



**CITY OF KEARNS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

JANUARY 12, 2026, 6:00 PM

ELEMENT EVENT CENTER- 5658 COUGAR LN, KEARNS, UTAH 84118

**CITY OF KEARNS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2026**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jesse Valdez, Mayor
Chrystal Butterfield
Lyndsay Longtin
Lorrin Colby, Jr.
Patrick Schaeffer

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Nathan Bracken, City Attorney
Diana Baun, City Recorder
Police Chief Jason Mazuran, Unified Police Department
Chief Levi Hughes, Unified Police Department
Chief Tyler Lintz, Unified Fire Authority
Dan Torres, Economic Development Manager
Marla Howard, MSD General Manager
Trent Sorenson, Planning Director
Maridene Alexander, Communications Manager
Kory Holdaway, Lobbyist
Dan Adams, Langdon Group

Others Present:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jesse Valdez, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. DETERMINE QUORUM

Mayor Jesse Valdez announced that a quorum was present allowing the meeting to proceed.

3. VISITING PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Mayor Valdez noted there were many public officials in attendance due to the nature of the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and support of the City of Kearns.

4. OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY

A. Pledge of Allegiance – *Unified Police Department Color Guard*

CITY OF KEARNS COUNCIL

MAYOR JESSE VALDEZ, COUNCIL MEMBER CHRYSTAL BUTTERFIELD,
COUNCIL MEMBER LYND SAY LONGTIN, COUNCIL MEMBER LORRIN COLBY, JR.,
COUNCIL MEMBER PATRICK SCHAEFFER

- B. Performance of the Star Spangled Banner - *Kearns High School Madrigals***
- C. Oath of Office Administration for Newly Elected Officials – *Diana Baun, City Recorder***
 - a. Lorrin Colby, Jr. – District 4 Council Member
 - b. Lyndsay Longtin – District 2 Council Member
 - c. Jesse Valdez – Mayor
- D. Comments from Newly Elected Officials**

Mayor Jesse Valdez thanked family, friends, and supporters for their long-standing encouragement and support, acknowledging the influence of personal relationships in shaping their leadership. He expressed gratitude to his wife and children for providing balance and stability, thanked his mother for instilling perseverance, and honored his late father for teaching the importance of integrity and courage. Mayor Valdez also recognized campaign supporters and emphasized that collective effort makes meaningful progress possible. He stated that the responsibilities of the office were just beginning and stressed that achieving the city's goals would require teamwork and community involvement rather than the actions of a single individual. He affirmed a commitment to serve all residents of Kearns, including those who did not support his election, emphasizing that shared concern for the city's future united the community. He stated that the city's success depended on putting community interests ahead of individual interests and acknowledged the passion of Kearns residents. He identified listening as his first initiative, explaining that leadership must actively hear constituent voices to build a strong foundation for the future. He outlined priorities including public services and safety, development and infrastructure, and transparent and accessible governance, and emphasized the importance of community engagement at the neighborhood level. Mayor Valdez concluded by encouraging residents to shape and tell his own story as a community and invited both newly elected and current council members to speak.

Council Member Lorrin Colby, Jr. thanked voters for their support and stated that he was surprised by the election outcome. He described extensive door-to-door outreach during the campaign and explained that conversations with residents revealed needs beyond campaign materials. He noted that a major concern expressed by residents was not knowing who their representatives were or how to contact them for information. He stated that making himself accessible and ensuring constituents knew how to reach him was a top personal priority and emphasized that his decision to run was rooted in genuine care for the residents of the district.

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield thanked attendees for being present and emphasized that community participation and having a voice were essential. She reflected on prior experience serving on the council and earlier work on the community council, stating that the city had a strong community foundation. She expressed enthusiasm about beginning the new term and working toward progress.

Council Member Patrick Schaeffer thanked the audience for attending and noted the strong turnout. He congratulated Council Member Colby, Mayor Valdez, and Council Member Longtin on their elections and acknowledged the shared goal among council members to improve the city. They emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum and referenced the upcoming Olympics in approximately 10 years as a reason to begin focused planning. He concluded by congratulating the new council members and expressing optimism for future accomplishments.

Council Member Lyndsay Longtin thanked attendees for their participation and referenced ongoing community involvement. She informed the public that there were three open seats on the Kearns Community Council and encouraged interested residents to apply.

5. CITIZEN PUBLIC INPUT

Nicole McDermott introduced herself as a Granite School District Board member representing approximately half of Kearns. She congratulated the newly elected mayor and council members and expressed enthusiasm about working collaboratively with city leadership. She stated that the school district shared the same vision of prioritizing what was best for the city, families, and students, and encouraged council members to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Erica Ton asked a general question regarding the open Community Council seats mentioned earlier, specifically requesting clarification on what serving on the Kearns Community Council involved and what responsibilities the role carried.

Paula Larsen responded briefly, offering to speak with Erica after the meeting to provide additional information about the Community Council.

Jordan Hansen, a current resident and former opponent of Lyndsay Longtin, congratulated the new mayor and council members and wished them success. Jordan Hansen proposed the idea of forming a Kearns Youth Council as a way to engage youth in leadership, mentoring, and civic involvement. He stated that while the formal process for establishing such a council was not yet defined, he wanted to raise the idea as a concerned citizen seeking support.

Bill Gertson congratulated the new mayor and council members and expressed admiration for his own child's dedication to running for public office. He stated he would continue to support the city as an engaged citizen whenever possible.

Christopher Gertson acknowledged Bill Gertson as his parent and stated that despite not winning in the primary election, he was glad to remain involved in civic processes. He congratulated the elected council members and shared that he were actively serving on the Kearns Community Coalition, focusing on youth prevention efforts related to substance use. He stated his intention to continue that work and wished the council success.

Christina Robles identified herself as a local business owner who operated a dual immersion preschool in Kearns and additional preschools in Magna. She shared personal background as a Hispanic individual who grew up in Magna and had lived in Kearns for approximately 15 years. She spoke about the importance of representation in leadership and explained that the children they served were largely from economically disadvantaged families, with approximately 90% receiving free or reduced lunch or child care subsidies. She congratulated the mayor and council, stating that their leadership provided meaningful representation and inspiration for children in the community. She expressed appreciation for the council's willingness to serve and indicated interest in learning more about City Council involvement.

Charles Henderson, a longtime Kearns resident of nearly 50 years, congratulated Mayor Jesse Valdez and the newly joined council members. He shared prior experience serving on the Community Council and discussed involvement with the My Kearns Coalition, which focused on youth development and prevention efforts. He described programs addressing suicide ideation, youth decision-making, and parental education at local junior high schools and Kearns High School. He expressed appreciation for the mayor's open-door approach and emphasized the importance of investing in youth for the community's future. He also referenced the upcoming Olympics and stated a desire for Kearns to experience long-term benefits and generational improvements rather than missed opportunities.

Lance Misiaga introduced himself as a representative of the Western States Carpenters and congratulated the mayor and council members. He expressed appreciation for Mayor Jesse Valdez and shared that the organization participated in community events and volunteer work. He stated a willingness to support the city through service and encouraged residents to attend council meetings and make their voices heard. He shared that although he had lived in Kearns for only two years, he felt welcomed and proud to be part of the community.

Thelma expressed excitement and optimism about the newly elected council and shared high hopes for the impact their leadership would have on the community, particularly within the Latino community. She congratulated the council and reminded them that many supporters stood behind them even if not physically present.

Jacinda Allen introduced herself as a local real estate agent and resident of Kearns. She expressed excitement about the council and spoke about representing Kearns to new homebuyers and families, as well as assisting long-term residents. She described efforts to provide new residents with information about community resources and emphasized pride in being part of a caring and engaged community. She congratulated the mayor and council members.

Diana Reyes introduced herself as the Kearns Coalition health coordinator with the Salt Lake County Health Department. She described collaborative efforts with community members to prevent youth substance use and invited others to participate in the coalition. She expressed appreciation for Mayor Jesse Valdez and the council and stated enthusiasm for working together on projects benefiting Kearns.

Council Member Schaeffer moved to take a short recess before they transitioned from the swearing-in portion of the meeting to the general business portion of tonight's council meeting. Council Member Butterfield seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve City Council Minutes**
 - a. December 8, 2025

Council Member Butterfield moved to approve the December 8, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes as published. Council Member Schaeffer seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

B. Monthly Financial Report (Acknowledgment of Report)

Nathan Bracken explained that, due to the presence of three new council members, state law required the City Council to review the city's financials on a quarterly basis. He stated that best practice allowed council members to review financial inflows and outflows on a monthly basis, even if a formal presentation was not given each month. He clarified that the financial documents were included in the council packet for review at each meeting and that council members could direct any questions to Municipal Services District staff for follow-up outside the meeting. He noted that a more detailed financial presentation and report would be provided by Municipal Services District staff at the end of each quarter. He asked the council whether they preferred to continue reviewing financials monthly without a presentation and receive a detailed quarterly report, or whether they wanted Municipal Services District staff to present financials at every meeting.

Council Member Patrick Schaeffer stated that quarterly presentations were sufficient, noting that the council still received and reviewed the financial information on a monthly basis through the meeting packets.

Nathan Bracken clarified that the financials were already available for review and that council members could raise questions during meetings if concerns arose, but staff was not routinely preparing monthly presentations. They reiterated that the decision rested with the council regarding presentation frequency.

Council Member Patrick Schaeffer reiterated that quarterly presentations were acceptable and deferred to the mayor for the final decision.

Mayor Jesse Valdez confirmed that the council would proceed with receiving detailed financial presentations every three months while continuing to review the financial reports monthly through the council packets.

Council Member Schaeffer moved to have the council acknowledge receipt of the monthly financial report as published. Council Member Longtin seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

7. WORKSHOP

A. Discussion on Kearns' Mission, Vision and Values – Jesse Valdez, Mayor

Mayor Jesse Valdez stated that the council would move into a workshop discussion, clarifying that the items discussed were for discussion only and that no decisions would be made. He introduced the first topic as a discussion of Kearns' mission, vision, and values, describing it as an opportunity to reflect on the future of the city and emphasizing that Kearns was entering an important and exciting period. He reiterated that a primary priority was listening to constituents

before setting direction or plans. He explained a desire to collaborate with the council to organize listening tours in each council district, or as close to each district as possible, to hear directly from residents. He stated that listening first would help inform the city's mission, vision, and values moving forward. He proposed that these listening tours be followed by a town hall and suggested that town halls be held on a quarterly basis, separate from regular city council meetings, to provide focused opportunities for community engagement. He also proposed creating leadership forums that would include community leaders and residents, with the goal of building a strong foundation for civic involvement. He emphasized the importance of bridging the perceived gap between residents and city leadership, noting that some residents may feel intimidated or disconnected from the mayor or council. He stated that they wanted to make city leadership more accessible and approachable.

Mayor Jesse Valdez discussed the possibility of forming committees and noted the existing role of the Community Council as an advisory body. He expressed interest in building upon and working closely with the Community Council while also expanding opportunities for broader community participation. He summarized that the mission, vision, and values discussion centered on listening, planning collaboratively, and ensuring that future strategies aligned with the city's overall strategic plan and branding. He asked if council members had any questions or ideas related to the discussion and then moved the meeting forward to the next agenda item, which was the introduction of the Langdon Group redevelopment and economic development discussion with Nathan Bracken and legal counsel.

B. Introduction of the Langdon Group (Redevelopment/Economic Development)

Nathan Bracken provided background on the city's recent economic development efforts, explaining that the prior council had spent nearly two years developing an economic development plan for the entire city, including preparations related to the Olympics. He stated that the city had established a Community Redevelopment Agency to help attract businesses and support redevelopment efforts. He explained that implementing the plan would require coordination among more than two dozen stakeholders due to the varied areas within the city, including the downtown area, potential Olympic-related sites, Camp Kearns, which had recently resolved longstanding issues allowing for development, and several other smaller redevelopment areas. He explained that, in the fall, the prior council entered into a contract with the Langdon Group, specifically Dan Adams and Brianne Bigelow, to serve as facilitators for the redevelopment process. He stated that the Langdon Group's role was to conduct stakeholder outreach, coordinate complex interests, and work closely with the city council and Dan Torres, the city's Economic Development Director, to move the redevelopment plan forward. Nathan Bracken shared that they had worked with Dan Adams for approximately 15 years and described them as highly effective at facilitating complex, multi-stakeholder processes. He stated that additional details regarding property acquisition strategies and redevelopment efforts would be discussed later and invited Dan Adams to introduce himself and their firm.

Dan Adams introduced himself and described the Langdon Group's work with local, state, and federal government agencies to help them collaborate effectively with communities and stakeholders. He explained that his firm specialized in conducting assessments to identify

community needs, concerns, and priorities, as well as helping government entities work together more effectively. He stated that their work with Kearns would focus on identifying opportunities related to development and redevelopment, particularly in light of the upcoming Olympics, with the goal of benefiting the community and strengthening the city's tax base. Mr. Adams expressed enthusiasm about beginning the work and engaging further with city leadership.

Nathan Bracken clarified for the record that the Langdon Group was selected through a competitive procurement process conducted in accordance with the city's purchasing code, and that Dan Adams' firm was awarded the contract as the winning bidder. Nathan Bracken then transitioned to the next agenda item and introduced Kory Holdaway, the city's lobbyist.

C. Introduction of Kory Holdaway (Kearns Lobbyist)

Nathan Bracken explained that the legislative session was approaching and would begin before the council's next meeting. He stated that Kory Holdaway would serve as the primary point of contact between the city and the legislature during the session and would communicate with council members regarding proposed legislation that could impact the city, including bills that might affect the city's economic development plans either positively or negatively. Nathan Bracken noted that Kory Holdaway would also participate in closed session discussions related to legislative strategy.

Kory Holdaway congratulated the newly elected and returning council members and congratulated Mayor Jesse Valdez on their election. He introduced himself as the city's lobbyist and provided background on his experience, stating that he previously served as a legislator for six terms representing areas including Taylorsville and West Valley City. He explained that after leaving the legislature, he began working as a lobbyist, including several years representing a teachers' association, and had been working independently for approximately a dozen years. He stated that he had represented Kearns for the past two to three years, beginning prior to the city's incorporation, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to continue serving in that role. He emphasized the importance of engagement during the legislative session and stated that participation in membership organizations was critical for cities. He encouraged council members to be involved with the League of Cities and Towns, noting that the organization met weekly during the legislative session to review bills affecting municipalities. He also recommended involvement with Chamber West, highlighting its Legislative Affairs Committee and its role in reviewing proposed legislation. He stated that participation in these organizations amplified the city's voice at the legislature and helped build relationships that supported the city's goals. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of building and maintaining relationships in the legislative process and expressed his intent to continue working closely with the mayor and council members in support of the city's mission.

8. PRESENTATION ITEMS – None

9. COUNCIL BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

A. Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Nathan Bracken explained that at the beginning of each year, city councils typically review and renew committee and board assignments. He clarified that these assignments referred to various boards and special districts that provided services to Kearns, noting that Kearns, like several other Utah cities, relied heavily on special districts for municipal services. He stated that while many appointments would be addressed at a later meeting, there were two appointments that required formal action through resolutions, including appointments to SLVLESA and the UPD Board. Before addressing those, he introduced the need to elect a Mayor Pro Tem. He explained that under Utah law, the council had the option to elect a Mayor Pro Tem, who would assume mayoral duties when the mayor was unavailable. He described typical situations in which a Mayor Pro Tem might be needed, such as presiding over meetings, covering during absences, or responding to emergencies when the mayor was out of town. Mr. Bracken stated that although it was ultimately the council's decision, best practice was to elect a Mayor Pro Tem in advance rather than addressing the issue during an emergency. He also noted that some councils rotated the position annually due to the additional workload. He then turned the discussion back to the mayor and council.

Mayor Jesse Valdez invited input from council members, specifically asking for thoughts from Council Member Schaeffer and Council Member Butterfield.

Council Member Patrick Schaeffer stated that having a Mayor Pro Tem was important, citing past instances when the prior mayor had been unable to attend meetings and the Mayor Pro Tem stepped in to preside. He stated that having a designated backup was a good and practical idea.

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield stated that she would like to make a nomination and nominated Council Member Schaeffer to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. She cited Council Member Schaeffer's experience and familiarity with city operations as reasons for the nomination.

Council Member Schaeffer responded by stating that while he was not seeking authority or recognition, he was willing to serve as Mayor Pro Tem if the council wished and expressed a desire to help fulfill the responsibilities associated with the role.

Mayor Jesse Valdez stated that they anticipated relying heavily on the experience of Council Member Schaeffer and Council Member Butterfield and indicated that he would have been comfortable with either individual serving in the role of Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Butterfield moved to nominate Council Member Patrick Scaheffer as the Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Longtin seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

B. Resolution R2026-01, Appointing a Representative to the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD) Board

Nathan Bracken then explained that an additional, critical appointment needed to be made to the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District Board. He noted that historically the mayor automatically served on the board, but that policy had changed within the past year, allowing

any council member to be appointed. He described the Municipal Services District as the entity that provided nearly all administrative and operational services for Kearns, including planning and zoning, code enforcement, financial services, and day-to-day administration. He explained that the city's representative on the board would work alongside other board members, including the county's representative, to oversee and manage district staff. He further explained that appointment to the Municipal Services District Board required a formal resolution. He clarified that special district boards function as separate political subdivisions, similar in authority to a city council, and therefore did not typically allow alternates. He stated that only one representative could be appointed to the Municipal Services District Board and that the council would receive required training following the appointment. He noted that a draft resolution had been prepared and included in the meeting packet, with the appointee's name left blank pending the council's decision.

Mayor Jesse Valdez invited input from council members regarding the appointment. Mayor Valdez then stated a desire to serve as the city's representative on the Municipal Services District Board, explaining that because the district functioned as the city's primary administrative staff, it was important for the mayor to take on that role.

Council Member Schaeffer moved to appoint Mayor Valdez as the representative to the MSD Board of Trustees. Council Member Butterfield seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

C. Resolution R2026-02, Appointing a Representative to the Unified Police Department (UPD) and Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA) Boards

Nathan Bracken explained that appointments to the Unified Police Department and the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Agency were typically handled together because, while they were separate entities, they were closely connected. He clarified that the Unified Police Department was an interlocal entity created by agreement and governed by Utah law and its interlocal agreement, serving as the city's police force. He stated that the representative appointed to the UPD board served as part of the governing body overseeing the police department. He contrasted this with SLVLESA, which was a special district governed by Utah Code Title 17B and functioned primarily as the taxing entity responsible for collecting property taxes to fund police services. He noted that similar governance structures existed for unified fire services, though those appointments were not being addressed at this meeting. He stated that past councils had typically appointed the same individual to both the UPD and SLVLESA boards for continuity and efficiency, though the council was not required to do so. They explained that a resolution had been prepared assuming a joint appointment and that a formal letter would be sent to both entities to confirm the council's action, consistent with past practice.

Mayor Jesse Valdez emphasized the importance of public safety and stated that, given his background in law enforcement, he had a strong interest in the UPD and SLVLESA appointments. He expressed an initial inclination to serve in that role but stated a desire to hear from other council members to ensure the workload was manageable and to gauge interest from others.