

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse City Council, held on February 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in a hybrid in-person/electronic format via Zoom, meeting ID 865 5990 3565, in-person in the City Council Chambers at 1979 W. 1900 S., and streamed on the Syracuse City YouTube Channel in accordance with House Bill 5002, Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments, signed into law on June 25, 2020.

Present: Councilmembers: Andrea Brown
Brett Cragun
Abraham Pollard
Julie Robertson
Paul Watson

Mayor Dave Maughan
City Manager Brody Bovero
Administrative Services Director/City Recorder Cassie Brown

City Employees Present:

Assistant City Manager Stephen Marshall
City Attorney Colin Winchester
Police Chief Garret Atkin
Parks and Recreation Director Kresta Robinson
Public Works Director Robert Whiteley
Community and Economic Development Director Noah Steele
Deputy Fire Chief Jo Hamblin
Communications Specialist Kara Finley

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Maughan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. as a regular meeting, with notice of time, place, and agenda provided 24 hours in advance to the newspaper and each Councilmember. Councilmember Cragun provided an invocation. Councilmember Watson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. COUNCILMEMBER WATSON SECONDED THE MOTION, ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

2. Public comment

Brooks Sorensen, Jennifer Sorensen from the area of 4000 West and 700 South addressed the Council regarding safety concerns at that intersection. Main Points Raised:

- The intersection of 4000 West and 700 South is considered extremely dangerous, particularly following the completion of Highway 193 and the addition of nearby schools (an elementary school and Horizon Junior High), which have significantly increased traffic volume.
- Two serious accidents occurred at the intersection — one on December 15, 2025, and another on February 4, 2026 — each resulting in hospitalizations and totaled vehicles. The December accident involved a vehicle jumping the curb and striking a resident's home, narrowly missing the gas meter.
- A crossing guard operates at the intersection, but the absence of a stop sign on 700 South makes that role significantly more difficult and creates a hazard for children crossing.
- The speakers requested the installation of a four-way stop with lighted stop signs, a reduced speed limit of 25 mph on 700 South, and placement of speed limit signage near the intersection — in lieu of a previously proposed roundabout, which they argued was designed before current conditions existed.
- A Change.org petition supporting these changes had gathered over 336 signatures at the time of the meeting.
- Residents expressed frustration at having contacted the city and the police nonemergency line over a period of several years without seeing meaningful action, and indicated they would consider contacting news outlets or pursuing legal action if no progress was made within the next two months.
- Copies of the petition and public comments were submitted to the Council for review.

Mayor Maughan acknowledged the concerns and noted that, per Utah state law, the Council could not engage in formal discussion on items not listed on the agenda. He encouraged residents to follow up directly with him if prior emails had gone unanswered, and confirmed the matter would be addressed at a future meeting.

3. Approval of minutes

The following minutes were reviewed by the City Council: January 13, 2026 City Council Work Session and Business Meeting; January 27, 2026 City Council Work Session and Special Meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER WATSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES LISTED ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4a. Common consent: Proposed Resolution R26-05 appointing the Mayor and City Councilmembers to various committee positions and assignments.

Mayor Maughan removed this item from the consent agenda.

An administrative staff memo explained each year the Mayor and Council decide on various assignments to internal and external committees; these assignments were discussed during the January 27, 2026 work session. A draft resolution has been prepared to solidify the appointments and assignments for the 2026 calendar year.

Mayor Maughan identified an error in the resolution; the Parks Advisory Committee assignment was still included in the document and former Councilmember Savage was listed as the appointee to the position. Both are to be struck from the resolution. Also, there are blank spaces for the Mayor Pro Tem positions and Mayor Maughan recommended Councilmember Watson serve as Mayor Pro Tem, Councilmember Robertson serve as second Mayor Pro Tem, and Councilmember Brown serve as third Mayor Pro Tem.

COUNCILMEMBER WATSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-05 APPOINTING THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILMEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEE POSITIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS, AS AMENDED BY MAYOR MAUGHAN. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4b. Common consent: Proposed Ordinance 26-01, amending the Syracuse Municipal Code (SMC) Section 4.15 and 4.25 pertaining to the placement of water meters.

An administrative staff memo explained water meters are intentionally not located in concrete for safety and serviceability. If a leak at the meter were to develop at the meter or at pipes near the meter, the leak may go undetected for long periods of time because concrete prevents water from coming to the surface and can erode the soil underneath the concrete creating a void that may collapse. Leaks at meters are frequently excavated around the outside edges of the meter box to make repairs. The memo also summarized the specific ordinance amendments that have been recommended by staff.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-01, AMENDING THE SYRACUSE MUNICIPAL CODE (SMC) SECTION 4.15 AND 4.25 PERTAINING TO THE PLACEMENT OF WATER METERS. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4c. Common consent: Proposed Resolution R26-06 amending engineering standards pertaining to water meter location.

An administrative staff memo explained water meters are intentionally not located in concrete for safety and serviceability. If a leak at the meter were to develop at the meter or at pipes near the meter, the leak may go undetected for long periods of time because concrete prevents water from coming to the surface and can erode the soil underneath the concrete creating a void that may collapse. Leaks at meters are frequently excavated around the outside edges of the meter box to make repairs. Engineering standards updates are proposed to culinary and secondary water meters on plan sheets 23 and 24 of the engineering development standards drawings. The update is a note that was added to each drawing supporting the proposed city code change to prohibit meters in concrete.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-06 AMENDING ENGINEERING STANDARDS PERTAINING TO WATER METER LOCATION. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4d. Common consent: Proposed Resolution R26-07 adopting a water meter location policy.

An administrative staff memo explained water meters are intentionally not located in concrete for safety and serviceability. If a leak at the meter were to develop at the meter or at pipes near the meter, the leak may go undetected for long periods of time because concrete prevents water from coming to the surface and can erode the soil underneath the concrete creating a void that may collapse. Leaks at meters are frequently excavated around the outside edges of the meter box to make repairs. A policy is created for existing situations when meters are located in concrete or have other obstructions that may limit accessibility for the city to maintain or repair the meter. The policy is included herein. One minor adjustment was made to Section 6 Restoration on the second bullet: *"Property owners may restore or replace the area with other loose surface materials if they choose to do so as long as it is materials that are low to the ground, does not create a safety hazard, and can easily be moved."*

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-07 ADOPTING A WATER METER LOCATION POLICY. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

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4e. Common consent: Authorize Administration to award contract for SR 193, 2500 West project.

Councilmember Watson removed this item from the consent agenda.

An administrative staff memo explained this project is located at the intersection of SR-193 and 2500 West Syracuse. This project consists of installation of traffic signal conduit, modifications to existing irrigation line, and approximately 4,075 SY of 10" thick concrete pavement for left and right turn pockets and a 100-foot-long stub road going south. The project will begin once contracts are in place and will be complete by October 2026. Bids were opened on January 20, 2026. There were 19 plan holders, and 6 bids were received. The low bidder is Pronghorn Construction with a total bid amount of \$778,828.00. The approved budget supports this bid amount. Grant funding from the county will cover 80 percent of the costs.

Councilmember Watson raised a question about the source of funding for the SR 193, 2500 West project, asking whether those funds were tied to the grant that was the subject of the reimbursement agreement extension in item 4g. Mayor Maughan confirmed they were and proposed that the two items be considered together, with the contract award being conditioned on the successful extension of the reimbursement agreement. Without that extension, the project would not have sufficient funding to proceed. Councilmember Watson agreed this was a prudent approach.

COUNCILMEMBER WATSON MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR SR 193, 2500 WEST PROJECT, CONDITIONED ON THE APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT BY THE DAVIS COUNTY COMMISSION. COUNCILMEMBER POLLARD SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4f. Common consent: Proposed Resolution R26-08 Selecting and supporting the Syracuse Fire Department as the provider of 911 Emergency Services and interfacility transport services.

An administrative staff memo explained that as discussed in the January 27, 2026 work session, this item is to vote on a resolution that selects and supports the Syracuse Fire Dept as the provider of 911 Emergency Services and interfacility transport services. Recent changes to state law require municipalities to formally select and support providers of 911 emergency medical services and interfacility transport services through a public process. In response to these requirements, the city initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) to ensure compliance with Utah Code and state EMS licensure standards and to provide transparency and due diligence in evaluating available service options. The RFP was issued to identify any qualified EMS providers interested in serving Syracuse City. No formal proposals were received in response. As part of this process, staff reviewed service needs, regulatory requirements, and the historical performance of the Syracuse Fire Department in providing EMS services.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-08 SELECTING AND SUPPORTING THE SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS THE PROVIDER OF 911 EMERGENCY SERVICES AND INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT SERVICES. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4g. Common consent: Proposed Resolution R26-09 approving Amendment No. 1 to Interlocal Cooperation Transportation Project Reimbursement Agreement dated January 23, 2024.

Mayor Maughan removed this item from the consent agenda.

An administrative staff memo explained the City applied for and was awarded a transportation grant from Davis County for \$2,817,918 on January 23, 2024. The money is for a new signalized intersection at 2500 West and State Road 193. The original grant timeline expired on January 23, 2026. The City has requested to extend the timeline to June 30, 2028. Please find attached the 'Amendment No. 1 to Interlocal Cooperation Transportation Project Reimbursement Agreement'. This agreement needs to be approved by resolution by council and forwarded to the County Commission for approval. City Council reviewed the item during their January 27, 2026 work session meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER WATSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-09 APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO INTERLOCAL COOPERATION TRANSPORTATION PROJECT REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 23, 2024. COUNCILMEMBER POLLARD SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4h. Common consent: Proposed Resolution R26-10 adopting the Syracuse Style Guide/Brand and Identity Guidelines.

An administrative staff memo explained a style guide has been created to enhance consistency in public-facing materials produced by Syracuse City employees. The style guide outlines color combinations, font options, and template usage to support a cohesive and recognizable visual identity across official City communications.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION R26-10 ADOPTING THE SYRACUSE STYLE GUIDE/BRAND AND IDENTITY GUIDELINES. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED

4i. Common consent: Proposed Ordinance 26-02 amending the Syracuse City zoning map for approximately 4.27 acres of real property located at approximately 2300 W. 1700 S., Residential (R-2) and Agricultural (A-1) to Light Commercial (LC), applicant Leisure Villas.

An administrative staff memo explained The city has received a rezone application from Leisure Villas for approximately 4.27 acres located approximately 2300 W. 1700 S. The request includes seven parcels. The applicant provided the following reasons for the requested change: "Rezoning from residential to light commercial to meet the general plan." The property is located south of Walmart. The north edge of the property has frontage and access on Antelope Drive which is State Route 127. In 2021, UDOT demolished six homes that were present on the property to make room for the widening of Antelope Drive. The applicant purchased the property at surplus auction from UDOT after completion of the highway widening. The south, east, and west edges of the property are bordered by single family homes. The current zoning on the parcel is A-1 and R-2. Zoning to the east, south, and west is R-2. Zoning to the north is GC. The requested zoning is LC. The property is also within the Town Center Overlay zone. The LC zone permits a variety of commercial uses including banks, fast food, restaurants, medical office, and retail sales. The maximum building height allowed in the LC zone is 25 feet. The Town Center Overlay zone prohibits auto repair, auto body, auto maintenance, auto detailing, car washes, and car dealerships. The LC zone does not list gas stations as permitted. The property is General Planned for 'Commercial'. The LC zone is a permitted zone within the Commercial general plan designation and is therefore consistent with the General Plan. General Plan to the north of the property is Commercial and to the south is Low Density Residential. As explained in 10.20.070 (D)(3-4), Planning Commission is the advisory body to the City Council for zoning and general plan map amendments. The Planning Commission is required to hold a public hearing and forward a recommendation to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the request. The City Council will then review the recommendation and make a decision. During the public meeting, the City Council can approve, approve with modifications, or deny the proposal. 10.20.070 (E) explains that amendments to the zoning map are matters of legislative discretion by the City Council after considering if the application would be harmonious with the overall character of the existing development, the extent to which it may adversely affect adjacent property, and the adequacy of facilities and services intended to serve the subject property, including but not limited to roadways, parks and recreation facilities, police and fire protection, schools, storm water drainage systems, water supplies, and waste water and refuse collection. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and discussed the item on December 2, 2025. They are forwarding a recommendation for approval. City Council reviewed the item during their work session on January 27, 2026.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-02 AMENDING THE SYRACUSE CITY ZONING MAP FOR APPROXIMATELY 4.27 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 2300 W. 1700 S., RESIDENTIAL (R-2) AND AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO LIGHT COMMERCIAL (LC), APPLICANT LEISURE VILLAS. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4j. Common consent: Proposed Ordinance 26-03 amending the Syracuse City General Plan Map for approximately 12.83 acres of real property located at approximately 963 S. 2000 W., Civic and Commercial to Low Density Residential.

A staff memo from the Community and Economic Development (CED) Department explained the City has received an application to amend the General Plan Map. The application was received from Chase Freebairn of Cole West North, LLC for approximately 12.83 acres located approximately 963 S. 2000 W. The request includes two parcels. The applicant provided the following reasons for the requested change:

"Cole West is planning to purchase approximately 12.83 acres of property owned by the Davis School District (DSD), located in Syracuse City. Following acquisition, Cole West intends to rezone approximately 12 acres of the property to the R-3 Residential Zone, consistent with the surrounding neighborhoods. A General Plan Map Amendment is required to facilitate the rezone and ultimately the development of a 36-lot single-family residential subdivision that complements existing land uses in the area. Pursuant to our agreement with DSD, within 30 days following the property closing, Cole West will deed approximately 0.83–0.85 acres located at the west end of the site to Syracuse City, at no cost, to support the City's potential plans for a future fire station adjacent to the residential development. As part of our design commitment, Cole West will preserve the large existing tree onsite, integrating it into the subdivision's open space and incorporating it alongside stormwater detention and possible community amenities. In addition, Cole West intends to coordinate with the adjacent property owner to the west (Parcel ID# 120500126) to determine their interest in participating jointly in this rezone request. Should that property owner wish to participate, the application will be amended to include their parcel, promoting orderly and coordinated development and preventing the parcel from becoming landlocked without access to 1925 West."

The property is located east of Sorensen Construction and Utah Onions along 2000 W. 2000 W is also known as State Route 108. The north, south, and east edges of the property are bordered by single family homes. The current zoning on the parcel is A-1. Zoning to the north and east is R-2. Zoning to the south is R-3. Zoning to the west is Industrial. Immediate west is planned future fire station which will most likely remain A-1 zoning. The requested zoning is R-3. The R-3 zone permits single family lots with a minimum lot size of 8,000 sf. The property is General Planned for 'Civic'. This is left over from when the school district owned the property and was planning on building an elementary school. The school district decided against building a school at this location, and is now under contract to sell the property to a developer. R-3 would be allowed in the low, medium, and high residential designations. The applicant has requested an amendment to the general plan map from 'Civic' to 'Low Density Residential' designation. As explained in 10.20.070 (D)(3-4) of the Syracuse Municipal Code (SMC), the Planning Commission is the advisory body to the City Council for zoning and general plan map amendments. The Planning Commission is required to hold a public hearing and forward a recommendation to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the request. The City Council will then review the recommendation and make a decision. During the public meeting, the City Council can approve, approve with modifications, or deny the proposal. 10.20.070 (E) explains that amendments to the zoning map are matters of legislative discretion by the City Council after considering if the application would be harmonious with the overall character of the existing development, the extent to which it may adversely affect adjacent property, and the adequacy of facilities and services intended to serve the subject property, including but not limited to roadways, parks and recreation facilities, police and fire protection, schools, storm water drainage systems, water supplies, and waste water and refuse collection. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and discussed the item on December 2, 2025. They are forwarding a recommendation for approval. City Council reviewed the item during their January 27, 2026 work session meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-03 AMENDING THE SYRACUSE CITY GENERAL PLAN MAP FOR APPROXIMATELY 12.83 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 963 S. 2000 W., CIVIC AND COMMERCIAL TO LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

4k. Common consent: Proposed Ordinance 26-04 amending the Syracuse City zoning map for approximately 12.83 acres of property located at approximately 963 S. 2000 W., Agricultural (A-1) to Residential (R-3), applicant CW Land.

A staff memo from the Community and Economic Development (CED) Department explained the City has received a rezone application from Chase Freebairn of Cole West North, LLC for approximately 12.83 acres located approximately 963 S. 2000 W. The request includes two parcels. The applicant provided the following reasons for the requested change:

"Cole West is planning to purchase approximately 12.83 acres from the Davis School District (DSD). We plan to rezone approximately 12 of those acres to the R-3 zone, consistent with the Syracuse City General Plan and for the purpose of developing a 36-lot residential subdivision, consistent with the surrounding properties. Per our agreement with DSD, within 30 days following the Closing of the property, Cole West shall deed approximately 0.83-0.85 acres +/- at the west end of the property to Syracuse City without monetary consideration in order to help facilitate the city's intentions of building a possible fire station adjacent to the proposed residential development. Cole West also commits to preserving the large existing tree onsite, and incorporating it into the development in addition to storm water detention and possible amenities. Cole West will also approach the adjacent property owner to the west that owns parcel ID# 120500126 to see if they desire to join this application jointly to rezone the rear portion of their property to make for more orderly future development and to prevent their property from becoming landlocked without frontage onto 1925 W. Should the owner of this parcel choose to participate, we will amend our rezone application to include their property."

The property is located east of Sorensen Construction and Utah Onions along 2000 W. 2000 West is also known as State Route 108. The north, south, and east edges of the property are bordered by single family homes. The current zoning on the parcel is A-1. Zoning to the north and east is R-2. Zoning to the south is R-3. Zoning to the west is Industrial. Immediate west is planned for a future fire station which will most likely remain A-1 zoning. The requested zoning is R-3. The R-3 zone permits single family lots with a minimum lot size of 8,000 sf. The property is General Planned for 'Civic'. This is left over from when the school district owned the property and was planning on building an elementary school. R-3 would be allowed in the low, medium, and high residential designations. The applicant has requested an amendment to the general plan map from 'Civic' to 'Low Density Residential' designation. It is proposed that a development agreement is included with this project's rezone to make sure both parties are in agreement concerning the following: the proposed land dedication for the fire station, preservation of the large tree, maximum number of lots, and the purchase of secondary water shares. The draft agreement has been provided to the Council and staff will execute the agreement once council authorizes staff to do so when zoning is approved. As explained in 10.20.070 (D)(3-4), Planning Commission is the advisory body to the City Council for zoning and general plan map amendments. The Planning Commission is required to hold a public hearing and forward a recommendation to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the request. The City Council will then review the recommendation and make

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a decision. During the public meeting, the City Council can approve, approve with modifications, or deny the proposal. 10.20.070 (E) explains that amendments to the zoning map are matters of legislative discretion by the City Council after considering if the application would be harmonious with the overall character of the existing development, the extent to which it may adversely affect adjacent property, and the adequacy of facilities and services intended to serve the subject property, including but not limited to roadways, parks and recreation facilities, police and fire protection, schools, storm water drainage systems, water supplies, and waste water and refuse collection. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and discussed the item on December 2, 2025. They are forwarding a recommendation for approval. City Council reviewed the item during their January 27, 2026 work session meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER CRAGUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-04 AMENDING THE SYRACUSE CITY ZONING MAP FOR APPROXIMATELY 12.83 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 963 S. 2000 W., AGRICULTURAL (A-1) TO RESIDENTIAL (R-3), APPLICANT CW LAND. COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

5. Proposal to transition to paperless utility billing.

A memo from the Administrative Services Director/City Recorder explained she and the Utility Billing Supervisor are proposing to transition to paperless billing to reduce costs associated with current practices, encourage environmentally friendly options, and support the city's increasing digital infrastructure by making paperless utility billing the default method.

Administrative Services Director/City Recorder Brown reviewed her staff memo and recognized Utility Billing Supervisor Craythorn for leading the groundwork on the proposal. She explained that the City currently mails paper statements to all utility customers, while offering an electronic option through Express Bill Pay. The proposal would make electronic billing the default for all customers, with paper billing available as an opt-in. She noted that a prior incentive campaign had already encouraged a number of residents to switch, resulting in approximately \$8,800 in annual savings. The City currently budgets around \$84,000 annually for paper billing, and even without further action, the budget could be reduced by approximately \$17,000 per year. A full transition to electronic billing could yield substantially greater savings. Ms. Brown outlined several communication strategies to notify residents, including a dedicated letter to all utility customers, a message on existing utility bills, the City newsletter, social media, and the City website. She indicated that for those who still wished to receive a paper statement, a fee of approximately \$1–\$2 per month, consistent with practices at other utility providers, was being considered.

Council discussion reflected general support for the direction of the proposal. Councilmember Watson expressed support for the cost savings and for maintaining a physical mail option for those who prefer it, noting he was also open to passing the cost of that service to the end user. Councilmember Pollard raised concern about residents who may not be online and could be left without a bill if they are not properly notified. He was uncomfortable with charging a fee for paper billing, arguing that receiving a bill is a basic expectation of City service. He suggested continuing to emphasize positive incentives rather than introducing a fee. Mayor Maughan acknowledged those concerns but noted that the incentive program had run its course, and that the potential savings — equivalent to an additional staff position — were significant given the City's budget constraints. He emphasized the need for a strong public awareness campaign before any transition was finalized. Councilmember Watson added that the broader budget process would likely require creative approaches to cost management, and this proposal was a strong example of that thinking.

Ms. Brown concluded that no formal action was needed at this meeting — the purpose was to gauge Council support before staff invested additional effort in communicating the proposal to residents. She also noted that any fee for paper statements would only be proposed alongside a free electronic alternative, and that detailed policy decisions would come through the upcoming budget process. The Council expressed general consensus to move forward.

6. Mayor/Council reports and announcements

The Council and Mayor then provided announcements about recent and upcoming community events, and other opportunities for public involvement.

7. Public comments

There were no public comments.

Mayor Maughan recessed the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to allow the Council to move to the City Council Conference Room for the remainder of the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

8. Biennial review, Police Department (in Council conference room).

An Administrative staff memo explained the purpose of this memo is to introduce the biennial “deep dive” review of the Police Department. This review is part of the City Council’s ongoing commitment to effective governance, accountability, and continuous improvement across City operations. The biennial review provides an opportunity for the Council and

Administration to engage in a focused, in-depth discussion of departmental performance, resource alignment, and emerging challenges.

Police Chief Alex Davis used the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to provide the biennial review; the presentation covered the Department's guiding principles, key performance indicators, statistical data, staffing considerations, and future planning needs.

Guiding Principles and Community Highlights: Chief Davis opened by expressing gratitude for the support of the city administration, council, and mayor, and noted that Syracuse has built a strong team across the organization as a whole. The department's guiding principles are Pride, Accountability, Cooperation, and Excellence, operating under the slogan "Setting the Pace." He highlighted several recent examples of officers exemplifying these values, including officers purchasing gifts for children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree on their own initiative, an officer successfully de-escalating a situation involving a young adult with autism by connecting with him through shared interests, and Officer Fox negotiating a peaceful resolution with an armed individual in crisis — later following up with the individual by bringing flowers to check on her wellbeing. Chief Davis also noted competitive grant awards received by the department, including a \$33,000 state asset forfeiture grant and a \$20,000 alcohol drug-free equipment fund grant, which will be used to modernize vehicle camera systems, establish a bike patrol program, upgrade crime scene investigation equipment, and explore advanced report-writing technology to reduce officer administrative time.

Key Performance Indicators: Chief Davis reported that 100% of employees exceeded the state-mandated 40 hours of training, with sworn officers averaging over 109 hours in 2025. 77% of supervisors received more than 15 hours of supervisor-specific training, with the goal being to reach 100%. 81% of urgent calls were responded to within the target timeframe against a goal of 85%, though the average response time was 5 minutes and 58 seconds. 100% of cases assigned to investigators were resolved within the target timeframe. Mayor Maughan asked for context on how often cases are closed due to lack of leads; Chief Davis explained that it is quite common, particularly for delayed-reporting incidents with no witnesses or physical evidence. 70% of sworn officers hold valid Crisis Intervention Training certification, with the department on track to exceed 80% by May. Over 220 self-initiated community-oriented policing details were logged in 2025, though Chief Davis noted this figure is likely an undercount. The rate of sustained external complaints was 0.003 per 1,000 interactions.

Staffing: The City Council has approved 31 sworn officer positions. As of the presentation, the department has 26 sworn officers, 1 in a conditional hiring process, 2 vacancies, and 2 frozen positions. The officer turnover rate in 2025 was 25%, compared to a citywide rate of approximately 12%. Council Member Abraham Pollard asked whether exit interviews are conducted and whether the city has a clear understanding of why officers are leaving. Chief Davis and City Manager Brody Bovero confirmed that exit interviews are conducted. Departures in 2025 included retirements, officers leaving law enforcement entirely, and one officer who relocated to a neighboring agency preferring a more junior role. Chief Davis noted that 60% of scheduled patrol shifts operated at a risk level where a single call-out would drop staffing below minimum.

Statistical Data: Total police activity decreased from 16,700 cases in 2024 to 15,300 in 2025, an 8% decline, despite population growth. Chief Davis offered possible explanations including less proactive enforcement, compounded by the frozen traffic officer position. Property crime data showed a notable spike in false pretense offenses, increasing from 37 to 69 incidents, which the department characterizes as cybercrime. Mayor Maughan commented that these types of crimes — such as gift card scams and online fraud — are increasingly sophisticated and largely beyond the investigative capacity of a local agency, as perpetrators are often in foreign countries. Chief Davis agreed, noting that the department directs victims to the federal IC3 reporting portal so that federal agencies can aggregate the data and pursue organized cybercrime networks.

Officers Per 1,000 Population and Mutual Aid: The department currently sits at approximately 0.8 sworn officers per 1,000 residents, compared to a Utah statewide average of 1.6 to 1.7. Chief Davis presented data showing that in 2024, the department provided more mutual aid than it received, but in 2025, that relationship was somewhat inverted. City Manager Bovero noted that a 60/40 split in either direction is typical, and that significant deviation warrants attention. Mayor Maughan provided context for the council, noting that rising mutual aid demand is a county-wide concern, particularly since South Weber, West Point, and Fruit Heights are served by the county sheriff rather than their own departments, increasing pressure on neighboring agencies.

Future Considerations: Chief Davis identified several items for future planning. Population and commercial growth continue to present staffing and resource challenges. A new elementary school opening in the fall will require approximately 5 new crossing guards at an estimated cost of \$45,000, which is mandated by state statute. Mayor Maughan noted that he has raised with legislators the possibility of the school district sharing in that financial burden. He also urged all council members to actively recruit crossing guard candidates within their networks, emphasizing how personally rewarding the role is for those who serve in it. Chief Davis also discussed community-oriented policing as dependent on maintaining baseline staffing levels to allow officers discretionary time for community engagement.

On the topic of retention versus recruitment, Chief Davis emphasized the significant cost and pipeline constraints associated with replacing an officer — from equipment and uniforms to the 16-week field training period and the 9 to 12 months before a new officer operates independently. He referenced a slide originally from retired Chief Atkins categorizing retention factors by what the department can control, what leadership can improve upon, and what falls to the broader city — including compensation, benefits, and the retirement system.

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A 5-year staffing projection was presented, based on a 5% annual population growth rate. Maintaining the current ratio of 0.8 officers per 1,000 residents would require incremental sworn officer additions over the next five years.

Organizational Chart and Build-Out: Chief Davis presented the current organizational structure and a proposed 2031 build-out. Key proposed changes include the addition of a records supervisor position, conversion of a part-time records role to full time, two additional patrol sergeants offset by the elimination of the master officer classification, a third detective, and a dedicated crossing guard coordinator. Chief Davis noted that both the crossing guard coordinator and records supervisor positions represent current needs, not future ones. Master Officer Beam currently handles the crossing guard coordinator role as a collateral duty alongside responsibilities as emergency management coordinator, which Chief Davis described as unsustainable, particularly with five new crossing guards being added.

Safety Rankings and Closing: Chief Davis reported that Syracuse has moved from 3rd to 2nd in the state safety rankings. He noted that the top-ranked entity is a combined patrol district with twice the resources, and characterized Syracuse as effectively the number one ranked city. When asked by Council Member Brett Cragun for his top three priorities for the council, Chief Davis responded: retaining current staff through the existing recruitment and retention policy, a dedicated crossing guard coordinator position, and a records supervisor position.

Mayor Maughan closed the discussion by expressing sincere appreciation for the department's officers and leadership, praising the culture Chief Davis has maintained and the caliber of individuals who choose to serve Syracuse.

Ops Comms / Dispatch Transition: Council Member Pollard raised the issue of the impending dissolution of the Davis Communications District and what it will cost the city. Mayor Maughan explained that the state requires dispatch districts to be contiguous, and because Kaysville has joined a southern district, the remaining northern cities — including Syracuse — will no longer be able to maintain contiguity with the current district. The practical result is that Layton City is the only legally contiguous option available. Mayor Maughan noted that he and neighboring mayors explored the possibility of forming a new special service district but concluded that the ongoing operational costs of a new district would exceed the cost of joining Layton. Layton has already expanded its dispatch capacity, having taken on Clearfield and others, and built its new dispatch center specifically to accommodate future growth. City Manager Bovero added that a legislative change would be required to allow new district formation if Layton were ever to withdraw service, but that the natural current solution points toward joining Layton. Council Member Pollard expressed concern about the long-term implications for both police and fire services, particularly in the event of a major emergency or natural disaster, and noted that continued growth in the county could eventually strain even Layton's capacity.

9. Consideration of adjourning into Closed Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of Section 52-4-205 of the Open and Public Meetings Law for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; or the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property (if necessary).

COUNCILMEMBER POLLARD MOVED TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 52-4-205 OF THE OPEN AND PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL; PENDING OR REASONABLY IMMINENT LITIGATION; OR THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY. COUNCILMEMBER WATSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED AYE.

The Closed Session began at 7:18 p.m.

The Business Meeting reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER ROBERTSON MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILMEMBER WATSON SECONDED THE MOTION ALL VOTED IN FAVOR TO ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Dave Maughan
Mayor

Cassie Z. Brown, MMC
City Recorder

Date approved: March 10, 2026