

Minutes of the Hurricane City Council special meeting held on January 05, 2026, in the Council Chambers at 147 North 870 West, Hurricane, Utah at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Clark Fawcett and **Council Members:** Drew Ellerman, Dave Imlay, and Lynn Excell.

Members Excused: Joseph Prete

Also Present: City Manager Kaden DeMille, City Attorney Dayton Hall, Police Chief Kurt Yates, City Planner Gary Cupp, Assistant Planner Fred Resch III, City Engineer Arthur LeBaron, HR Director Sel Lovell, and City Recorder Cindy Beteag.

AGENDA

4:30 p.m. Call to Order

Mayor Billings welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Prayer: Willie Billings

Thought: Nanette Billings

Pledge: Arthur LeBaron

Mayor Billings expressed her appreciation to the department heads, Council, and citizens, noting that she has greatly enjoyed working with everyone over the past six years.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Swearing-In Ceremony of new Council members and Mayor

Clark Fawcett was sworn in as Mayor and Lynn Excell and Dave Imlay were sworn in as Council members by City Recorder Cindy Beteag.

Mayor Clark Fawcett thanked Nanette Billings for her hard work and support, as well as Kevin Thomas and David Hirschi for their service on the Council. He recognized Trinity Stout's children as his biggest cheerleaders during his campaign and expressed his gratitude for their support. He also recognized his grandson for his support. Mayor Fawcett concluded by thanking the citizens and stating that he will do his best to serve the community.

Councilman Lynn Excell thanked Mayor Fawcett, the former Mayor, and the Council for their service to the community. He expressed appreciation to his wife and children for their support and thanked his current employers and everyone in the room for their help and encouragement. He said he looks forward to working with the Council and staff, noting that Hurricane is a great place, and also thanked Councilman Imlay for his support.

Dave Imlay thanked his wife for her support and encouragement. He stated that he wants to give back to the community. He thanked the citizens for their support and noted that his door is always open as he strives to stay fully informed on the issues.

2. Consideration and possible approval of Resolution 2026-01 Approving the submission of an application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for funding to acquire the H property

Arthur LeBaron explained that an 83 acre property, which includes the “H,” is for sale and that the Council has discussed acquiring the property for some time. A grant opportunity is available with an application deadline on January 15, and a Resolution in support of the purchase is required in order to apply. Mayor Fawcett noted that the grant includes certain conditions but clarified that they would not prohibit the City from using the property as it sees fit. Mr. LeBaron stated that the City has not developed a specific plan for the property other than preserving the “H” and having the ability to light it. Beyond that, the intent is to keep the land largely undeveloped to protect the viewshed, with only minimal improvements such as a restroom, pavilion, and parking area. Mayor Fawcett expressed support for planning around a future master-planned road. Mr. LeBaron explained that the land needed for the future road would be segregated so it would not be encumbered by the grant and noted that current access to the property is through a prescriptive easement. Councilman Imlay asked whether the grant would cover the full asking price of the property. Mr. LeBaron responded that it would not; the grant would cover approximately half of the purchase price, plus \$30,000 for appraisal and closing costs, for a total grant amount of \$415,000, with the City responsible for the remaining balance. Kaden DeMille stated that funds had been set aside for the purchase, but the City now believes those funds may be better used toward a pool grant. He will explore alternative funding options for this project. Mr. LeBaron added that his understanding is the grant would be awarded in the first half of the year and paid out in the second half. Councilman Ellerman asked whether the asking price had been verified. Mr. LeBaron stated that staff reviewed the County Assessor’s records and that a Yellow Book appraisal is required; if the appraisal does not support the asking price, the City would be able to counteroffer.

Drew Ellerman motioned to approve Resolution 2026-01 Approving the submission of an application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for funding to acquire the H property. Seconded by Lynn Excell. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

Mayor Fawcett announced that the vacant Council seat will be opened tomorrow. He stated that a special meeting is scheduled for January 29 to interview the candidates and confirmed that the Council is comfortable conducting all interviews that evening and voting the same night. He added that he will provide the Council with the list of applicants in advance in case members wish to contact candidates beforehand. Mayor Fawcett noted that, because the meeting is public, candidates cannot be required to leave the room; however, he will ask them to step out during the interview of each candidate. The Council agreed to keep the application period open until the January 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Kaden DeMille read an email inviting the new Mayor and Council to a lunch meeting with the Board of Education, with an RSVP requested by next week. Mayor Fawcett and Councilmembers Ellerman and Imlay confirmed they would be able to attend.

Adjournment: Drew Ellerman motioned to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. Seconded by Dave Imlay. Motion carried unanimously.