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City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Council Chambers, Room No. 140
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd.
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

6:00 BRIEFNG SESSION

ATTENDANCE:

Elected Officials Present

Kristie S. Overson, Mayor
Bob Knudsen, Council Chair
Anna Barbieri, Council Member
Ernest Burgess, Council Member
Meredith Harker, Council Member

Staff Present

Scott Harrington, Asst City Admin/CFO
Dina Blaes, Strategic Engagement
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Ben White, City Engineer

EXCUSED: Curt Cochran, Council Vice Chair

1. Agenda Review for Regular Meeting

Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting and said how pleased he was that Taylorsville was becoming a JustServe community.

There was some discussion regarding the fact that the gentleman Mayor Overson wished to appoint as an alternate on the planning commission lived in council district #1 and that it was permissible for any district to have up to two representatives on the commission at any given time.

Chief Cottam explained that in addition to swearing in three new police officers, his report would include a recent promotion within the department.

Council Member Harker mentioned that the Parks & Recreation committee had chosen the movies that would be shown on various dates during the 2026 *Starry Nights on the Plaza* season. They tentatively included Zootopia 2, Freakier Friday, National Treasure, Elf and the SpongeBob Movie.

She also asked if there had been any further discussion regarding adding a water bottle fill station on Centennial Plaza. Mayor Overson responded that she would have an update at the next council meeting.

2. Adjourn

42
43 Chair Knudsen declared the closed session adjourned at 6:09 p.m.
44

45
46 **6:30 PM REGULAR MEETING**

47
48 **ATTENDANCE:** **Elected Officials Present** **Staff Present**
49 Kristie S. Overson, Mayor John Taylor, City Administrator
50 Bob Knudsen, Council Chair Scott Harrington, Asst. City Admin/CFO
51 Anna Barbieri, District 3 Dina Blaes, Strategic Engagement
52 Ernest Burgess, District 1 Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
53 Meredith Harker, District 4 Brady Cottam, Police Chief
54 Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
55 Ben White, City Engineer
56 Jay Ziolkowski, Admin. Affairs
57

58 **Excused:** Curt Cochran, Council Vice Chair
59

60 **Others:** Dolores C. Crespo, Kenny Green, Annette Hansen, Fidel Hernandez, Jessica Hernandez,
61 Mysti Lilla, Dora Meza, Joel Meza, Dan Vincent, T.J. Wilcox, and Gordon Willardson
62

63 **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

64 Chair Knudsen called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A roll call was conducted, and all council
65 members were present except Council Member Cochran who was excused due to illness.
66

67 **1.1 Opening Ceremonies – Pledge/Reverence – *Council Member Barbieri***

68 Council Member Barbieri led the Pledge of Allegiance before offering a prayer.

69 **1.2 Mayor’s Report**

70 Mayor Overson opened her report by acknowledging the ongoing legislative session, expressing
71 appreciation for the work of John Hiskey in coordinating with legislators and the Utah League of
72 Cities & Towns on the city’s behalf. She noted that city staff, including City Administrator John
73 Taylor, Dina Blaes and Chief Cottam, remained ready to testify or attend committee meetings as
74 needed. Mayor Overson also highlighted the recent opportunity to hear U.S. Senator John Curtis
75 speak at a League Legislative Policy Committee meeting, noting his longstanding connection to
76 local government and his value as a friend to municipalities.

77 Mayor Overson then reported on three ribbon cuttings that had taken place over the preceding two
78 weeks—at DHL Express, First Watch and an expansion of Texas Roadhouse which had added
79 approximately 60 seats to its Taylorsville location. Mayor Overson noted that Texas Roadhouse

80 had been in Taylorsville for eight years and held the distinction of being the number one location
81 in Utah.

82 Mayor Overson reported having had lunch with Mayor Judkins of Provo, a new mayor who had
83 reached out to connect. She described the meeting as a valuable opportunity to build relationships
84 between cities. She had also spoken at the Regional Four Corners Exchange Club meeting, where
85 she addressed the topic of community involvement and the partnership between the city's Youth
86 Council and Exchange Club in giving back to the community.

87 The city had recently toured the West Jordan Justice Center which now housed the Taylorsville
88 Justice Court. She remarked on the security and quality of the facility and noted that the former
89 Taylorsville employees seemed to have settled in well. She expressed appreciation for the
90 cooperative relationship with West Jordan City.

91 Additional items in the Mayor's report included the city's first quarterly staff meeting of 2026,
92 during which members of administration shared information about their roles and functions to
93 improve internal communication and understanding. Mayor Overson also reported on the first Arts
94 Council Board of Trustees meeting of the year, during which bylaws and policies and procedures
95 were reviewed and identified as needing updates. She concluded her report by reflecting on the
96 Evening of Art event, which featured sculptor Brad Taggart, who had designed the veterans'
97 sculptures outside City Hall. Mayor Overson noted that Taggart now taught at Snow College and
98 that his remarks about teaching were particularly meaningful.

99 **1.2.1 Proclamation Declaring Taylorsville a JustServe City**

100 Mayor Overson presented a proclamation declaring Taylorsville a JustServe City. She explained
101 that the JustServe program provided residents with a platform to find one-time volunteer
102 opportunities in the community, distinct from ongoing committee service. She noted that the city
103 would add a link to JustServe on its website, allowing residents to search for volunteer
104 opportunities by city name or ZIP code.

105 **1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

106 Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed a list of upcoming city events.
107

108 **1.4 Public Comments**

109 Joel Meza addressed the Council regarding a wall project on 2700 West. He expressed frustration
110 that while many areas of the city had received improvements, the east side of 2700 West had been
111 left incomplete. He stated that the unfinished condition had negatively impacted property values
112 and asked why the area had been neglected despite residents paying taxes.

113

114 Dolores C. Crespo echoed these concerns, stating that it was unfair to residents who paid the same
115 taxes as those who had a wall. She said it did not look good to leave a project unfinished, and she
116 urged the Council to give the matter their consideration.

117 Fidel Hernandez wished to make a PowerPoint presentation but had not brought his own laptop to
118 do so safely. Instead, he was asked to submit his presentation to the city recorder after the meeting
119 who would share it with the City Council. He also presented a photocopy of a petition submitted
120 at the February 4th city council meeting asking that the sound wall project be completed, explaining
121 that approximately ten homes on the east side were affected. He acknowledged the cost involved
122 but appealed for completion.

123 Chair Knudsen thanked all three speakers and acknowledged their concerns, noting they were
124 particularly timely because the city would soon begin planning the next budget. He confirmed that
125 Mr. Hernandez' presentation materials would be properly filed and distributed to the council
126 members by the city recorder.

127 **2. APPOINTMENTS**

128
129 **2.1 Appointment of Kelly Garcia to Serve on the Green Committee – Mayor**
130 **Overson**

131
132 **MOTION: Council Member Burgess moved to approve the appointment of Kelly Garcia to**
133 **the Green Committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Harker.**

134
135 **Council Member Harker Yes**
136 **Council Member Barbieri Yes**
137 **Chair Knudsen Yes**
138 **Council Member Burgess Yes**
139 **Council Member Cochran Absent**

140
141 **Motion Passed 4-0**

142
143 **2.2 Resolution No. 26-03 A Resolution of the City of Taylorsville Appointing B.**
144 **Murphy to Serve on the Planning Commission as an Alternate – Dina Blaes**

145 Chief of Strategic Engagement Dina Blaes presented Mayor Overson's choice to serve as an
146 alternate on the Planning Commission. She highlighted B. Murphy's extensive understanding of
147 the development environment, including in economic development, finance, and
148 hospitality/tourism. Mr. Murphy was invited to speak briefly, sharing that he and his wife had
149 owned a home in Taylorsville since 2001, with a brief period away in Washington D.C. He
150 indicated he was happy to be back and eager to serve.

151 **MOTION: Council Member Burgess moved to approve Resolution No. 26-03, appointing B.**
152 **Murphy to the Planning Commission as an Alternate. The motion was seconded**
153 **by Council Member Barbieri and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.**
154

155 **Council Member Burgess** Yes
156 **Council Member Harker** Yes
157 **Chair Knudsen** Yes
158 **Council Member Barbieri** Yes
159 **Council Member Cochran** Absent
160

161 **Motion Passed 4-0**
162

163 **3. REPORTS**
164

165 **3.1 Swearing in Ceremony and Police Department Report – *Chief Cottam***

166 The Oath of Office was administered to Officers Amanda Gencarella, Quenten Hardman and
167 Marcos Martinez. Chief Cottam expressed gratitude for the caliber of experienced officers joining
168 the department and extended appreciation to the officers' families for their support.

169 The chief then presented Police Employee of the Month awards for the previous quarter to
170 Lieutenant Aaron Cheshire and Officers Tom Teynor and Matt Landolfi.

171 Chief Cottam presented the quarterly police report for October through December 2025. He noted
172 that the overarching theme of the quarter was a broad downward trend across most crime and
173 incident categories, which he attributed in part to typical seasonal patterns as well as increased
174 proactivity from officers. He acknowledged that robbery figures showed a slight uptick of six
175 incidents compared to the prior quarter but noted the prior quarter had been an anomaly with only
176 one robbery, making the comparison less meaningful.

177 Chair Knudsen inquired specifically about the significant decline in vehicle thefts, which had
178 dropped from nearly 100 incidents in the first quarter to approximately 40. Chief Cottam responded
179 that auto theft was down not only in Taylorsville but across the county and the state. He theorized
180 that sustained proactive enforcement, combined with officers memorizing the daily stolen vehicle
181 hot sheet, appeared to have been a deterrent. He shared that an arrested suspect had reportedly said
182 they knew they should not have come to Taylorsville with a stolen car. He also noted that modern
183 vehicles were harder to steal and that community camera adoption had contributed to deterrence.
184 Chair Knudsen and Council Member Burgess both commended the collaborative approach
185 between officers and residents in reporting suspicious activity.

186 Chief Cottam discussed district by district statistics, noting downward trends across both District
187 1 and District 2. He presented traffic accident data showing a continued trend in the positive
188 direction, which he credited to more cautious and defensive driving by residents. He noted that
189 5400 South and Redwood Road remained Utah's busiest intersection, with approximately a quarter
190 of a million vehicles passing through daily.

191 Regarding traffic citations, Chief Cottam noted that due to division vacancies, there had only been
192 one dedicated traffic enforcement officer during the quarter, which had contributed to slightly
193 lower citation numbers overall.

194 Chief Cottam addressed the map showing some drug offense locations in the city's parks. Chair
195 Knudsen encouraged residents to contact dispatch whenever something appeared off, particularly
196 in the parks, pointing out that officers could not be everywhere and that community reporting was
197 essential. Chief Cottam reinforced the message, noting that the department would never be
198 frustrated by a call that turned out to be nothing, and that proactive park patrols had been a priority.
199 He also noted that burglary figures had reached some of the lowest levels he had seen, which he
200 attributed in part to the proliferation of home security cameras.

201 The Chief highlighted the work of the department's civilian staff and presented response time data,
202 noting overall improvement compared to prior periods. He also noted that Sergeant Carver's crew
203 had set a goal to proactively patrol school zones in each beat, which Chief Cottam described as a
204 welcome initiative. He closed by thanking the Council and the Mayor for their consistent support
205 of the police department, noting that the positive relationship between elected officials and law
206 enforcement in Taylorsville was something he did not take for granted.

207 **3.2 Historic Preservation Committee – Susan Yadeskie**

208 Committee Chair Susan Yadeskie presented a bi-annual report of the Historic Preservation
209 Committee, opening with sincere appreciation for the support received from the City Council,
210 administration, and staff throughout 2025.

211 She reported that school tours would continue in 2026 with some modifications. Rather than
212 moving students through multiple floors of the historic home, tours would be confined to the first
213 floor to avoid bottleneck issues with narrow stairwells. Artifacts from upstairs would be brought
214 down for display. The learning center, blacksmith shop, and original schoolhouse would serve as
215 separate 20-minute rotation stations for visiting school groups. The dairy store station would focus
216 specifically on the dairy operation's history, and children would go home with a coloring book
217 about the Jones Dairy.

218 Ms. Yadeskie shared that a production company had contacted her about filming an educational
219 segment about Horace Mann at the schoolhouse. The segment was intended for use in the public-
220 school system's online education platform. The production company made a generous donation to

221 the committee in exchange for facility use. She promised to provide a link to the finished product
222 once it was available so that it could potentially be posted on the city's website.

223 Various committee members and other volunteers had logged 4,217 volunteer hours in 2025,
224 which she noted was likely a conservative estimate. She thanked all volunteers, Council members,
225 the Parks and Recreation Committee, and community members who participated in day-of-service
226 events and other activities. She noted that the learning center project had benefitted from a
227 significant portion of those volunteer hours.

228 A new partnership was announced with the Salty As Ford Model A Club. The group had been
229 invited to use the dairy store for their meetings at a reduced rental rate in exchange for assisting
230 with tours and facility maintenance. Ms. Yadeskie noted that the group had shown significant
231 interest, doubling their typical attendance at the meeting held at the museum. Discussion arose
232 around the possibility of hosting a car show at the museum, though it was acknowledged that it
233 would be difficult given the limited amount of available parking. She noted that the group had also
234 offered to donate proceeds from their annual photo sessions and expressed willingness to display
235 a preservation committee sign on their cars during the city parade.

236 Ms. Yadeskie reviewed highlights from 2025 events, including the Day of Service and
237 participation in the city parade. She described Tombstone Tales as a standout success, noting that
238 attendees had come from across the Wasatch Front and as far away as Logan and Springville.
239 Council Member Barbieri shared her experience welcoming visitors to Tombstone Tales, noting
240 the broad geographic draw and how many attendees had made it a family tradition. She also noted
241 that many visitors asked how they could create a similar event in their own cities. Chair Knudsen
242 noted that while it might not be feasible to hold the event every year, it was well worth the effort
243 on a periodic basis.

244 Ms. Yadeskie concluded with an update on the learning center renovation. Council Member Harker
245 expressed her deep appreciation for the committee's work and for her fellow council members
246 who agreed to support the project. She pointed out that it would continue to serve residents for
247 many years to come.

248 4. CONSENT AGENDA

249 4.1 Minutes – February 4, 2026 City Council Meeting

251
252 **MOTION: Council Member Barbieri moved to approve the minutes for the February 4,**
253 **2026 City Council meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Council**
254 **Member Harker.**

255
256 **Council Member Barbieri Yes**

257 **Chair Knudsen** Yes
258 **Council Member Burgess** Yes
259 **Council Member Harker** Yes
260 **Council Member Cochran** Absent

261
262 **Motion Passed 4-0**

263
264 **5. PLANNING MATTERS**

265
266 There were no planning matters on the agenda.

267
268 **6. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

269
270 **6.1 Public Hearing Accept Public Comment Regarding Changes to the**
271 **Consolidated Fee Schedule – *Scott Harrington***

272 Assistant City Administrator and Chief Financial Officer Scott Harrington explained this was the
273 opportunity for the public to comment on proposed changes to the consolidated fee schedule. He
274 said the changes were concentrated primarily in the cemetery fee schedule, but there were two new
275 fees-- a document filing fee and a dispatch records fee which would cover staff time spent
276 retrieving and redacting records. Chair Knudsen noted that the cemetery fee adjustments were
277 intended to keep the cemetery fund from falling into a deficit, as costs had been rising with market
278 conditions, making the increases necessary for sustainable operations.

279 Chair Knudsen opened the public hearing. However, when no one expressed a desire to speak,
280 the public hearing was closed.

281
282 **7. OTHER MATTERS**

283
284 **7.1 Presentation Regarding Services Provided by Wasatch Waste and Recycling**
285 **District – *Jay Ziolkowski***

286 Jay Ziolkowski of Administrative Affairs presented a comparison of waste and recycling services
287 provided to Taylorsville residents through Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District versus
288 services provided to West Valley City residents through ACE Recycling & Disposal. He explained
289 that the presentation was prompted by an ongoing stream of resident and council inquiries over
290 the past several months asking why Taylorsville's service could not mirror what West Valley City
291 offered its residents, particularly in light of recent fee increases at WFWRD.

292 Mr. Ziolkowski framed the discussion around two central questions: whether the Council was
293 satisfied with the current level of service, and whether there were services residents would like to
294 see added or enhanced. He presented a side-by-side comparison covering garbage and recycling
295 collection fees, glass recycling, community day events, landfill vouchers, leaf collection,

296 Christmas tree collection, bulk and green waste services, seasonal trailer reservation, and customer
297 service. He noted that the monthly fee charged to Taylorsville residents was \$26, compared to
298 \$17.50 in West Valley. However, Mr. Ziolkowski emphasized that this was not an apples-to-apples
299 comparison, as the two service models differed significantly in what was and was not included.

300 To further contextualize the comparison, Mr. Ziolkowski noted that the property tax rate in
301 Taylorsville was 0.000820, compared to 0.002647 in West Valley City, and illustrated the
302 difference in total tax burden on a \$400,000 home. He argued that residents could not simply
303 compare monthly waste fees without considering the full picture of what they paid in taxes and
304 what services those taxes funded. He also noted that some services in any municipality might be
305 subsidized through other departmental budgets, making direct cost comparisons more complex.

306 Mr. Ziolkowski noted that West Valley City's contract with ACE was up for renewal and that price
307 increases were anticipated, meaning the current cost differential could narrow in the near future.

308 Mr. Ziolkowski raised several practical considerations regarding the prospect of leaving Wasatch
309 Front Waste and Recycling. He noted that ACE was headquartered within West Valley City,
310 meaning that service terms available to WVC residents might not be replicated in a different city.
311 He also cautioned that issuing a request for proposal would not guarantee equivalent service and
312 that there was a formal process and timeline involved in withdrawing from WFWRD. He observed
313 that certain service features, such as the leaf bag drop-off program at the regional park, would
314 require a significant culture shift to unwind if the program were discontinued, as residents had
315 come to rely on it. He used the example of West Valley's curbside bulk waste pickup — a service
316 not offered by WFWRD — as something that sounded attractive but came with real consequences,
317 such as parking implications and what one West Valley resident employed by the city referred to
318 as a monthly swap meet where neighbors combed among each other's refuse.

319 Council Member Harker was satisfied with the current service and had not received complaints
320 from residents about garbage pickup, noting that the only recurring complaint had been around the
321 annual cleanup container program. She agreed the fee increase had been painful but looked forward
322 to seeing what the new district CEO might accomplish in terms of efficiency and improvements.

323 Council Member Barbieri, who served as the city's representative on the WFWRD board, provided
324 additional background on the district's evolution from a county-attached entity to an independent
325 service district, including the challenges it faced during COVID-19 in hiring staff and procuring
326 trucks. She expressed enthusiasm for new CEO Evan Tyrell, describing him as bringing creative
327 and forward-thinking ideas. She echoed the caution about unintended consequences and noted that
328 seemingly simple changes, such as moving to biweekly recycling pickup, had complex
329 downstream effects on logistics and cost. She illustrated this with the example that it cost the
330 district more to collect recycling bins filled with uncrushed boxes, since trucks fill up faster and

331 must return to the landfill more frequently. She encouraged residents to be part of the solution and
332 expressed confidence in the district's current direction.

333 Council Member Burgess asked Mr. Ziolkowski if ACE was the only other provider that Jay
334 included in his analysis against WFWRD. Mayor Overson interjected to explain that she
335 specifically asked him to compare WFWRD with West Valley's provider since that was the city
336 most frequently cited as a "better" option by residents discussing the issue on social media.

337 City Administrator John Taylor explained that this analysis stemmed from administration's desire
338 to ensure that city residents were getting the most bang for their buck. It had been suggested that
339 perhaps they were not, but after careful review, the administration was confident that they were
340 receiving excellent service for the price.

341 Chair Knudsen noted that West Valley City had approximately twice the number of housing units
342 as Taylorsville, meaning that even if a flat-rate contract could be obtained at the same cost,
343 Taylorsville's per-unit cost would inherently be higher due to the smaller denominator. He
344 reinforced the importance of the periodic review exercise, stating that the Council owed it to
345 residents to evaluate these services regularly and that the analysis provided the justification needed
346 to affirm current service. He also shared anecdotally that his brother in Massachusetts paid
347 approximately \$50 per month for two garbage bags per week, offering further perspective on the
348 relative value Taylorsville residents received.

349 Mr. Taylor raised a question for the Council's consideration regarding the SCRP trailer program,
350 asking whether the Council was satisfied with Wasatch Front's plans to expand the number of
351 available trailers, or whether a different solution should be explored. Council Member Barbieri
352 indicated that the planned expansion represented approximately a one-third increase in trailer
353 availability, which she believed would be noticeable to residents. She expressed concern about any
354 alternative that would result in scrap being placed at curbside, citing parking issues discussed at a
355 prior meeting and the risk of material entering storm drains.

356 Council Member Harker suggested that improving the communication and reservation system for
357 the trailer program would be valuable, noting that each year the process was refined but that earlier
358 and clearer communication to residents remained an area for improvement.

359 City Administrator John Taylor clarified that the city did not hold a contract with WFWRD.
360 Rather, each resident was a member of the district, and the city held a seat on the district's
361 governing board. He emphasized that exiting the district would not be as simple as declining to
362 renew a contract, as it involved legislation and a significant formal process. He stated that the
363 administration's conclusion from the analysis was that Taylorsville residents were receiving good
364 service for the price paid and that there was no clear path to significantly cheaper service through
365 alternative providers.

366 Mayor Overson closed the discussion by expressing strong appreciation for the work Mr.
367 Ziolkowski had done in preparing the analysis, which included meetings with Wasatch Front
368 Waste and Recycling leadership and with West Valley City's Director of Public Works. She
369 emphasized that the exercise was not intended to produce a decision but to provide the Council
370 with substantive information to respond to residents and to affirm that the city periodically reviews
371 its service contracts. She stated that the report would not simply be filed away and that the
372 conversation would continue as additional information became available.

373 Council Member Burgess appreciated that a comparison was made so that residents could be
374 assured that the city had looked at the true costs to confirm the best value.
375

376 Mayor Overson appreciated Mr. Ziolkowski's hard work on conducting this analysis. She wanted
377 the council members to have this information so that they could provide it to their constituents
378 when they heard from residents expressing concerns on the topic.
379

380 **8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)**

381
382 There were no new items for subsequent consideration.
383

384 **9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEXT MEETING)**

385
386 Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed the dates and times of upcoming planning commission and city
387 council meetings.
388

389 **10. CLOSED SESSION (*Conference Room 202*)**

390 *- For the Purpose(s) Described in Statute U.C.A. 52-4-205*
391

392 **MOTION: Council Member Burgess moved to recess the public meeting and convene a**
393 **closed session to discuss the character, professional competence or physical or**
394 **mental health of an individual and pending or reasonably imminent litigation.**
395 **The meeting would adjourn from there. The motion was seconded by Council**
396 **Member Barbieri.**
397

398 Council Member Burgess	Yes
399 Chair Knudsen	Yes
400 Council Member Harker	Yes
401 Council Member Barbieri	Yes
402 Council Member Cochran	Absent

403
404 **The motion passed 4-0**
405

406 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

407

408 The meeting recessed at 8:20 p.m. and adjourned from Room No. 202 at 8:59 p.m.

409

410

411 _____
412 Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

412

413 *Minutes Prepared by: Jamie Brooks, City Recorder*

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DRAFT