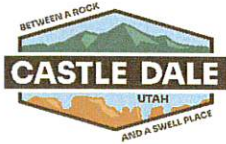


CASTLE DALE CITY
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026



The City Council of Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah, met in an open meeting on February 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
20 S 100 E, Castle Dale, Utah

ATTENDEES

Mayor: Danny Van Wagoner

Council:

- Bradley Giles
- Joel Dorsch
- Glen Gerber
- Michael Jorgensen
- Emily Mills

Maintenance Supervisor: Ignacio Arrien

Fire Chief: Ignacio Arrien

EMS: -

Land Use Administrator: Kerry Lake

Code Enforcer-Animal Control:

Treasurer: Carolyn Montgomery-

Recorder: Rebecca Norton

Others in attendance: Julie Janus, Mark Holyoak, Patrice Holyoak, Trent Jackson, Tracy Addley, David Sebring, JR Bird, Aiden Mortensen, Mick Robinson, Ted Allen, Terri Bennett.

WELCOME

Mayor Danny Van Wagoner was presiding and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

All City council members were in attendance.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Council member Jorgensen motioned to approve the January Minutes, Council member Gils seconded the motion.

Result: Approved
Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

Presentation by Castle View Hospital-

Mark Holyoak, CEO of Castle View Hospital, shared that he has lived in the area for 15 years, served eight years as CEO before a temporary transfer to North Carolina, and recently returned, finding a home in Castle Dale. He expressed Castle View Hospital's strong support for the All-Abilities Park project and presented a \$7,500 donation. The mayor noted this is the hospital's second donation to the project, expressed sincere appreciation, and thanked Castle View for their continued partnership in helping make the park a reality.

Mecca MTN bike club-

Terri Bennett, representing the Emery County Mountain Bike Club (MECCA), shared that the club has promoted outdoor recreation in the area for nearly 40 years. What began with no official mountain bike trails has grown to include several, including the premier Good Water Trail at The Wedge, trails in Joe's Valley built by the Forest Service, and a public trail at Swell Retreat developed with county support. Emery County will also host its first high school mountain bike race in fall 2027.

MECCA hosts a long-running, family-friendly mountain bike festival each spring at Buckhorn RV Resort, offering free riding and meals for children 11 and under. The club keeps registration costs low thanks to donations and does not operate for profit. Last year's festival attracted 55 participants, and the club currently has about 30 members.

The group has expanded its community involvement through trail service projects with the Forest Service and BLM, as well as bicycle safety rodeos at all Emery County elementary schools in partnership with the Southeast Health Department and the Emery County Sheriff's Office. MECCA emphasized that it is a community support organization, not just a festival, and requested continued support from Castle Dale in the amount of \$250.

Council member Dorsch motioned to be a silver supporter of \$250; Council member Jorgensen seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

Julie Janus Donate Use of Park Pavilion & Arena

Julie Janus, representing Joe's Valley Climbing and Community nonprofit, spoke about the positive economic impact of local events. The mayor noted that nearly \$2 million in revenue was generated countywide last year from various events, with \$152,000 directly attributed to the Joe's Valley festivals.

The nonprofit hosts two main events each year: a spring endurance climbing competition in May and the annual bouldering festival in the fall. These events aim to enhance the local economy, attract visitors to Emery County, and encourage overnight stays and spending in town. Activities include competitions on BLM and Forest Service lands, award ceremonies held in town to support local businesses and food vendors, and trail stewardship projects. Last year's spring event drew about 40 participants, including many families and new visitors to the area.

Julie expressed appreciation for past city support and requested donation of the park and pavilion for May 2–3, the arena for the October 1–4 bouldering festival, and use of the visitor center for event registration.

Council member Dorsch motioned to donate the facilities and services as stated for the 2 events; Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

JR Bird State representative introduction-

JR Bird introduced himself as a candidate for State Representative for District 67 and former Mayor of Roosevelt. He expressed appreciation for the projects happening in the community, especially the All-Abilities Park, noting it is meaningful to him as he is working on a similar project in Roosevelt. He shared his background as a former mayor, business owner, and producer, and said he wants to understand local concerns and help at the state level.

Councilmember Giles raised ongoing concerns about UDOT projects, particularly road damage from coal trucks, the dangerous intersection of Highways 10 and 29, the need for streetlights, widening roads north of Castle Dale, and a narrow bridge used by school buses. JR acknowledged similar issues in the Uintah Basin and expressed frustration with the slow pace of UDOT projects. He suggested that engineering studies could help move projects forward and offered to assist in working with state contacts.

Water issues were also discussed. JR voiced concern about proposed legislation requiring water districts to divert excess water to the Great Salt Lake and about policies that could redirect rural water to the Wasatch Front. He emphasized the need for infrastructure development, local business growth, and proactive water project planning. Additional concerns included long-term plans for solar fields and the need for bonding and reclamation requirements. JR closed by reaffirming his commitment to being an active and engaged representative for Carbon and Emery counties.

David Sebring commissioner candidate introduction

David Sebring announced he is running again for Emery County Commissioner, emphasizing his strong desire to serve the community. He believes the most effective way to lower property taxes is by attracting more businesses to the area. Drawing on his experience as a business owner, he said he has worked with large companies, including Procter & Gamble, to explore potential expansion into smaller communities like those in Emery County. He highlighted the county's available land and energy resources as advantages for economic development.

Sebring said his main focus this term would be improving collaboration between the county and cities, acknowledging concerns about a disconnect between them. He clarified that issues like Airbnb regulations fall under city jurisdiction, not the county.

A major topic of discussion was water and infrastructure. Officials explained the differences between north and south county water systems, noting that south county relies heavily on the Castle Valley Special Service District for water and other utilities. Concerns were raised about building permits being issued in areas without secure water sources. There is also a significant need for a new regional sewer treatment facility for Huntington, Castle Dale, and Orangeville, as current lagoon systems are outdated. The project would cost millions of dollars. Water access in the county depends largely on snowmelt and reservoirs, as drilling wells does not produce reliable water.

City officials also raised concerns about PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funds from the Bureau of Land Management not being shared with cities, despite the presence of federal land and untaxed county and school properties within city limits.

Sebring agreed that better communication and cooperation between the county and cities is needed and acknowledged that commissioners represent both city residents and those living outside city limits.

Julie Johansen Land Use new appointee-

Julie Johansen has asked about being a appointee on the Land Use committee and I do know right now our land use has a full committee and Ted that is on the committee, agreed that they are full. Mayor stated he looked for a motion to put Julie as an Appointee on the land use Council and sees no motion so this dies without a motion.

Electronic Speed Signs- Tabled again

Council Member Giles motioned to table the discussion on Electronic Speed signs for the city until our March Meeting; Council member Gerber seconded the motion

Result: Approve

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

IT software- Glen Gerber

The remote PC software will allow me to get to support the shop and the city's computer systems from my home computer, so I don't have to run to the city anytime there is an issue with the systems. For the first year it will be \$74.62 and then after 2 years it will go up to \$149.25, that is the 2-year price and that is the one we are after but it's roughly \$75.00 a year.

Council member Dorsch motioned to approve the 2-year license for \$149.25; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

WUI Code Adoption

(Wildland-Urban Interface Law)-

The state passed House Bill 48, requiring municipalities to adopt and enforce the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code. Counties were previously required to adopt it, and many are behind schedule.

The city must adopt an ordinance to implement the WUI Code, which serves as the enforcement mechanism to reduce wildfire risk on private property. The ordinance will go to Planning and Zoning for approval. They may recommend adding wildland zones, after which it will go to the City Council for a final vote.

The code includes mapping with two zone types: **High Risk** and **Normal Risk**. High-risk zones are determined by the state, primarily in forested areas, and local governments have no control over those designations. Properties rated a 10 (highest risk) may receive a notice from the county assessor and could face additional state taxation for wildfire mitigation efforts.

In Normal WUI zones, properties rated 6–9 must comply with additional building code requirements, but no additional taxes apply. Properties rated 1–5 are optional for cities to regulate. Cities may adopt additional zones or decline them. The state will remap areas every five years.

In Emery County, high-risk Zone 10 areas are primarily on the west side of the county, including examples like Reeder's Subdivision. In Orangeville and Castle Dale, there are currently no areas rated 5 or higher.

The city will have a map and 2 copies of the ordinance, and by law, copies must be kept at City Hall for public review.

Becca running on CD ambulance

The mayor discussed a proposal to allow Becca to run with the Castle Dale ambulance one day per week while at work for the city, coordinating her schedule with Mick to ensure coverage. The need is urgent, as there have recently been emergencies — including a child being hit and another accident — where residents had to wait a long time for ambulances from Ferron or Huntington due to lack of local coverage.

For the past two months, coverage has been extremely limited, with local ambulances frequently out of service. Mick explained they currently have only six members, with just three regularly taking calls, and one EMT recovering from back surgery. Most area departments are short-staffed.

Recruitment and training remain challenges. While EMT classes are available, including a new hybrid course held in Castle Dale and Green River, participation is limited by instructor availability and the significant time commitment required. Officials emphasized that although pay has improved, the education requirements and time away from family make it difficult to retain volunteers.

The mayor stressed that the request is simply to allow Becca to respond one day a week for right now while working, to help ensure the community has ambulance coverage and reduce long emergency wait times.

Council member Giles motioned to allow Becca to run on the Castle Dale/Orangeville Ambulance; Council member Mills Seconded the motion.

Result: Approve
Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

New Hiring of Animal Control/Code Enforcement-

Following Terry Lofthouse’s official resignation, Kevin is currently covering the position. The request is to advertise for a new Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer, and a motion is sought to begin the hiring process.

Council member Dorsch motioned to begin the hiring process; Council member Giles seconded the motion.

Result: Approve
Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

Emery County School district water lease agreement-

The mayor requested approval to continue the annual water lease agreement with the Emery County School District for 20 shares of water. The city pays the taxes on the shares and can use the water but cannot sell the shares.

Previously, the Mayor and Giles approached the school district about purchasing the shares. The school board decided instead to retain the shares to support the future sale of eight lots they own near the high school and swimming pool, allocating two water shares per lot.

Recently, a citizen expressed interest in purchasing one of the lots. The city proposed adjusting the lease payment by deducting two shares if the lot sale is approved. However, the school board postponed approval due to outstanding questions.

In the meantime, the recommendation is for the city to proceed with paying the assessment on all leased shares while continuing discussions with the school board about future development of the lots and potential acquisition of the water shares.

Council member Giles motioned to pay the assessments; Council member Gerber seconded the motion.

Result: Approve

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

Yard Sale Ordinance-

Kerry lake was on zoom but turned the time over to Ted Allen to explain it.

Land use approved the yard sale through a public hearing. Garage/ Yard estate sales regulation in residential zones definition; Any person selling surplus household goods or furnishings at a private residence, garage, or yard in a residential zone. Sales must be held in accordance with applicable requirements and the frequents that are set forth in this code. An estate sale is a structured time limited public sale conducted to liquidate the personal property of an individual or household. Estate sales are typically held when an owner has died, relocated, downsized, or otherwise requires the disposition of a substantial portion of their belongings. Such sales may include furniture, appliances, household goods, collectibles, and other personal effects. 3-11 A- Garage/yard events are any sale of personal belongings in residential zoning districts and must be sold by a bona fide resident of the premises. 3-11 B-Provided that the conduct of the sale does not create a nuisance. 3-11 C- The garage/yard/estate sale shall be located at the actual residence of the owner of the material to be sold. 3-11 D- The duration of the garage/yard/estate sale is permitted for a period of no longer than four (4) days every six months. 3-11 E- An estate sale may be managed either privately or by a professional estate sale company, following the requirements and regulation in this code. Exempt uses include for non-profit or free periodicals. Nonprofit or charity function lasting four days or fewer. Joel would like to add and F onto that to please limit the signs to 2 days before and to be removed immediately after the end of the yard sale. Once they put the signs up they need to be taken down it is their responsibility. Giles asked a question that if an individual goes out

and buys materials and brings them in for re sell how do you prohibit that?
Ted replied you can do it twice a year and you have 4 days to do it and it cannot cause a nuisance. If someone wanted a perpetual yard sale, then they need to look at getting a business license and do it that way.

Council member Dorsch motioned to approve the yard sale ordinance with the change on the signs and to enforce it in fines; Council member Giles seconded the motion

Result: Approve

Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

Land Use committee-

Ted reported on Land Use, stating that a public hearing was held where the yard sale ordinance was approved and finalized before being presented to the council. One business license was approved for Stacey Price for a preschool. He also noted that a variance meeting is scheduled for next month to address a variance request.

Animal control/code enforcement-

Maintenance: Ignacio Arrien

They reported that the city is currently maintaining trees on a three-year rotation, along with maintaining stop and yield signs and caring for the parks. Additional pine trees will be addressed, and a pine tree on the north side of the cemetery will be trimmed back because it is not in good condition and is encroaching on a neighboring home.

Fire department:

They reported ongoing pole training, with a flashover training scheduled for Saturday the 21st near the skate park, which will require a small road closure. Trainings are being split between here and Ferron, with the same class held at two different locations to collaborate with neighboring fire departments, emphasizing the importance of communication.

The department has been very busy responding to wrecks, electrical fires, and smoke detector calls. Membership is currently down to 10 due to retirement (George) and some health-related departures. However, they expressed gratitude to the council for the stipends, noting they have helped retain members.

Treasurer/recorder report

Treasurer stated:

She reported that while reviewing the state tax report and checking PTIF, no January tax funds had been deposited, even though the expected amounts are known. She has contacted multiple people at the State Tax Commission to determine why the funds have not been received. She also noted an increase of sales tax \$13,144.42 and transportation tax \$1,285.90 increased. Additionally, URS is transitioning to a new system, and she and Becca plan to attend online training about it.

Recorder stated:

- Issued 1 new business license for Stacey Price she is going to start a preschool.
- Dog licenses- We have had 24 renewed.
- Been busy working on getting grants done and sending them in.
- We also issued 29 licenses to the kids in the community at their Bright Ideas Entrepreneur Academy.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Glen- He reported attending last month's Land Use meeting with the mayor and, as he is new in his role, did not have much additional to share. However, he expressed concern about a recent motorcycle accident involving a youth and asked what could be done to help keep kids safe.

The mayor responded that some families are allowing the behavior. After attending a COG meeting and speaking with the Sheriff, it was discussed that stronger enforcement may be necessary. Concerns were raised that some kids continue riding recklessly, including running stop signs and creating hazards, with council members noting recent near misses.

The mayor stated the situation has improved significantly since last October, though more progress is needed and continued pressure is important. Giles added that a city resident is working on establishing a designated riding area for the kids.

Mike- A citizen expressed concern about a muddy section of the walking path between the cemetery and the residence just south of it, suggesting gravel or pea gravel be added. Nosh said this can be done, though one area is difficult due to a manhole that cannot be covered; they will look at raising it to address the issue. Giles recommended submitting a work order to have it lifted.

Jorgensen also shared that the residents also noted the roof on the south side of the restrooms at Cheddar Park need attention. Nosh said the roof repair is included in next year's budget. Additionally, a broken water line to the bathroom there has some damage, so the restroom has been closed until further notice.

Bradley Giles- He stated that the city should begin informing residents about a potential watering restriction, likely starting with two days per week due to current water conditions. He also reported that codification work is ongoing and challenging, and he has reached out to the League of Cities and Towns to explore possible assistance through the LAA.

Emily- She reported that she has started working on the senior poster and received a list showing 21 Castle Dale students graduating.

Joel- He reported that the light in the indoor arena has been repaired. The new panels for the outdoor arena have been completed, a project he and Dan Whiteleather have worked on for about four years. Six gates were also replaced. He noted that two large gates at the entrance and exit of the outdoor arena still need to be replaced and should be included in next year's budget

Mayor Danny Van Wagoner- I was at the capitol Monday and will be there most of next week so if you guys have any wishes that I can take up let me know

BILLS PRESENTED FOR SIGNATURES

Council member Giles motioned to pay the bills; Council member Mills seconded the motion.

Result: Approved
Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

ADJOURN

Council member Giles motioned to adjourn the meeting; Council member Gerber seconded the motion.

Result: Approved
Yes: Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.
02/12/2026

Approved
Rebecca Nottars