

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Ogden City Council held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, and via electronic meeting, on the third floor of the Municipal Building, 2549 Washington Boulevard, Ogden City, Weber County, Utah.

Present: Chair Richard A. Hyer
 Council members Angela Choberka
 Dave Graf
 Kevin Lundell
 Shaun Myers
 Ken Richey
 Alicia Washington

Council Executive Director Glenn Symes
Council Senior Policy Analyst Steve Burton
Communications Director Brandon Garside
Communications Specialist Eric Davenport

Also present: Mayor Benjamin K. Nadolski
 Chief Administrative Officer Mara A. Brown
 City Attorney Gary Williams
 Management Services Executive Director Lisa Stout
 Finance Director Justin Sorensen
 Assistant Finance Director Korahle Jensen
 Parks, Cemetery, and Trails Director Monte Stewart
 Golf Pro/Director Todd Brenkman
 Community and Economic Development Assistant Executive Director David Sawyer
 Marketing and Communications Director Mike McBride
 Chief Deputy Recorder Lee Ann Peterson

At the request of the Chair, all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council member Graf.

A moment of silence was observed.

Acknowledgements: Council Member Richey acknowledged the Ben Lomond High School cheerleading squad's fundraising campaign to attend nationals, noting they were close to their \$10,000 goal.

Council member Graf acknowledged that Ogden will host the World Curling Championships at the Weber Ice Sheet from March 27 through April 4, mentioning it could be a precursor to the Ice Sheet becoming an Olympic venue.

Council member Myers reminded everyone about the Hof Festival at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center on Friday and Saturday and noted the upcoming Mayor's Address at Union Station on Thursday.

Chair Hyer noted that this was Council member Choberka's last meeting before her departure; Council member Elect Lopez was unavailable to be sworn in to office until the second week of January.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHEY MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA BY MOVING ITEM FOUR (REQUESTS TO BE ON THE AGENDA) AHEAD OF ITEM THREE (RECOGNITION OF BRAD MORTENSEN). COUNCIL MEMBER CHOBERKA SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL VOTING AYE.

Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Audit Report; AND
Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Audit Report and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) came before the Council for consideration. The ACFR is prepared by the City Administration each year as part of the fiscal year-end budget process and provides an overall picture of the City's funds, investments, assets, and debt – information over and above the regular annual budget. The City's budget provides a plan for revenues and expenditures, while the ACFR provides an overview of the prior year's financial activity. The Auditor's report is a summary of the auditor's review and findings regarding the City's overall financial position. The report also identifies any issues with internal controls and may provide findings that will need to be addressed before completion of the next audit cycle.

Finance Director Sorensen introduced the audit report and noted that it had been uploaded to the City website for public access. He thanked Administration, the City Council, and Management Services staff, especially Korahle Jensen, Assistant Finance Director, for their work in preparing for the audit. Mr. Sorensen highlighted that the fund balances for governmental and enterprise funds increased by 3.38 percent over the prior year, indicating the City is in a better financial position than last year. He

noted the City increased long-term debt by about \$9 million related to the purchase of the Forest Service building and the special purpose entity created for new markets tax credit. He also pointed out that the City invested over \$110 million in capital infrastructure, including the Canyon Pipeline, Marshall White Center, and downtown parking structure.

Jeff Miles, Audit Partner with HBME, LLC, briefly discussed the City's annual audit process and his coordination with City Administration; he presented the audit results, reporting that his firm had issued a clean or unmodified opinion on the financial statements. He stated there was one finding related to State compliance regarding the budget of the new special purpose entity, which was formed late in the budget year and had some expenditures not budgeted for. He reported that the City's internal controls were strong with no significant deficiencies identified and no proposed journal entries during the audit. He concluded by congratulating the City's financial staff on a job well done.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHOBERKA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FY2025 AUDIT REPORT FOR REVIEW. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRAF, ALL VOTING AYE.

Finance Director Sorensen then presented the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), noting it contains detailed financial information about the City's operations.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FY2025 ACFR FOR REVIEW. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER GRAF, ALL VOTING AYE.

Joint proclamation declaring January 6, 2026, as Brad Mortensen Day in Ogden City

A joint proclamation declaring January 6, 2026, as Brad Mortensen Day in Ogden City came before the Council for consideration. Council member Richey read the joint proclamation, after which **COUNCIL MEMBER RICHEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE JOINT PROCLAMATION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MYERS, ALL VOTING AYE.**

Council member Richey then presented the proclamation to Mr. Mortensen.

Mr. Mortensen thanked the Council and Mayor, noting how humbling the recognition was. He reflected on the partnership between the City and university, particularly highlighting their receiving the Abernathy Award in 2015 for having the outstanding college town partnership in the country. He expressed gratitude for the positive impact he was able to have in Ogden.

Former Council Member Blair spoke in appreciation of Mr. Mortensen's efforts to bridge relationships between the university and the city, and for the improvements made during his tenure.

Council members individually expressed their appreciation for Mr. Mortensen's contributions to Weber State University and the Ogden community, wishing him well in his new role as President of Utah State University.

Mayor Nadolski thanked Mr. Mortensen for his support of an unnamed project that will be announced in the upcoming State of the City address, noting that even as he was departing, he ensured there was continued support from the university.

Election of Council Vice Chair

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHEY NOMINATED COUNCIL MEMBER GRAF TO SERVE AS COUNCIL VICE CHAIR DURING 2026. COUNCIL MEMBER CHOBERKA SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

Council Member Graf expressed appreciation for the nomination and stated that with three new council members and a new Council Executive Director, this was an opportunity for him to further engage in his role as a Council member. He committed to supporting the Council as a whole, helping new Council members, communicating clearly about Council activities, and engaging with the Administration. He viewed the role as a way to continue giving back to Ogden.

THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN REGARDING THE NOMINATION: VOTING AYE – COUNCIL MEMBERS CHOBERKA, GRAF, HYER, MYERS, AND RICHEY. VOTING NO – COUNCIL MEMBERS LUNDELL AND WASHINGTON.

Council Member Lundell explained his nay vote, stating that while he congratulated Council member Graf, he saw the November 2025 election as a change election and felt that the current leadership did not necessarily represent that change. He expressed hope to work collaboratively going forward.

Council member Washington noted that she had met with Council Member Graf and appreciated his commitment to leadership, transparency, and accountability.

Council member Choberka mentioned that she had consulted with Council member-elect Lopez, who appreciated Council Member Graf's willingness to visit neighborhoods and engage with residents on issues like the Patterson project.

Administration of Oath of Office for Council Vice Chair

Deputy City Recorder Peterson administered the Oath of Office for Council Vice Chair Graf and Chair Hyer.

Public Comments

Linda Sanchez remarked on the significance of the Nation's forefathers, emphasizing their sacrifices and the importance of truth in government. She expressed appreciation to the new Council members and encouraged them to view a video she would send about the forefathers' monument, highlighting the dedication and sacrifices of those who fought for the country. Ms. Sanchez stressed the value of truth, stating that it is essential for leaders to be candid with her, as she can handle the truth. She stated that truth should not bring comfort but should inspire change. She urged the Council to continually reassess their vision, suggesting that they should strive for improvement and acknowledge when changes are necessary. She concluded she desires transparency and integrity from the Council members as they represent her interests.

Several residents addressed the Council regarding the closure of a trail through the Mount Ogden golf course. Speakers included Chloe Reynolds, Kim Haslam, Chase Reynolds, Heath Satow, Wesley Calgren, Zach Colton, Marilee Blackham, Tom Carlton, Thor Rush, Jason Bach, Ashley Davis, Curt Ward, John Wheelwright, Lindsey Anderson, and Justin Haslam.

The trail users expressed frustration with the City's decision to permanently close the trail and with the process that led to the decision. Their main concerns included:

- The survey methodology was flawed, with emails sent to 25,000 golfer addresses while trail users had to rely on social media and word-of-mouth.
- QR codes for the survey were posted at golf courses but not at trailheads.
- The timing of the data release coincided with the final decision, leaving no opportunity for trail users to provide input on the results.
- The survey data showed initial support for the trail (around 80% in the first 18 days) before a spike in opposing votes in the last few days changed the overall results.
- Some survey respondents who voted "no" actually stated in comments they wanted the trail to remain open, suggesting confusion about the question.
- The trail had existed for decades before being closed, with no documented safety incidents.
- A compromise reroute option had been developed with City officials but was ultimately rejected.
- The possible Bureau of Reclamation easement or right-of-way that might affect the City's ability to close the trail.

Laura Lewis spoke in support of the trail closure, stating that as both a hiker and golfer, she felt the right decision was made for safety reasons and noted the trail was never officially part of the golf course.

Theresa Bramwell welcomed the new council members, noting that three live in East Central Ogden. She expressed hope that East Central would receive more attention after years of having tax money diverted to other areas of the City.

Several residents also raised concerns about Flock surveillance cameras in East Central Ogden. Taylor Knuth and Sean Bishop questioned why cameras were concentrated in neighborhoods below Harrison Boulevard and requested information about which agencies can access the data, how long it's stored, and the expansion of the system beyond its original scope.

Council members thanked citizens for their comments and engagement.

In response to the public comments, several Council members expressed concern about the trail closure process while acknowledging it was an Administrative decision outside the Council's authority.

Council member Lundell noted he had taught his son to ride a bike on the trail in question and recognized its importance for accessing higher trails from different neighborhoods.

Council member Washington acknowledged the frustration in the room and committed to continuing conversations about the trails, Flock cameras, and East Central development issues.

Council member Richey suggested exploring off-hours trail access as a potential compromise with the community that desires the trail to be reopened.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Nadolski addressed public comments about the golf course trail. He explained that he had worked in good faith with trail users to find a compromise route and put the proposal out for public input. He stated that the email about the survey was sent once at the beginning, without follow-up emails, and relied on social media and trail community networks for further distribution. The Mayor clarified that he was trying to make a decision for all recreational users of the area, viewing both golf and trails as important parts of Ogden's outdoor recreation identity. He stated that the final decision to maintain the closure was based on the survey results which showed a balanced community response, not a clear majority either way. Regarding the Flock cameras, the Mayor stated they were placed based on criminal activity patterns, traffic flows, and data analysis, not based on neighborhood demographics. He denied that Ogden police were working under the direction from federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and offered to have the Police Chief meet with concerned residents to answer questions about the camera system's use and privacy protections.

Council member Comments

Council member Choberka, in her final meeting after eight years on the Council, reflected on the importance of considering who has access to government officials, who gets responses to inquiries, and who benefits from decisions. She encouraged the Council to think about power imbalances in community engagement and decision-making.

Chair Hyer acknowledged the difficulty of the trail decision and encouraged citizens to continue communication with Council members through email and phone.

There being no further business to come before the Council, **COUNCIL MEMBER MYERS MOVED THE MEETING ADJOURN AT 8:05 P.M. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR GRAF, ALL VOTING AYE.**

LEE ANN PETERSON, MMC
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

RICHARD A. HYER, CHAIR

APPROVED: February 17, 2026