

MINUTES OF THE DRAPER CITY COUNCIL RETREAT HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026, AT DRAPER CITY HALL, 1020 EAST PIONEER ROAD, DRAPER, UTAH

PRESENT: Mayor Troy K. Walker, and Councilmembers Kathryn Dahlin, Bryn Heather Johnson, Tasha Lowery, and Fred Lowry

EXCUSED: Councilmember Mike Green

STAFF: Mike Barker, City Manager; Kellie Challburg, Assistant City Manager; Scott Cooley, Public Works Director/Engineer; Traci Gundersen, City Attorney; Rhett Ogden, Parks and Recreation Director; Linda Peterson, Communication Director; Nicole Smedley, City Recorder; Clint Smith, Fire Chief; Jake Sorensen, Network Manager; John Vuyk, Finance Director

1. Closed Meeting

Councilmember F. Lowry motioned to go into a closed meeting to discuss the purchase, exchange or lease of real property and security systems. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

	Yes	No	Absent
Councilmember Green			Excused
Councilmember Johnson	X		
Councilmember T. Lowery	X		
Councilmember F. Lowry	X		
Councilmember Dahlin	X		

2. Priorities Discussion

Budget

Finance Director John Vuyk showed property tax rates and trends for cities in the area. He stated the current Draper tax rate was 0.0009360. The Council, Mayor, and staff discussed special service taxing districts for police and fire services versus City property tax increases, and the importance of messaging. The group discussed a \$1.4 million budget deficit for the next fiscal year, a gap that would be filled by drawing from the City's reserve funds. Councilmember T. Lowery said she preferred small annual property tax increases as opposed to special service district taxing districts. Staff commented that the costs of the basics to do the job (police and fire services) were rising much faster than the

City's ability to generate revenue. Councilmember Dahlin said she believed many residents did not understand that the Draper City rate only represented a portion of the property tax statement, and that Draper City had not increased its tax rate as much as some of the other entities on the statement.

The Council discussed budget-related bills under consideration in the current Legislative Session. The Council and staff discussed property tax revenue lost for the current fiscal year and discussed taxes from The Point and the need to obtain funding for services at The Point. Staff asked if the Council was interested in implementing a Transportation Utility Fee to help fund road maintenance and construction. Mayor Walker expressed support for beginning the process with a study.

The Council took a short break for dinner.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director Scott Cooley suggested using a sprung building on the north side of Galena Park in addition to the existing Public Works facility to add needed space and save on the cost of one big new building. He suggested scheduling a tour of an existing sprung building for the Council. Mayor Walker expressed support for using a sprung building. Councilmember T. Lowery said she would want to use as little of the park space as possible. Responding to a question from Councilmember F. Lowry, staff said a sprung building could be used as a fire station.

Fire Department Needs

City Manager Mike Barker said the Fire Department had a need for training facilities, meeting rooms, and administrative space. Mr. Barker said staff had explored different ideas, including adding on to existing office space currently rented by the City, purchasing and converting a home for Fire Department use, and utilizing a sprung structure. Fire Chief Clint Smith emphasized the Department's need for more space, and proposed purchasing the building currently rented by the City to centralize administration. He said the building was not currently for sale, but he had discussed the possibility with the property owner. The Council discussed the possibility of putting a sprung structure for the Fire Department near City Hall. A majority of the Council indicated support for scheduling further discussion of the topic.

Town Center Community Buildings

Mayor Walker said the City owned 10 acres near City Hall, and listed groups that had shown interest in using a portion of the land over the years. He mentioned the possibility of using some of the land for a sprung building for the Fire Department, and asked for Council feedback on use of the space. The Council discussed ongoing maintenance costs for any new City facility.

Mayor Walker asked if the Council would want to master plan the 10 acres. Mr. Barker commented that the Station Area Plan (SAP) provided a plan for the area. Councilmember F. Lowry said he was not sure the location would be best used for a permanent fire station, but said he would be comfortable with temporary space for the Fire Department. The Council discussed a proposal to use some of the land for a museum. Councilmember Johnson commented that a place needed to be found to store Historical Society artifacts.

Mayor Walker suggested sharing the message that the City did not intend to participate in land deals for the 10 acres at that time. Councilmember T. Lowery said the City had invested a lot in preserving the public land, and suggested the acres may need to remain open space over time to offset the density included in the SAP. A majority of the Council expressed agreement with preserving the 10 acres of City-owned land at that time.

Enterprise Fund Rates

Mayor Walker commented that the Council privatized solid waste collection on private streets in 2025, which resulted in a rate increase for those residents. Mr. Vuyk showed revenue and expense data for enterprise funds, and said staff would bring back proposals for the funds to break even. Mayor Walker pointed out solid waste collection rates had not been raised since the City began providing the service, and said the cost of the trucks had increased significantly. The Council discussed enterprise fund-related legislation. Councilmember F. Lowry suggested comparing the cost of the City continuing to provide solid waste disposal service and the cost of contracting the service. A majority of the Council indicated agreement.

Staff Interaction Policy

Mayor Walker explained that some of the City committees wanted staff to attend their meetings and be part of committee operations. He said the citizen-appointed committees (created by the Mayor and approved by the

Council) did not spend money or appropriate money, and expressed the opinion that staff-time should not be used on committee operations. Mr. Barker said staff members had been summoned to committee meetings for discussion of topics beyond committee scope, and suggested either committee scope should be changed or activities needed to be reined in. Councilmember Johnson said there had been some confusion about staff involvement with the Tree Committee, and said she had explained to the committee there should really only be one staff member involved to record and take minutes. Councilmember Johnson suggested it would be helpful to explain the policy to each committee.

Councilmember T. Lowery suggested the Council review the goals and scope of the different committees. The Council discussed the possibility of changing the name and scope of some of the committees, with addition of the goal of beautification. Mr. Barker suggested starting with discussion of the Tree Committee at a future study session.

Historical Society

Councilmember Johnson pointed out that the role and specific responsibility of the Historical Society was not written in Code, and said it was unclear if the Historical Society was part of the City or an independent entity. She stated that the Historical Society currently utilized a City facility and a member of staff. Councilmember Johnson suggested giving the Historical Society a choice between being independent or under the umbrella of the City. The Council discussed similarities between the Historical Society and the Arts Council. A majority of the Council indicated support for scheduling further discussion in study session.

Short-Term Rentals

Councilmember F. Lowry said he had been asked by multiple residents about short-term rentals, and commented that the City did not currently have a way to enforce short-term rentals. Mr. Barker said staff were working on a draft ordinance to present to the Council for consideration.

Farmers Market

The Council and staff discussed the possibility of changing the location of the summer farmers market events. Councilmembers T. Lowery and F. Lowry suggested Saturday mornings would be better than Tuesday evenings. Staff responded that Saturday mornings would put the market in competition with

many other farmers markets in the area. Councilmember F. Lowry suggested Monday evenings. Councilmember T. Lowery suggested shopping around for a different group that would be willing to hold the market on Saturday mornings. A majority of the Council expressed agreement with asking the market to try Smith Fields Park again in 2026.

Rodeo Ticket Prices

The Council and staff discussed a proposal to charge \$15 for tickets to the rodeo, without a child discount. Assistant City Manager Kellie Challburg said \$15 was comparatively low for a rodeo ticket price. She shared the idea of charging a premium price for tickets in the first three rows. A majority of the Council appeared to be in support.

3. Adjournment

Councilmember T. Lower moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Dahlin seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.