

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse City Council, held on January 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in a hybrid in-person/electronic format via Zoom, meeting ID 882 7301 1039, in-person in the City Council Chambers at 1979 W. 1900 S., and streamed on the Syracuse City YouTube Channel in accordance with House Bill 5002, Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments, signed into law on June 25, 2020.

Present: Councilmembers: Andrea Brown  
Brett Cragun  
Abraham Pollard  
Julie Robertson  
Paul Watson

Mayor Dave Maughan  
City Manager Brody Bovero  
Administrative Services Director/City Recorder Cassie Brown

### City Employees Present:

Assistant City Manager Stephen Marshall  
City Attorney Colin Winchester  
Police Chief Garret Atkin  
Parks and Recreation Director Kresta Robinson  
Public Works Director Robert Whiteley  
Community and Economic Development Director Noah Steele  
Deputy Fire Chief Jo Hamblin  
Communications Specialist Kara Finley

## 1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Maughan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. as a regular meeting, with notice of time, place, and agenda provided 24 hours in advance to the newspaper and each Councilmember. Councilmember Watson provided an invocation. Councilmember Robertson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCILMEMBER CAGLE RESEARCHED THE AUDIENCE IN THE PLEA OF ALLEGANCE.  
COUNCILMEMBER CAGLE MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. COUNCILMEMBER WATSON  
SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

2a. Recognition item: Presentation from Utah Chief's of Police Association (UCOPA) recognizing the Syracuse Police Department for achieving accreditation.

Police Chief Davis introduced Val Shupe from the Utah Chiefs of Police Association, who presented the accreditation award to the Syracuse Police Department. Mr. Shupe explained that Syracuse had been accredited for the past five years and was now receiving reaccreditation after a rigorous assessment process. He detailed that the Department had to conform to City ordinances, State laws, and Federal regulations across 177 standards, demonstrating actual implementation rather than just having policies in place. He emphasized that the assessment included detailed reviews of the Department's evidence procedures and records management, noting that Syracuse has very effective systems in place. Officer Hunter Bennett was recognized for his significant contributions to the reaccreditation process.

2b. Recognition item: Presentation of Utah Supervisory Fire Officer Designation to Captain Clay Nelson.

Fire Chief Byington presented Captain Clay Nelson with the Utah Supervisory Fire Officer Designation as outlined by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and adopted by the Utah Commission on Fire Officer Designation. Chief Byington explained that Captain Nelson had combined hundreds of hours of training, education, and experience to meet the requirements for this designation, which has only been achieved by approximately 100 people in the state. The recognition included a framed plaque, and a pin Captain Nelson can wear on his uniform.

Mayor Maughan then recessed the business meeting at 6:08 p.m. to convene in the advertised work session. The business meeting reconvened at 6:13 p.m.

3. Public hearing: Consideration of appointments to Special Service Districts. (10 min.)

a. Proposed Resolution R26-01 appointing a member of the Syracuse City Governing Body to the Davis County Mosquito Abatement District (MAD).

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b. Proposed Resolution R26-02 appointing a member of the Syracuse City Governing Body to the Administrative Control Board of the Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District (WIWMD).

Syracuse City makes appointments to local districts: North Davis Sewer District, Mosquito Abatement District, and Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District. Section 2.45.060 of the Syracuse City Code defines the process for considering these appointments as follows:

“(A) Prior to appointing individuals to any local district, the Council shall discuss the appointment in a work meeting, and schedule a public hearing to consider the issue at its next regular Council meeting or a special meeting.

(B) After conducting a public hearing, the Mayor shall open the issue to discussion among Council Members. At the conclusion of discussion, the appointment shall be made by motion, which must be supported by a majority vote. The Mayor may participate in the appointment action as a voting member.”

Councilmember Cragun has been serving as the City’s appointee to the Mosquito Abatement District since July of 2024; his term ended December 31, 2025. The Mayor has discussed the position with Councilmember Robertson and intends to nominate her to fill the position. He has indicated this board “discusses a lot of health risks to citizens carried by mosquitos. Julie’s background as a nurse will serve the city well to help report to the city”.

The City was previously represented by Councilmember Savage on the Wasatch Integrated Waste Management Board. Mayor Maughan indicates that the Board is made up of all three Davis County Commissioners, two representatives from Morgan County, and 14 representatives from cities, of which 12 are mayors. The Mayor intends to nominate himself to fill the position because most of the other city representatives are Mayors.

Mayor Maughan opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. There were no persons appearing to be heard and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

COUNCILMEMBER WATSON MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-01 APPOINTING A MEMBER OF THE SYRACUSE CITY GOVERNING BODY TO THE DAVIS COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT (MAD); AND TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-02 APPOINTING A MEMBER OF THE SYRACUSE CITY GOVERNING BODY TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL BOARD OF THE WASATCH INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (WIWMD). COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

#### 4. Public comment

Andy Oblad, a resident of Farmington, Utah, introduced himself as a candidate for Davis County Sheriff. He provided a brief overview of his 28-year law enforcement career, including 21 years with Salt Lake City Police Department, two seasons with the Utah Jazz as team security specialist, and his current position as Chief Deputy with the Davis County Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Oblad explained that he has served in various capacities at the Sheriff’s Office, including overseeing law enforcement operations, administration, and corrections.

Terry Palmer, Syracuse resident, congratulated new Councilmembers Andrea Brown and Abraham Pollard. He reported that museum visitation had increased significantly over the past three years, from 838 visitors in 2023 to 8,158 in 2025. Mr. Palmer also shared that the museum had acquired an adjacent property with a 2,400 square-foot building that will be converted for additional display space, funded through a private endowment and a \$50,000 State of Utah grant. He mentioned the museum’s successful Halloween event, which attracted over 2,200 visitors. Mr. Palmer concluded by sharing information about the museum’s fire truck, which was built by the US Army Corps of Engineers during World War II for use at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho, making it one of only three such trucks known to exist.

#### 5. Report from Syracuse City Victim Advocate.

One requirement of our participation in the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant is that the advocate provide semi-annual updates to the Council on the program. Celeste Hopkins serves as the victim advocate in Syracuse and Clinton and Sunset. All three cities share financially in the local match requirements of the VOCA grant.

Ms. Hopkins used the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to provide her semi-annual update to the Council on the Victim Advocate Program; she presented statistics showing she had worked with approximately 200 victims since July 1, 2025. Ms. Hopkins serves Syracuse, Clinton, and Sunset cities, with Syracuse having the highest caseload at 79 domestic violence cases compared to Clinton’s 51 and Sunset’s considerably fewer cases. She noted a 40-victim increase compared to the same period last year, with a particular surge during the December holiday season. Ms. Hopkins detailed her services, including providing information on the criminal justice process, coordination with prosecutors, emotional support, and safety planning. She noted an increase in more serious cases requiring additional support, including safety planning for emergency situations. She highlighted a growing workload with court cases, mentioning that one recent week included thirteen to fourteen cases requiring detailed prosecutor discussions and four protective orders. Ms. Hopkins discussed upcoming initiatives, including preparation for summer events, a victim service training scheduled for the following month featuring a prosecutor from the Utah Council Prosecutor’s Office and a local survivor’s story. She noted challenges including victims requiring more face-to-face meetings

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and emotional support, an increase in violent domestic violence crimes, and new officers needing additional training. Ms. Hopkins also mentioned projects she hopes to implement, including updating victim service folders, enhancing the program's web page, and creating more family-friendly interview rooms. She concluded by describing a positive initiative where police officers distributed gift cards to youth to create positive interactions, including a successful event at Bluffridge Elementary. For a copy of Ms. Hopkins' presentation in its entirety, see the information packet for the meeting.

6. Approval of minutes

The following minutes were reviewed by the City Council: December 9, 2025 City Council Business Meeting, December 9, 2025 City Council Work Session, and December 22, 2025 City Council Special Meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES LISTED ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMEMBER WATSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

7. Proposed Resolution R26-03 designating and appointing certain appointed officers of Syracuse City.

An administrative staff memo explained Section 10-3-916 of the Utah Code dictates that following a municipal election the Mayor, with advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint an individual to the offices of City Recorder and City Treasurer. Section 2.25.090 of the Syracuse City Code dictates that the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall also appoint an individual to the office of Chief of Police. Proposed Resolution R26-03 has been drafted to provide the Mayor and Council the opportunity to fulfill the statutory requirements defined in State Code and City Code.

Mayor Maughan reviewed the staff memo and explained that the City needs to reappoint certain officers every couple of years. The appointments were for Alex Davis as Police Chief, Steve Marshall as City Treasurer, and Cassie Brown as City Recorder.

COUNCILMEMBER WATSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-03 DESIGNATING AND APPOINTING CERTAIN APPOINTED OFFICERS OF SYRACUSE CITY. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

8. Authorize Mayor Maughan to execute License Agreement between the United States of America (Bureau of Reclamation) and Syracuse City for trail and drainage improvements adjacent to the Layton Canal.

A memo from the Public Works Director explained this agreement is required to support construction elements related to UDOT's West Davis Corridor (SR-177 Phase II) project within Syracuse City. UDOT's West Davis Corridor project requires drainage improvements and the relocation of a segment of the Emigrant Trail that crosses or encroach upon Bureau of Reclamation property where the Layton Canal is located (The canal is located within BOR property). Because the canal corridor is federally owned, BOR approval is required before this work can proceed. This is similar to previous agreements the City has done during the first phase of the West Davis Highway project. The memo expounded on the key terms of the agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR MAUGHAN TO EXECUTE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (BUREAU OF RECLAMATION) AND SYRACUSE CITY FOR TRAIL AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ADJACENT TO THE LAYTON CANAL. COUNCILMEMBER WATSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

9. Proposed Resolution R26-04 Expressing Support for Proposed State Legislation Authorizing a Limited Optional Local Sales Tax Dedicated to Emergency Services for Communities Serving Qualified State Parks.

A memo from the City Attorney explained Antelope Island State Park encompasses approximately 42 square miles and is accessed via a seven-mile causeway. Emergency responses to the island require extended travel times and frequently result in Syracuse City emergency units being unavailable for in-city calls. The size and terrain of the island require the City to maintain specialized equipment, supplies, and staffing capable of responding to incidents occurring several miles off-road and off trail. These requirements exceed the level of service typically needed for in-city responses. Over the past several years, the City has incurred several hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs related to emergency responses on Antelope Island. These costs are currently absorbed within the City's existing budget and are primarily borne by Syracuse City residents, despite the park serving visitors from across the state. Visitation to Antelope Island State Park is among the highest in the Utah State Park system and is expected to continue increasing due to recent facility and visitor center improvements, which may further increase emergency service demand. The memo concluded the action before the Council is consideration of adopting the resolution expressing support for proposed state legislation that would authorize a limited, optional local sales tax dedicated to emergency services for communities that serve qualified state parks as the primary emergency response agency.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-04 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING A LIMITED OPTIONAL LOCAL SALES TAX

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DEDICATED TO EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES SERVING QUALIFIED STATE PARKS.  
COUNCILMEMBER WATSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

10. Report from Syracuse City America 250 Committee regarding planned events.

A memo from the Mayor explained this item is a discussion about ideas and events that Syracuse City can hold to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The City has received a grant for \$1,500.00 to help support this event; the Mayor has formed a committee to generate ideas and suggestions on how the community can celebrate during the 2026 year.

Mayor Maughan reviewed the staff memo and reported on the newly formed America 250 Committee's planned activities. Their first initiative will be a youth brigade of 250 or more young people (ages 14-18) carrying American flags to lead the Heritage Days parade. The committee has also planned three activities through which youth can earn a challenge coin: a museum scavenger hunt answering 90 questions, a "walkabout" taking selfies at 20-25 historic sites throughout Syracuse, or memorizing the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence (270 words). Additionally, the committee proposed a series of citywide fundraisers to create a veteran's memorial, which Syracuse currently lacks. The memorial would honor all who served rather than listing specific individuals and would include proper designation for each branch of service. A final suggestion involved an "Americana-style" relay race during Heritage Days featuring traditional county fair activities, with participants earning a commemorative coin.

11. Annual Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA) training.

City Attorney Winchester used the aid of a PowerPoint to conduct a question-and-answer style training on the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Key points covered included:

- The definition of a public body (legislative bodies created by law, consisting of two or more people, supported by tax revenue, and vested with authority to make decisions)
- What constitutes a meeting (gatherings to receive public comment, deliberate, or take action on relevant matters)
- Quorum requirements (generally four members of the six-member council)
- Requirements for public notice (at least 24 hours, with exceptions for emergencies)
- The need for written minutes and recordings for open meetings
- Closed meeting procedures, requiring at least two-thirds of present members to vote for closure
- Permissible reasons for closed meetings, including discussing character, professional competence, or physical/mental health of individuals, and property transactions where public discussion would affect negotiations
- Prohibitions against texting between members during meetings
- Potential legal consequences, including voided actions, attorney fees, and even criminal charges for intentional violations

For a copy of the presentation in its entirety, see the information packet for the meeting.

12. Mayor/Council reports and announcements

The Council and Mayor then provided announcements about recent and upcoming community events, and other opportunities for public involvement.

13. Public comments

There were no public comments.

Mayor Maughan recessed the meeting at 7:08 p.m. to allow the Council to move to Council conference room for the visioning session.

14. Relocate to conference room for City Visioning Session (90 min.)

- a. Review Mayors 2030 Goals
- b. Review 2022 business summit plan
- c. Review 2025 no tax increase plan
- d. Review State Park Enrichment Pitch

Mayor Maughan provided an informative presentation to the new Council about his ongoing initiatives and goals for Syracuse City. He emphasized this was for transparency purposes and not something that would require a vote. Mayor Maughan shared his accomplishments from his previous term, including:

- Making visual improvements to the city

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- Organizing a Mayor's Business Summit which, while modestly attended, provided valuable information used throughout his term
- Actively recruiting businesses to locate in Syracuse
- Using data-driven approaches to city governance
- Developing the Costco project, which took over four years

For his current term, the Mayor outlined several priorities:

- Securing funding to improve the regional park plan
- Working with other mayors on tax reform that accounts for inflation
- Establishing a state park fund to help connect trails
- Pursuing grants for trees and public art
- Addressing long-term wage challenges for city employees
- Exploring outside funding for a cultural arts facility
- Ensuring long-term economic stability for the city

Mayor Maughan emphasized several core principles he believes are important for the Council:

- Being selective about development because Syracuse is a desirable location
- Requiring developers to submit proposals in writing prior to meetings
- Finding creative funding solutions
- Maintaining financial responsibility
- Building from the current position rather than trying to undo past decisions

The Mayor presented data showing Syracuse has been the fastest growing city in Davis County nearly every year since 2016, creating significant infrastructure challenges. He shared his strategy to manage growth that included:

- Seeking additional grants
- Aggressively recruiting businesses
- Being more selective with development projects
- Finding ways to automate tasks to avoid excessive staff additions

Mayor Maughan detailed his efforts to secure state funding for parks, presenting his case to the Wasatch Regional Council and the Governor's office. He highlighted Syracuse's unique position:

- 21.3% growth in recent years, double the rate of other cities in the county
- Recognition as the sixth fastest growing city statewide
- Being the third largest city in Davis County
- Having the youngest median age in the county
- Having the highest number of people per household in Davis County
- 37.4% of the population under age 18, the highest in Davis County

The Mayor emphasized that while the City has been accommodating growth and helping address the housing crisis, the financial burden of required infrastructure has made it difficult to fund recreational amenities. He proposed that the state create a parks fund to help growing cities like Syracuse maintain quality of life through recreational opportunities. Mayor Maughan concluded by expressing excitement about working with the new Council and encouraged more participation in community events like ribbon cuttings to maintain connection with residents.

15. Consideration of adjourning into Closed Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of Section 52-4-205 of the Open and Public Meetings Law for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; or the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property (if necessary).

COUNCILMEMBER WATSON MOVED TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 52-4-205 OF THE OPEN AND PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL; PENDING OR REASONABLY IMMINENT LITIGATION; OR THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED AYE.

The Closed Session began at 8:04 p.m.

The Business Meeting reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILMEMBER WATSON SECONDED THE MOTION ALL VOTED IN FAVOR TO ADJOURN.

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The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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Dave Maughan  
Mayor

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Cassie Z. Brown, MMC  
City Recorder

Date approved: February 10, 2026