toward a full municipal website replacement, whereas the City's current website is relatively new. Based on discussions involving multiple departments, staff felt the duplication of work would be burdensome and that an AI tool integrated into the existing website warranted consideration. Scott stated that staff sought Council direction on whether to continue the Peny trial, pursue Revize's AI option, or maintain the status quo.

Council discussion followed regarding duplication of work, staff time, long-term versus short-term benefits, integration with the existing website, and cost considerations. It was noted that the Revize AI chatbot would appear directly on the City's current website and that PenySoftware had been transparent and cooperative throughout the pilot process. Rian confirmed that Revize does not currently offer a trial option and that the estimated annual cost would be approximately \$4,500 to \$5,000, while PenySoftware had previously estimated its cost on a per-resident basis. She requested Council direction on how staff should proceed.

Council Member Dalpias stated that it would be appropriate to notify PenySoftware that the City would not continue the free trial. He made a motion to notify PenySoftware that the City wished to end the free trial effective immediately. Discussion followed regarding whether to pursue Revize's AI option during the budget process. Mayor Barker asked whether a trial had been discussed with Revize, and Rian stated that the City had received a demo and contract information and that she could inquire about a possible trial.

Council Member Dalpias moved to end the PenySoftware pilot trial effective immediately and to consider the Revize AI Search Chatbox through the formal budget process if its use is pursued. Council Member Watson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye
Council Member Carney	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON SIDEWALK SAFETY AND CONCERNS

0:27:20 Police Chief Eynon presented information regarding a citizen complaint concerning pedestrian safety near Green Acres Elementary School, specifically at 1700 North and 600 East and 700 East. He outlined the school's location, surrounding traffic patterns, crosswalk configurations, speed limits, and visibility concerns during dawn and dusk hours. He reviewed five years of traffic data for the area, noting one traffic accident, no pedestrian accidents, limited traffic stops, and minimal speed-related citations, indicating no documented pattern of increased danger. However, he emphasized that child and pedestrian safety remains a priority.

Chief Eynon reported actions already taken by the Police Department, including replacing and installing high-visibility pedestrian flags at both crosswalks, confirming the presence of a crossing guard at 1700 North and 700 East during school hours, increasing police presence and enforcement along 1700 North, and deploying a speed trailer to monitor vehicle speeds. Preliminary speed data showed an average speed within the posted limit.

Chief Eynon presented potential safety improvement options for Council consideration, including adding a crossing guard, installing pedestrian-activated crosswalk lights, adding flashing school zone lights, and installing radar speed signs. He provided estimated costs for each option and noted that while data does not show a current safety problem, additional safety measures could improve visibility and public confidence. Council Members discussed sidewalk continuity, long-term roadway improvements, and potential inclusion of pedestrian safety enhancements in future budget planning. It was suggested that sidewalk and crossing safety funding could be considered during the budget process.

Council Members expressed appreciation for the information and emphasized the importance of not losing sight of the issue during budget deliberations. The Council agreed to revisit the matter during the budget process. The City Recorder confirmed the item would be tracked for future consideration.

10. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPOINT A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE CENTRAL WEBER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

0:41:41 Mayor Barker explained that the Mayor traditionally serves on the Board of Trustees and noted that former Mayor Berube held this position during his term. Mayor Barker stated his desire to continue this practice and presented himself for appointment to serve on the Central Weber Sewer Improvement District Board of Trustees.

Council Member Carney motioned to appoint Mayor Ryan M. Barker to serve on the Central Weber Improvement District Board of Trustees. Council Member Watson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye
Council Member Carney	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT ON JANUARY 13, 2026

0:43:33 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained that recent changes to City Code now require the City Council, rather than the City Recorder, to formally notice a public hearing for budget amendments. He requested that the Council set a public hearing for January 13, 2026, to consider a proposed amended City budget.

He noted that the amendment would primarily address minor cleanup items, along with some capital-related discussion, and stated that this midyear amendment is customary to ensure alignment during the final six months of the budget year.

Mayor Barker asked whether the Council is required to take action the same night as a public hearing.

Jon responded that the Council is not required to take action and may table the matter to a future meeting, noting that flexibility generally exists except for statutory budget deadlines later in the year. He indicated that delaying action on this budget amendment would not create an issue.

Council Members discussed the advantages and potential public perception of holding a public hearing without immediate action, noting the benefit of allowing time to consider public input before voting. Additional discussion addressed the meeting agenda, timing considerations, and whether the proposed amendments contained any significant issues, which Jon confirmed they did not.

Council Members expressed general support for allowing flexibility to either take action or table the item following the public hearing, particularly in cases where public comment is extensive.

Council Member Pulver motioned to approve setting a Public Hearing for a Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Amendment on January 13, 2026. Council Member Dalpias seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye
Council Member Carney	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:49:39 Randy Wynn, A North Ogden resident, expressed appreciation to City officials for their service to the community, congratulated Mayor Barker, and thanked former Mayor Berube for his service to the City, wishing him well in his continued efforts.

0:50:19 Merrill Sunderlund, a North Ogden resident, expressed appreciation for the service of the Mayor and Council, noting that public service is challenging and often underappreciated. He referenced attending a recent Ogden Valley City finance meeting and commented on the significant challenges faced by that community.

He encouraged the Mayor and Council to continue their good work and to use sound judgment, noting that North Ogden is not facing the same difficulties.

13. MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

0:51:54 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call informed the Council that they would be provided a link to access the City's Monday.com platform, along with basic instructions. He explained that the platform is intended to give Council Members visibility into projects and initiatives underway at both the Council and Department Head levels, including project status updates such as the Barker Park project. He stated that the tool is intended to help Council Members stay informed, anticipate questions, and respond more efficiently to constituent inquiries.

Jon further noted that staff would explore developing a simplified, public-facing version of project updates that excludes sensitive details, allowing residents to track general progress on City projects. He emphasized that while Council Members may continue to contact staff directly as needed, the platform is intended to improve transparency, communication, and overall understanding of ongoing City activities.

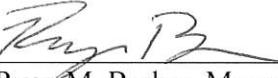
0:53:57 Council Member Pulver commented on the value of improved tracking and transparency of City projects, expressing appreciation for staff efforts to keep Council informed. He provided an update on the Citizen Budget Committee, noting that coordination is underway, a meeting date has been scheduled, and that at least three new participants have expressed interest. He stated that the committee is expected to begin meeting later in the month and expressed enthusiasm about the addition of new members. Council Member Pulver also remarked positively on recent business activity in the City, noting his appreciation for seeing a new business open and experience strong community support.

0:55:66 Council Member Dalpias expressed appreciation to former Mayor Berube for his service to the City, noting his mentorship, accessibility, and willingness to listen to Council Members' thoughts and concerns. He wished Mayor Berube well in his next chapter and expressed hope that it would be less stressful.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Ryan M. Barker, Mayor



Rian Santoro
City Recorder



1/21/2026

Date Approved