



COPPERTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2026, 6:30 PM
BINGHAM CANYON LIONS CLUB
8725 HILLCREST STREET, COPPERTON, UTAH 84006

COPPERTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2026

Council Members Present:

Sean Clayton, Mayor
Tessa Stitzer, Mayor Pro Tempore
Kathleen Bailey, Council Member
Linda McCalmon, Council Member
Jonathan Pratt, Council Member

Council Members Excused:

Staff Present:

Nathan Bracken, Legal Counsel
Diana Baun, Town Clerk
Dan Torres, Economic Development Manager
Chief Nathan Bogenschutz, UFA
Chief Jason Mazuran, UPD
Chief Del Craig, UPD
Det. Ruby Lechuga, UPD
Lt. Chris Benedict, UPD

Others Present:

1. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Sean Clayton presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and noted a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Town Clerk Diana Baun administered the Oath of Office for Council Member Jonathan Pratt, Council Member Linda McCalmon, and Mayor Sean Clayton.

COPPERTON COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR SEAN CLAYTON, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE TESSA STITZER,
COUNCIL MEMBER KATHLEEN BAILEY, COUNCIL MEMBER KEVIN SEVERSON,
COUNCIL MEMBER LINDA MCCALMON

3. COMMUNITY INPUT

a. Recognize Visiting Officials – None

b. Unified Fire Authority (UFA)

Chief Nathan Bogenschutz presented the fourth quarter report for Unified Fire. Chief Bogenschutz reported that during the fourth quarter of the previous year, there were 20 calls within Copperton, five of which were emergent. He stated that there were no fire responses during that quarter and that the most frequent medical call type was a short fall, with five such incidents recorded. He explained that, compared to previous years, there was an increase of five calls in the fourth quarter, which was not considered a significant increase. He concluded by reporting that the total number of calls for the year was 67.

c. Unified Police Department (UPD)

Detective Ruby Lechuga stated that there were 12 cases during the reporting period with 11 reports completed, describing the month as good and without anything unusual. She noted that there were six public peace reports, which were believed to be related to traffic stops, and stated that nothing was considered outrageous.

Chief Jason Mazuran stated that he wanted to congratulate the new council members and welcome them to the Council. He expressed appreciation for Council Member Linda McCalmon and her work on the board and invited all Council Members to communicate any ways Unified Police Department could assist them in their roles. He reported that the department was beginning the budget process earlier than required, noting that although the budget was not required to be finalized until June, they had learned from experience that starting early was beneficial. Chief Mazuran stated that they would remain in contact with the Council Members, including Council Member Linda McCalmon, and invited any budget-related questions or requests for additional information. He explained that in the past the department had provided detailed budget information at the Council's request and affirmed that either he or Chief Craig would provide any requested materials. He also informed the Council that the department was offering a program referred to as "UPD 101," described as an overview of how the police department operates and an opportunity to answer questions. Chief Mazuran stated that they had briefly discussed the program with Council Member Linda McCalmon and explained that it was being offered to many cities due to the number of newly elected officials. He indicated that the session would be scheduled at a time, place, and duration convenient for Council Members and would cover topics including operations and budget. He stated that the department would reach out to schedule the sessions and expressed the goal of completing them by the end of February.

4. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION - None

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Council Meeting Minutes – none to approve**
- b. Fiscal Items**
 - i. Approval of expenditures**

ii. Acknowledgment of Monthly Financial Report

Mayor Clayton asked for approval of \$2,908.00 in legal fees for December.

Council Member Stitzer moved to approve the Consent Agenda Fiscal Item above as discussed. Council Member McCalmon seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

Mayor Sean Clayton then referenced the monthly financial reports included in the packet and stated they were provided for Council review. He explained that Copperton is funded solely through sales tax, with portions distributed to the local municipality, the state, and the county, and that the Town's share is approximately \$200,000 annually. He noted that Copperton is part of the Municipal Services District, describing it as a pooled arrangement in which member communities contribute and receive services collectively. He stated that there had not been a time when Copperton used less than it contributed and that the Town was looking for ways to grow its revenue base. He reviewed the assigned and unassigned fund balances included in the packet. He reported that approximately \$176,000 in assigned fund balance was reserved for capital projects, including road and non-road projects. He provided an update regarding previously awarded federal funding of \$3 million for storm drain improvements secured with assistance from Representative Burgess Owens. He explained that due to the federal government operating under continuing resolutions rather than passing a full budget, the funding had been delayed and would need to be included in a different bill. He stated that Copperton remained on the list for the funding and that if awarded, some of the \$176,000 reserved funds could be used as matching funds if required. He emphasized the need to upgrade the Town's storm drain system.

Council Member Bailey moved to acknowledge receipt of the monthly financial report. Council Member Stitzer seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

6. **PRESENTATION ITEMS** - None

7. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS** - None

8. **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

a. **Resolution R2026-01**, Appointment of Representative to South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District

Mayor Sean Clayton moved to Council business and introduced Resolution R2026-01 to appoint a representative to the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District. He explained that although Copperton had long been a member of the district, as reflected on property tax statements, the Town had not previously appointed a formal representative. He asked how often the district met.

Town Attorney Nathan Bracken stated that he would review the meeting schedule and noted that mosquito abatement districts are typically light in meeting frequency.

Nathan Bracken reviewed the schedule and reported that meetings appeared to occur monthly on the second Monday at 2:00 p.m., and that there appeared to be a virtual attendance option.

Council Member Kathleen Bailey stated that if meetings could be attended virtually, she would be willing to serve if no one else wished to do so.

Nathan Bracken stated that a broader discussion might be needed regarding various board and committee appointments. He noted that there was also a vacancy on the Salt Lake County Animal Services advisory committee and that the Council would need to determine who would fill that role. He further stated that the Council could discuss whether to continue current assignments or make changes.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer stated that her assignment with the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District could not be changed due to the district's bylaws, which require service for the duration of her term.

Mayor Sean Clayton stated that changing assignments annually had previously been considered but that continuity was beneficial because it takes time to learn each role. He then asked if anyone else wished to represent the town on the mosquito abatement district.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer nominated Council Member Kathleen Bailey to serve as the Town's representative.

Mayor Sean Clayton asked Council Member Kathleen Bailey if she accepted the nomination, and she stated that she would serve.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer stated that she would have volunteered but was already serving on the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District board, which also meets on Mondays.

Council Member Stitzer moved to approve Resolution R2026-01, Appointing Council Member Kathleen Bailey as a Representative to the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District. Council Member McCalmon seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

- b. Resolution R2026-02, A Resolution Appointing a Representative as Copperton's Representative to the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District's Board of Trustees**

Mayor Sean Clayton presented Resolution R2026-02 to appoint a representative to the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District Board of Trustees. He stated that the Mayor had typically served in that role for most service areas, with the exception of Brighton, where a council member serves.

Town Attorney Nathan Bracken explained that it had previously been a statutory requirement for the mayor to automatically serve on the board, but that requirement had been changed, allowing another individual to serve if the Council chose. He stated that there was practical benefit to the mayor serving in that capacity because the Municipal Services District provides the majority of services to the Town and therefore requires significant interaction and influence. He added that the board typically meets multiple times per month, although efforts were being made to reduce meetings to once per month.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer stated that given Mayor Sean Clayton's years of service on the Council, the relationships he had built within the Municipal Services District, and his familiarity with staff, she would nominate him to continue serving as the Town's representative.

Mayor Sean Clayton accepted the nomination and noted that meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Council Member Stitzer moved to approve Resolution R2026-02, Appointing Mayor Sean Clayton as the Town's Representative to the MSD Board. Council Member Bailey seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

Mayor Sean Clayton further stated that he was currently serving as Vice Chair of the Board and that there had been discussion about appointing him as Chair. He also discussed recent changes in board membership, noting that the new mayor of Kearns, Jesse Valdez, had recently taken office. He stated that other members included Laurie Stringham, Keith Zuspan, Alan Perry, Mick Sudbury, and David Brems. He stated that only a few members had extensive prior experience on the board and reminded everyone that votes are sometimes weighted among member communities.

c. Selection of Copperton Town Representatives for Utah League of Cities and Town's Legislative Policy Committee

Nathan Bracken explained that the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) is one of the more informal appointments and stated that the committee meets throughout the year to review legislative matters affecting municipalities. He noted that Copperton may appoint up to three members and that the LPC meets weekly during the legislative session, which had just begun. He reported that meetings are typically held on Mondays, with adjustments for holidays, and that the pace during the session is fast, often requiring positions on legislation to be determined the same day or by the following day. He stated that he currently serves as one of Copperton's representatives, along with Mayor Sean Clayton, and that he attends meetings either virtually or in person. He emphasized that because he is not an elected official, it is beneficial to have an elected representative present when positions are discussed and informal polling occurs. He asked whether any additional Council Member wished to participate.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer moved to leave the current representation as is.

Nathan Bracken clarified that the LPC meetings involve staff from the Utah League of Cities and Towns presenting newly introduced bills that may affect municipalities and seeking direction from member cities regarding positions to take. He explained that while participation does not formally bind the City at the meeting, the League uses the feedback to guide its advocacy efforts at the Legislature. He described the meetings as large, with participation from municipal officials across the state, and noted that input is often gathered electronically during the meeting. He added that membership allows Copperton to raise specific concerns with League staff, including issues unique to the Town, and that representatives can speak during meetings to explain how proposed legislation would affect their municipality.

Mayor Sean Clayton described the League as functioning similarly to a lobbyist or trade group for cities and stated that it compiles and summarizes legislation affecting municipalities, often narrowing hundreds of bills down to those most relevant. Council Member Kathleen Bailey asked who funds the League, and Mayor Clayton responded that Copperton pays modest dues. He also referenced the Utah Association of Special Districts (UASD) as another organization he found beneficial.

Nathan Bracken stated that the Utah Association of Special Districts (UASD) meetings are smaller and allow for broader discussion of local government issues beyond land use. He reiterated that the current discussion concerned who would represent Copperton on the LPC. Mayor Clayton stated that participation was a valuable learning opportunity and noted that Council Member Jonathan Pratt could join if desired. Nathan Bracken stated that if an additional representative were appointed, the League staff would need to be notified by email to ensure that communications were properly distributed.

Council Member Kathleen Bailey inquired about council email addresses, and Mayor Sean Clayton explained that the Town had transitioned to updated “.gov” email accounts and that older accounts would be shut down by the end of February. He advised Council Members to notify contacts of the updated addresses.

Nathan Bracken then framed a motion to retain Mayor Sean Clayton and Nathan Bracken as LPC representatives to the Utah League of Cities and Towns and to add Council Member Jonathan Pratt as an additional representative.

Mayor Clayton moved to approve Nathan’s motion as stated above, retaining Mayor Sean Clayton and Nathan Bracken as LPC representatives to the Utah League of Cities and Towns and adding Council Member Jonathan Pratt as an additional representative. Council Member Bailey seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

d. MSD Parks and Copperton Parks Master Plan Discussion and Action

Dan Torres stated that although the presentation had been given at the December meeting, it was being presented again to allow new council members to hear the information. Mr. Torres explained that the Municipal Services District (MSD) managed Copperton’s parks and had received a \$50,000 grant to develop a parks master plan. The plan would include both a district-wide component and an opportunity for

Copperton to participate in a community-specific plan, though participation was optional. Mr. Torres described the purpose of the master plan as creating a comprehensive long-term strategy for parks and recreation infrastructure. The plan would evaluate park trends and usage, align operations with regional patterns in sports teams and leagues, inventory park assets, assess their condition, and develop capital planning and financial analyses. He noted that the MSD would review historic and current funding structures, project revenues and expenditures 10 to 20 years into the future, identify funding strategies, and evaluate replacement schedules for park assets. The planning effort would also consider growth projections and establish standards for park size and development to ensure sustainability, particularly in growing communities. He emphasized that having an adopted plan would strengthen grant applications and provide continuity in park management, particularly regarding Copperton's trees. He stated that the master plan would include individual park plans for White City, Copperton, and Magna, while Kearns was excluded due to recent park upgrades. The scope would also provide operational recommendations and suggested alternative authorities. For Copperton, the proposal included an option to incorporate a cemetery master plan. Mr. Torres stressed that the Copperton portion would be community-driven, with at least three in-person meetings, consultant engagement, and community outreach, structured according to council direction. The anticipated timeline was approximately 11 months, with approval scheduled to go before the MSD board in February.

Council Member Kathleen Bailey asked whether a request for proposals had already been issued. Mr. Torres responded that an RFP had been released in late fall or early winter and that Landmark Design had been selected as the consultant after receiving multiple responses. He clarified that the total cost for the district-wide plan covering three communities and the MSD was approximately \$120,000. Of that, \$59,515 was allocated to the MSD portion, with \$50,000 covered by the grant and \$19,515 to be requested from the board. The Copperton-specific master plan for the park and Bingham Cemetery was estimated at \$19,968.

Mayor Sean Clayton noted a discrepancy in the cost breakdown related to public open house meetings, identifying a \$175 difference between virtual and in-person meeting costs, which adjusted the Copperton total to \$20,143. Mr. Torres stated that the written scope of work did not differentiate costs but agreed to verify the discrepancy.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer sought clarification that the approval under consideration was specifically for the park portion. Mayor Clayton confirmed that the council was being asked whether Copperton wished to participate in the park master plan and stated that administrative funds were available to cover the cost. She indicated support for the park plan but expressed hesitation about including the cemetery without additional details.

Dan Torres asked which funds would be used. Mayor Clayton stated that the unrestricted fund balance would be used and that the CARES fund would remain intact. Mr. Torres then provided updates on two grants. He reported that Copperton had

previously received a Safe Streets for All grant from the Federal Highway Administration, which had been paused during the federal government shutdown but was now moving forward again. Mr. Torres requested that the council assign a council member to work with staff to identify specific project priorities, noting prior discussions about State Highway 48 at the entrance to town and suggesting the scope might be scaled back. He also reported that Copperton had received a TRCC grant that funded the pickleball courts, with approximately \$72,000 remaining that needed to be spent by June, and requested direction on its use.

Mayor Sean Clayton confirmed that the remaining TRCC funds would be spent in the park and asked Council Member Kathleen Bailey to continue serving as the council liaison for park-related matters, which Council Member Bailey agreed to do.

Mayor Sean Clayton then provided an update on ongoing negotiations with Salt Lake County regarding ownership of the park property. Mayor Clayton stated that after discussions with County Council Member Laurie Stringham and representatives from the District Attorney's Office, the county had agreed to remove disputed language in the park transfer agreement that would have required the property to revert to the county if its use changed. Mayor Clayton explained that the county had initially justified the clause as standard language tied to potential grant funding concerns, but that research had shown the park had not been purchased with land and water grant funds. He stated that once the revised agreement was received and reviewed, the council would approve it, allowing full transfer of park ownership and enabling completion of related arrangements, including a donation from Kennecott Land. Council Member Kathleen Bailey added that the town had insured the park property for eight years without owning it and expressed a desire for reimbursement. Mayor Clayton concluded by stating that the county council member had initiated contact to move the agreement forward and that the town hoped to finalize the transfer in the coming months.

Council Member Bailey moved to approve moving forward with the Master Parks Plan proposal as presented tonight. Council Member Stitzer seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

9. COMMITTEE/BOARD UPDATES

a. Legal Updates

Town Attorney Nathan Bracken reported that the legislative session had begun and that numerous bills had been introduced, though few directly impacted Copperton at that time. Mr. Bracken stated that the most notable potential impact involved legislation by Representative Jordan Teuscher concerning sheriff responsibility amendments. Although the bill text had not yet been released, Mr. Bracken explained that, based on discussions, the intent appeared to be limiting the Salt Lake County Sheriff's responsibilities to courts and jail operations by removing patrol authority. He noted that a recent legislative audit committee meeting had raised concerns about Salt Lake County's focus on what the legislature viewed as its core responsibilities. He stated that the proposal appeared to be part of a broader legislative effort encouraging Salt Lake County to exit the municipal services business, particularly in light of

changes in western Salt Lake County governance.

Mr. Bracken further reported that two potential bills addressing special service district withdrawal amendments were under consideration. Representative Jordan Teuscher was reportedly sponsoring one, though no text had yet been released. The other was the Unified Special District annual cleanup bill to be run by Senator Kirk Cullimore, which included language previously discussed among SLVLESA members that would allow Salt Lake County to withdraw from the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA) under the same terms as other members. Mr. Bracken explained that such withdrawal would require a feasibility study and could not proceed if found infeasible. He indicated that Representative Jordan Teuscher's bill might align with Senator Kirk Cullimore's proposal or be consolidated with it. He also reported that Representative Jordan Teuscher was sponsoring a county formation amendments bill that would create a process for forming a new county, potentially allowing western Salt Lake County to separate from Salt Lake County. Mr. Bracken stated that additional land use bills were expected later in the session, with affordable housing likely remaining a primary legislative focus.

Council Member Kathleen Bailey asked about SLVLESA funding, referencing a report from the Salt Lake County Sheriff indicating that the sheriff's requested budget had been reduced from approximately \$4.6 million to \$3.1 million. She also referenced the sheriff's statement that patrol services for Butterfield Canyon near Herriman would need to be handled through an arrangement with Herriman City.

Mr. Bracken responded that his understanding was that the county's budget request had been based on its prior contribution to SLVLESA rather than demonstrated need. He stated that the Unified Police Department (UPD) had indicated it could provide the same services for \$3.1 million. As SLVLESA trustees are required to act in the best interest of the district as a whole, rather than based on individual contributions, the board had chosen to appropriate funding at the lower amount. He further stated that if the sheriff could not provide patrol services at a cost comparable to UPD, the district could appropriate the funds to UPD in the following year. Mr. Bracken added that prior legislative discussions had indicated some legislators preferred that the sheriff not perform patrol functions and instead contract with cities such as Herriman for canyon patrols, which aligned with the intent of Representative Jordan Teuscher's proposed bill. Mr. Bracken concluded by noting that final conclusions could not be drawn until bill language was released.

b. Bingham Cemetery Board

No updates at this time.

c. Copperton Community Council

Mayor Sean Clayton raised the question of how to organize planning for Copperton's upcoming 100-year anniversary, asking whether the effort should fall under the Community Council or whether a separate committee should be formed. He noted that several members had previously discussed doing something significant for the centennial and wanted guidance

on where that planning should occur.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer responded that a Copperton Town Days Committee already existed and that there had been prior discussion about combining Town Days with the centennial celebration. Council Member Stitzer explained that the Community Council was close to dissolution, but remained active because of a subcommittee—the Copperton Town Days Planning Committee. She indicated that the matter could be discussed further if desired.

Mayor Clayton asked Town Clerk Diana Baun to place the topic on the next agenda to discuss the involvement of the subcommittee and planning for the 100-year celebration. Council Member Tessa Stitzer stated that the centennial would require significant effort. Council Member Kathleen Bailey added that there had also been discussion about placing the Community Council under the same umbrella structure.

Town Attorney Nathan Bracken referenced a prior email to the council regarding an issue that had arisen in Millcreek. He explained that in Millcreek, a question had been raised about whether its community council, though a private entity, was required to comply with the Open and Public Meetings Act. The Utah Property Rights Ombudsman's Office had issued an informal opinion stating that, in Millcreek's case, the community council was acting in a public capacity by providing land use comments and receiving funding for events, and therefore was subject to the Open and Public Meetings Act. Mr. Bracken stated that if Copperton's Community Council were similarly subject to the Act, it would require staffing, recording, and public noticing, and at that point it might make more sense for it to become an official town committee rather than remain a standalone entity. He noted that Copperton's municipal code referenced the Community Council and designated it as the town's events permitting entity, which could support the argument that it was acting in a public role.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer stated that the Community Council currently only conducted senior bingo and Town Days and did not address land use matters. Council Member Tessa Stitzer questioned whether retracting its designation as the town's event permitting body would resolve the issue. Mr. Bracken responded that removing references from the town code and severing formal connections to the town could likely avoid the Open and Public Meetings Act implications. He emphasized that the Ombudsman's opinion was informal and nonbinding but carried persuasive weight.

Council Member Tessa Stitzer explained that prior to Copperton becoming a metro township, the Community Council had served primarily as a sounding board when Salt Lake County governed the area. Once the current council was formed, most matters previously discussed at the Community Council shifted to the town council level. Council Member Stitzer reiterated that the Community Council remained active primarily to operate monthly senior bingo and oversee Town Days through its subcommittee.

Council Member Kathleen Bailey noted that event permits still ultimately had to be processed through the County Parks Department, which made the current structure impractical. Council Member Stitzer stated that the Community Council had never successfully functioned as the town's permitting entity and that the arrangement was not working.

Nathan Bracken stated that the core question was whether the town wished to dissolve the Community Council, absorb it as a formal town committee, or completely separate it from the town to avoid legal complications. Council Member Stitzer stated that if the Community Council did not act on behalf of the town or exercise authority delegated by the council, it could operate independently like other private organizations.

Town Clerk Diana Baun sought clarification about whether the council intended to create separate agenda items addressing the 100-year celebration planning and the broader question of the Community Council's status. Mayor Clayton directed that the matter be placed on a future workshop agenda to allow for more detailed discussion and to invite participation from members of the relevant committees.

d. Planning Commission

No updates at this time.

10. COPPERTON COUNCIL REPORTS

a. Mayor Sean Clayton

- i. Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (GSLMSD)
- ii. Council of Governments (COG)

Mayor Sean Clayton reported that more than half of the MSD board members were new and that recent meetings had focused in part on introductions, including a new accountant. The board had also discussed the proposed parks master plan presented by Dan Torres and received an update on the annual audit, which was currently underway and expected to be completed in February. Mayor Clayton stated that the board reviewed and approved routine business items and discussed the upcoming budget calendar. Previously, budget meetings had been held on Fridays, but the board decided to incorporate budget discussions into regular meeting schedules. He expressed support for this change. Mayor Clayton reported that the Justice Court budget was also discussed. The board determined not to provide additional funding at that time, citing findings that the district had overpaid approximately \$1.5 million for justice court services. He stated that the district was working to determine the exact amount owed in reimbursement and had requested that interest also be included on the refunded amount. He further reported that significant public comment had occurred regarding Emigration Canyon. The board had considered conducting a study of the canyon road to evaluate potential improvements, including the addition of bike lanes and assessment of easements and affected properties. The matter was tabled until the following month because some members were not prepared to proceed. Mayor Clayton noted that approximately an hour of public comment was received from Emigration Canyon residents and that strong public participation had been observed. He concluded by stating that the board approved revisions to the Human Resources manual reflecting policy updates and described the overall meeting as productive.

b. Council Member Linda McCalmon

- i. Unified Police Department (UPD)
- ii. Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service area (SLVLESA)

Council Member Linda McCalmon reported on recent activities of the Unified Police Department and SLVLESA. She stated that in December the department held its “Shop with the Shield” event, which assisted 15 families and 51 children. She described the event as successful and noted appreciation for the department’s community involvement. Council Member McCalmon stated that the department’s audit had been completed and went well. The Chief expressed appreciation for the auditors’ professionalism and indicated that their feedback was valuable. She also reported that members received 15-year anniversary challenge coins commemorating the department’s 15 years of service, noting that the department would celebrate that milestone in 2026. Council Member McCalmon stated that quarterly budget amendments were discussed, with second quarter amendments totaling \$406,455. She indicated that the department remained financially stable and reported that two patrol units continued to serve the Copperton area. Regarding SLVLESA, she reported that the 2026 budget was approved after months of discussion. The board maintained the \$3.1 million allocation despite the sheriff’s initial request of approximately \$4.6 million. Council Member McCalmon stated that the sheriff reduced the request to approximately \$3.6 million and proposed using fund balance to increase the budget from \$3.1 million to that amount, but the board declined. She reported that discussion was extensive and at times contentious, but when the vote was taken, there was only one dissenting vote from the county assessor. County Council Member Dea Theodore advocated strongly on behalf of the sheriff and ultimately voted in favor of the budget to ensure its passage, though she indicated a desire to revisit the matter midyear. Council Member McCalmon added that Carlos Moreno still remained in his position and addressed the board at the end of the meeting regarding prior efforts to remove him, which prompted further exchange during the meeting.

- c. Council Member Kathleen Bailey
 - i. Unified Fire Authority (UFA)
 - ii. Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA)

Council Member Kathleen Bailey reported that the Unified Fire Authority and Unified Fire Service Area had met the previous day and that the meeting was primarily routine business. Council Member Bailey stated that preparations were beginning for the upcoming budget season and that a benefits and compensation meeting was scheduled for the following morning to address anticipated union requests. She explained that the board addressed an issue involving unused loan funds originally designated for construction. The funds had been placed in an account, but due to federal arbitrage regulations limiting the amount of interest that could be earned on borrowed funds, the entity was required to return the excess funds rather than retain earnings above the permitted threshold. Council Member Bailey stated that the board voted to return the money in compliance with those requirements and noted that interest earnings beyond the allowable limit would otherwise have to be paid to the federal government. She characterized the meeting as primarily administrative and business-focused without any significant additional developments.