

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett District #1
Pam Cotter District #2 – Council Chair
Clark Bullen District #3
Diane Turner District #4
Adam Hock District #5 – Council Vice Chair

Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Chad Wilkinson	Community & Economic Dev. Director
Ryan Madsen	IT	Ben Gray	IT
Citizens and Guests			

Call to Order: 6:29 p.m. – Council Member Cotter

Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting November 25, 2025 and Council Meeting December 9, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Pickett moved to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Bullen seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Public Hearing:

Consider an ordinance enacting Section 17.76.165 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to residential ponds. Community & Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson recapped about why the potential ordinance came about. He reminded the Council that the only frequent standard used by many cities, was to require a building permit for ponds deeper than 24 inches holding 5,000 gallons of water. He explained that staff initially modeled the draft ordinance after Herriman City, but later learned Herriman had discontinued its pond ordinance when discovering the 24-inch, 5,000-gallon standard applied only to swimming pools, not ponds.

Mr. Wilkinson noted the frequent standard in the original proposed ordinance as Standard E. He explained that when the Murray PC (Planning Commission) received the updated information showing that swimming pool standards were being applied to ponds, they voted 4–1 to recommend removing Standard E. He said staff fully supported the modification and clarified that the only no vote opposed adopting a pond ordinance. The modified ordinance was displayed with Standard E stricken from the Code, basic standards remained like requiring a liner, having a minimum setback and requiring a permit for an electrical pump. Other guidelines related to fish and mosquitoes were noted and Mr. Wilkinson said the modified ordinance would basically codify what the City had already been requiring for years.

Mr. Bullen asked about a fencing requirement and expressed concern about people constructing ponds in a haphazard way. Mr. Wilkinson used photos of public and residential ponds to show that Murray has never required pond fencing. He noted that fencing small front-yard ponds would conflict with the existing fence code, explained that pond permitting would raise costs due to hiring third-party soil engineers and he confirmed that City engineers and building officials agreed there was no significant reason to inspect ponds because ponds have no structure to inspect.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to adopt the ordinance as modified by the PC, striking Standard E. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Nay
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Nay
Motion passed:	3-2

Mr. Hock said he voted as he did because the City had very few pond related issues in its history, he was hesitant to move the ordinance forward especially after Standard E was removed and he felt the ordinance would not add much to what was already common practice and that requiring building permits for residential ponds would be a burden to residents.

Business Items:

1. **Consider a resolution approving the Mayor's appointment of representatives to Boards of Interlocal Entities and to a Community Development Corporation.** Mayor Hales outlined all proposed appointments for the calendar year 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Pickett moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Hock SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion Passed:	5-0

2. **Consider a resolution appointing the Chair and Vice Chair for the Murray City Municipal Council for calendar year 2026.** Ms. Cotter called for nominations.

- **For City Council Chair:**

Mr. Pickett nominated Mr. Hock. There was no other nomination and Mr. Hock accepted. All in favor 5-0. Mr. Hock would be Council Chair for calendar year 2026.

- **For City Council Vice-Chair:**

Mr. Hock nominated Ms. Turner. There was no other nomination and Ms. Turner accepted. All in favor 5-0. Ms. Turner would be Council Vice-Chair for calendar year 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve the resolution appointing the City Council Chair and Vice Chair as stated for calendar year 2026. Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion Passed:	5-0

3. **Consider a resolution appointing the Chair and Vice Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Murray City Municipal Council for calendar year 2026.** Ms. Cotter called for nominations.

- **For Budget and Finance Committee Chair:**

Mr. Pickett nominated Ms. Cotter. There were no other nominations and Ms. Cotter accepted.
All in favor 5-0. Ms. Cotter would be Budget Chair for the calendar year 2026.

- **For Budget and Finance Committee Vice-Chair:**

Ms. Turner nominated Mr. Hock. There were no other nominations and Mr. Hock accepted.
All in favor 5-0. Mr. Hock would be Budget Vice-Chair for the calendar year 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Pickett moved to approve the resolution appointing the Budget Chair and Vice-Chair as stated for calendar year 2026. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion Passed:	5-0

4. Consider a resolution approving the City Council's appointment of representatives to a Board and a Committee. Ms. Cotter called for nominations:

- **For Association of Municipal Councils:**

Mr. Hock nominated Ms. Cotter. There were no other nominations and Ms. Cotter accepted.
All in favor 5-0. Ms. Cotter would be the representative for the Association of Municipal Councils for the calendar year 2026.

- **For Utah League of Cities and Towns/LPC (Legislative Policy Committee):**

Mr. Hock nominated Ms. Turner. There were no other nominations and Ms. Turner accepted.
All in favor 5-0. Ms. Turner would be the representative for the Utah League of Cities and Towns/LPC for the calendar year 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to approve the resolution as stated and Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion Passed:	5-0

Mayor's Report and Questions: Mayor Hales announced that the State of the City Address would be held at 5:00 p.m. on January 27, 2026 at the Murray Theater.

Adjournment: 7:11 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III