

Minutes of the Hurricane City Council meeting held on January 29, 2026, in the Council Chambers at 147 North 870 West, Hurricane, Utah at 6 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Manager Kaden DeMille, City Attorney Dayton Hall, Police Chief Kurt Yates, Assistant Planner Fred Resch III, Water Supervisor Kory Wright, and City Recorder Cindy Beteag.

AGENDA

6:00 p.m. - Call to Order –

Mayor Fawcett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He thanked all the candidates who applied to fill the vacancy on the City Council, noting that there are many strong candidates. He expressed his appreciation for their willingness to serve the community.

Prayer: Drew Ellerman

Pledge: Lynn Excell

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consideration and possible approval of Procedures for Filling a Vacancy on the Hurricane City Council**

Dayton Hall explained that both the Council and the candidates were provided with a draft of the proposed procedures. He stated there are eleven candidates, listed in order according to the master ballot list from the last election. The proposed procedure is to excuse all candidates except the one currently being interviewed. Mayor Fawcett noted that family members are present and asked that no information be passed to candidates waiting in the hallway. Mr. Hall explained that there will be a fifteen-minute break after Candidate #6, and that each interview will be limited to fifteen minutes. He asked each candidate to finish their sentence at the end of the allotted time and then conclude. After all interviews are completed, all candidates will be invited back into the room, at which point the Council may deliberate and begin the voting process. Mr. Hall outlined the voting process, including the number of votes required for selection and the procedure for breaking a tie. Mayor Fawcett noted that during the previous vacancy four years prior, the Council voted for two candidates in the first round and asked whether that approach would be allowed. Mr. Hall responded that State code has changed and based on his interpretation, that method is no longer permitted. He further stated that secret ballots are not allowed and that a public record of each Councilmember's vote is required during a public meeting. Votes will be written and handed to the Mayor, who will read them aloud. Councilman Prete stated that he does not like the change and prefers the ability to vote for more than one candidate in the first round.

Dave Imlay motioned to approve the Procedures for Filling a Vacancy on the Hurricane City Council as written. Seconded by Joseph Prete. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Interview candidates that have applied to fill the vacancy on the Hurricane City Council

The candidates were asked to leave the room, after which the Council invited each candidate back individually and allowed fifteen minutes for their presentation and interview in the following order.

Emily Butler
Amy Werrett
Karl Rasmussen
Mark Sampson
Kimberly Lytle
Kevin Thomas

Council took a fifteen-minute break.

Douglas Thornton
Harmony Vanderhorst
Michael Hirschi
Scott Hughes
Frank Durkin

3. Appointment of a candidate to fill a vacancy on the Hurricane City Council to a term ending on the first Monday of January 2028

Councilman Prete stated that he was present four years ago when the Council faced the same process and described it as a “brutal task.” He appreciated that last time they were able to vote for two candidates, noting that he had voted for two who were not selected, which caused a small rift with the person ultimately appointed. While he knows all the candidates well, he highlighted that personal friendship cannot be the reason for his vote. He listed the many factors he would consider in making his decision and acknowledged that being limited to selecting just one candidate does not fully represent how he feels. He expressed hope that those not selected would consider serving again in the future. Councilman Ellerman shared that he understands what the candidates are feeling, having been in their position four years ago. He knows most of the candidates and appreciated the opportunity to get to know the others. He has read all the applications and enjoyed getting to know each candidate. He thanked all the candidates for putting themselves forward. Mayor Fawcett remarked that, unlike a typical election where voters select two, this process requires choosing only one candidate, which can make the decision difficult. He encouraged those not selected to run again in the future. Councilman Imlay agreed that it is a very difficult decision and stated that he will vote for a candidate who aligns with the platform on which he ran. Councilman Excell acknowledged the

difficulty of the decision, noting that one candidate will be pleased while the others may be disappointed. He described the Council as “one of the greatest teams” and expressed that many of the candidates are his friends, making the choice tough. Like Councilman Imlay, he will vote for someone who aligns with his platform. He thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve and encouraged those not selected to run again.

Mayor Fawcett called for a vote and the Council Members voted as follows: Dave Imlay voted for Amy Werrett; Drew Ellerman voted for Kimberly Lytle; Joseph Prete voted for Scott Hughes; and Lynn Excell voted for Amy Werrett. With two votes, Amy Werrett had the most votes and advanced to a second round of voting. Kimberly Lytle and Scott Hughes were tied for second place with one vote each, and Mayor Fawcett cast his vote for Kimberly Lytle to break the tie, advancing Kimberly Lytle to a second round of voting.

Mayor Fawcett called for a vote between the two remaining candidates. Before voting, Councilman Prete asked Kimberly Lytle a follow-up question about her values and why she believes she is a good fit for Hurricane. Mrs. Lytle explained that when her family first moved to the area, they rented for three years to ensure it was the right fit. She emphasized that Hurricane has now become home and that she values the city’s close-knit, loving, and welcoming community—qualities that drew her here and to which she hopes to contribute.

Mayor Fawcett called for a vote and the Council Members voted as follows: Drew Ellerman voted for Kimberly Lytle; Lynn Excell voted for Amy Werrett; Joseph Prete voted for Amy Werrett; and Dave Imlay voted for Amy Werrett. With three votes, Amy Werrett won by majority vote.

4. Swearing-In of the new Council member

Amy Werrett was sworn in by City Recorder Cindy Beteag

Adjournment: Lynn Excell motioned to adjourn at 9:42 p.m. Seconded by Amy Werrett. Motion carried unanimously.