

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

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

6:30 PM REGULAR MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

Elected Officials Present

Kristie S. Overson, Mayor
Bob Knudsen, Council Chair
Anna Barbieri, District 3
Ernest Burgess, District 1
Meredith Harker, District 4

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
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
Jay Ziolkowski, Admin. Affairs

Excused: Curt Cochran, Council Vice Chair

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

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

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

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

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

1.2 Mayor's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.2.1 Proclamation Declaring Taylorsville a JustServe City

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

1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed a list of upcoming city events.

1.4 Public Comments

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

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

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

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

2. APPOINTMENTS

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

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

Council Member Harker	Yes
Council Member Barbieri	Yes
Chair Knudsen	Yes
Council Member Burgess	Yes
Council Member Cochran	Absent

Motion Passed 4-0

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

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

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

Council Member Burgess	Yes
Council Member Harker	Yes
Chair Knudsen	Yes
Council Member Barbieri	Yes
Council Member Cochran	Absent

Motion Passed 4-0

3. REPORTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.2 Historic Preservation Committee – *Susan Yadeskie*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes – February 4, 2026 City Council Meeting

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

Council Member Barbieri Yes

Chair Knudsen	Yes
Council Member Burgess	Yes
Council Member Harker	Yes
Council Member Cochran	Absent

Motion Passed 4-0

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters on the agenda.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

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

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

7. OTHER MATTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

There were no new items for subsequent consideration.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEXT MEETING)

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

10. CLOSED SESSION (*Conference Room 202*)

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

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

Council Member Burgess	Yes
Chair Knudsen	Yes
Council Member Harker	Yes
Council Member Barbieri	Yes
Council Member Cochran	Absent

The motion passed 4-0

11. ADJOURNMENT

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



Jamie Brooks, City Recorder

Minutes Prepared by: Jamie Brooks, City Recorder



Approved 03/04/26