

Minutes of the City Council Work Session of the Syracuse City Council, held on January 13, 2026 at 6:08 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
Fire Chief Aaron Byington
Police Chief Alex Davis
Public Works Director Robert Whiteley
Community and Economic Development Director Noah Steele
Communications Specialist Kara Finley

The purpose of the Work Session was to discuss Business Meeting Agenda Item #3, consideration of appointments to Special Service Districts; and Regular Business Agenda Item #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.

Discussion regarding Business Meeting Agenda Item #3, consideration of appointments to Special Service Districts.

An administrative staff memo explained Syracuse City makes appointments to local districts: North Davis Sewer District (NDSD), Mosquito Abatement District (MAD), and Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District (WIWMD). 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 reviewed the staff memo and explained that the two appointments needed to be made promptly to ensure representation at upcoming meetings of the two Districts. He proposed that he would fulfill the WIWMD appointment himself, as it is typically filled by mayors across the county. For the MAD, he recommended Councilwoman Robertson, noting her nursing background would be valuable when discussing mosquito-borne diseases.

Discussion of Regular Business Agenda Item #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.

An Administrative staff memo 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

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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 proposed legislation would allow communities in similar circumstances to adopt a limited local sales tax dedicated to emergency services. A dedicated funding source would improve the City's ability to plan, staff, and equip emergency response operations associated with the state park while maintaining adequate service levels within the City. Adoption of the proposed resolution would formally communicate the City Council's support for this legislation to state leaders and the City's legislative delegation.

Mayor Maughan explained that last year's legislation allowed Southern Utah's Hurricane City to impose a use tax to help pay for firefighters serving in national parks. The proposed amendment would add two words to include "major state parks," which would allow Syracuse to implement a similar tax to support emergency services to Antelope Island. This would enable visitors shopping in Syracuse to contribute to the service costs. The Mayor noted this would help address the significant strain on the fire department when responding to island calls, which can take several hours and leave the City under protected

Councilmember Watson asked if the revenues that would be generated by the new sales tax would be restricted for use in the Fire Department only. Mayor Maughan stated that there are some restrictions on the revenues; they would mainly be used to staff and equip the Fire Department.

Councilmembers Watson and Robertson voiced support for the proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Dave Maughan
Mayor

Cassie Z. Brown, MMC
City Recorder

Date approved: February 10, 2026