

Minutes of the work session of the Ogden City Council held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Work Room, and via electronic meeting, located 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
Management Services Executive Director Lisa Stout
Public Services Executive Director Justin Anderson
Deputy CAO/City Engineer Taylor Nielsen
Parks, Cemetery, and Trails Director Monte Stewart
Golf Pro/Director Todd Brenkman
Marketing and Communications Director Mike McBride
Chief Deputy Recorder Lee Ann Peterson

The purpose of the work session was to review the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.; receive an Administrative update; discuss Council business; and hear Council comments.

Agenda Review

Chair Hyer and members of Council staff reviewed the items listed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Administrative Update

Mayor Nadolski welcomed newly elected Council members and expressed his commitment to a collaborative, open, and transparent Administration. He emphasized his respect for the Council's authority and role in the City's government. He then noted his intention tonight was to provide an update regarding Taylor Canyon Elementary School property and ongoing discussions regarding the trail that runs through Mount Ogden Golf Course.

Relative to the Taylor Canyon Elementary site, Mayor Nadolski reported on ongoing discussions with the Ogden School District regarding the potential acquisition of the property at the elementary school. He emphasized his preference for using the property as open space, though the final decision would rest with the Council. The Mayor noted that conversations with the school board and district administration had been productive, with various options being explored. Mayor Nadolski explained that he was working to respect both the school district's authority and statutory timelines while seeking cooperative solutions that would benefit taxpayers. He mentioned that the City was currently in a statutory 60-day phase that might be extended in cooperation with the school district.

Chair Hyer asked about the appraisal process and whether different zoning valuations would be considered. Mayor Nadolski and Chief Administrative Officer Brown clarified Administration had not yet moved forward with an appraisal based on ongoing discussions with the school district.

Council Member Richey asked about Lester Park improvements and trail maintenance plans. Mayor Nadolski confirmed they had \$2 million set aside for Lester Park with plans to start work in the Spring, with a total need of \$4 million. He also mentioned recent meetings with the Trails Foundation regarding trail maintenance projects.

Council member Choberka commented on the perception of "double paying" for property already owned by taxpayers through the school district. She clarified her previous remarks, stating she was not suggesting that the City was double buying the property, but rather emphasizing that as Ogden City residents and taxpayers, they already have ownership. She expressed her willingness to support a potential mixed-use area, which could serve as both community space and housing. She shared her concerns about the impact of extensive field space in the neighborhood, particularly in light of her experience living nearby and recalling her own large yard. She raised the point that many people in the area have substantial yards and access to nearby mountain areas and she addressed the misunderstanding about access to green space, noting that while community space could be

beneficial, large fields could bring unintended impacts to the neighborhood. Mayor Nadolski thanked Council member Choberka for that feedback and indicated he feels Administration and the Council have common goals relative to this area of the City.

Mayor Nadolski then provided details on his decision regarding the Mount Ogden Golf Course trail. He explained the historical context of the area, noting that before the golf course was established, the area saw various recreational uses including off-highway vehicles. The original design included Gibbs Loop trail that went around the golf course, but over time enforcement became lax, resulting in unofficial trails through the golf course and increasing conflicts between golfers and trail users. The Mayor discussed the community engagement process, which included a survey developed by a third-party consultant to avoid bias. He acknowledged criticism from both trail advocates and the golf community about the survey. The results showed the community was approximately evenly split on the issue. Mayor Nadolski explained that his decision to maintain the original plan with the loop going around the golf course was based on several factors including:

- Safety concerns and risk management
- The balanced public input from the survey
- Input from trail advocacy groups
- A significant spike in golf participation when trail access was limited
- Reduction in vandalism during the closure period
- Financial considerations, as golf operations had moved into the black

Council member Lundell questioned the survey's validity, noting confusion in the wording and concerns about a late influx of responses. Mayor Nadolski acknowledged these concerns but defended the survey as one of many factors in his decision-making process.

Council Member Richey noted the difficult nature of the issue and suggested exploring potential compromise options, such as allowing access for cross-country runners before golf hours.

Mayor Nadolski affirmed his commitment to supporting trail improvements elsewhere, mentioning the \$30,000 appropriated previously that was leveraged into \$60,000 with the Trails Foundation, plus an additional \$100,000 recently approved.

Council Business

Council member Choberka inquired about updates on surveillance technology, and Mayor Nadolski noted that information had been shared on Police Department's social media about the City's policies, which are more restrictive than state requirements.

Council member Graf inquired about Recreation Arts Museum Parks (RAMP) grant opportunities for Lester Park improvements. Mayor Nadolski indicated Administration was planning to resubmit a RAMP grant application for the project after an earlier application was not accepted by Weber County. Council member Graf also raised questions regarding trail improvements and the involvement of Trails Foundation of Northern Utah on those efforts; he noted the Bench Overlook section required attention. Mayor Nadolski acknowledged the need for maintenance but indicated that actionable improvement plans were hindered by weather conditions.

Council member Richey inquired about the status of the downtown parking structure. Mayor Nadolski reported that the structure was nearly complete, describing it as a beautiful public asset. He explained that at the request of downtown businesses, implementation of the parking system was delayed during the Christmas village period. The Mayor indicated that more details would be announced at the upcoming State of the City address on Thursday.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

LEE ANN PETERSON, MMC
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

RICHARD A. HYER, CHAIR

APPROVED: February 17, 2026