

MEETING MINUTES
EPHRAIM CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EPHRAIM CITY HALL
5 SOUTH MAIN, EPHRAIM, UTAH
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Ephraim City Council Meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Larsen.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Larsen; Mayor, Dennis Nordfelt; Mayor Pro Tem, Anthony Beal, Troy Birch, Loren Steck, Jack Dalene

MEMBERS EXCUSED

STAFF PRESENT

Katie Witt; City Manager, Candice Maudsley; City Recorder, Bryan Kimball; Community Development, Jeff Hermansen; Fire Chief,

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

The Invocation was offered by Council Member Steck.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Larsen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A) APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER**
- B) APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2026, MINUTES**

Councilmember Beal moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dalene. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

STUDY AGENDA

EPHRAIM CITY ORDINANCE 26-02 UTAH WILDLIFE URBAN INTERFACE

Fire Chief Jeff Hermansen presented the proposed Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Ordinance to the Council. The ordinance is required by the State of Utah and must be adopted by municipalities to comply with state code.

Chief Hermansen explained that the designated WUI boundaries were determined by following city boundary lines and adjacent state and wildland properties, including the subdivision located at the mouth of the canyon. The ordinance establishes fire safety standards for new construction within the designated area and includes vegetation management requirements.

Key discussion points included:

- New residential construction within the WUI zone must comply with enhanced fire safety building standards.
- Existing homes will see minimal impact.
- A fireworks restriction will apply within the WUI boundary.
- The ordinance will become a checklist item within the zoning and building permit application process.
- The city must sign a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) agreement.
- Enforcement mechanisms and applicability to properties abutting the designated zone, including certain county properties, were clarified.

The ordinance will return for consideration and potential approval at the March 4, 2026, meeting.

RETURN TO WORK POLICY

City Recorder Candice Maudsley presented a proposed Return-to-Work Policy for employees with Workers' Compensation claims. Currently, the City has relied on best practices but has not adopted a formal written policy.

The proposed policy:

- Aligns with recommendations from the Utah Local Government Trust (the City's liability insurance provider).
- Defines transitional duty, modified duty, and alternate duty assignments.
- Establishes responsibilities for senior management and supervisors.
- Requires weekly check-ins with injured employees.
- Encourages early return to productive work when medically appropriate.

Staff noted that implementing the policy will reduce extended absences and help control workers' compensation costs for both employees and the City.

The policy will return for final approval at the March 4, 2026, meeting.

ACTION AGENDA

EPHRAIM CITY RESOLUTION 26-03 PARKING AND BACKING POLICY

This resolution establishes a standardized Parking and Vehicle Backing Policy applicable to all City departments and incorporates the policy into the employee handbook.

Councilmember Nordfelt moved to approve ECR 26-03 a city parking and backing policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Beal. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

Councilmember Birch moved to re-appoint Ben Gordon three-year term to the Cemetery Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Steck. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Dennis Nordfelt

- Several bids have been obtained for the Family Park playground replacement.
- The playground at the north ball fields will proceed using RAP tax and possible grant funding.
- Pickleball courts are nearing completion.

Jack Dalene

Recent Planning Commission meetings have been well attended. Discussions include:

- Reducing residential density in certain developments.
- Enhancing the appearance and aesthetic standards of new developments.
- Evaluating street width standards.
- Increasing amenity space in subdivisions.

Anthony Beal

Library Board:

- A Youth Library Council has been organized and will begin formal implementation in July.
- A new library system will be implemented in April.
- Physical library cards will be required beginning in July; replacement fees will be waived during rollout.
- Library policies and bylaws are being updated.

Youth City Council:

Lucy Bean reported:

- A Valentine's appreciation activity was held for community members.
- Members will visit the State Capitol on March 3 to learn about the legislative process.
- A leadership conference will be held in Logan, March 12-14.

Troy Birch

Cemetery Board:

- Amy from the State Historical Department met with the Cemetery Board.
- Additional cemetery ordinance amendments will be forthcoming.
- Headstones over 60 years old fall under specific guidelines that the City may address in coordination with state regulations.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Katie Witt provided updates on the City’s Strategic Plan and priority initiatives, including infrastructure improvements, the General Plan update, and economic development efforts.

- **General Plan Update:** The City is awaiting notification on a UDOT grant. If not awarded, funding will be included in the next fiscal year budget. A community survey and stakeholder outreach will initiate the update process.
- **Historic Preservation:** The Historic Preservation Board is applying for the State Main Street Program to access grant funding for downtown building improvements, including potential restoration of the Bishop Storehouse.
- **Infrastructure Projects:** Storm drain master planning is ongoing, with completion anticipated by the end of April. Additional information will be brought to Council regarding potential new water tank locations. A possible substation location behind the Public Works yard is also being evaluated.
- **Downtown Parking:** Many available parking spaces are underutilized due to limited visibility and awareness. Staff will explore options to improve visibility and promote use of existing downtown parking, including enhanced signage and other visual improvements.
- **Budget Planning:** Approximately \$98,000 previously designated for the rodeo fairgrounds may be reconsidered during the upcoming budget retreat, including potential use for new City entrance signage.
- **Meetings:** A UAMPS meeting is scheduled for February 20.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council for consideration, Councilmember Beal moved the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 7:44 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Birch. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Ephraim City Council room.

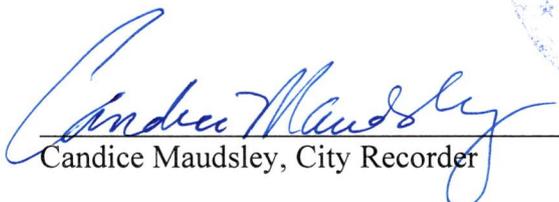
MINUTES APPROVED:



Chris Larsen, Mayor

04 MARCH 2026
Date

ATTEST:



Candice Maudsley, City Recorder

3-4-26
Date

