

**STATE OF UTAH
COUNTY OF SEVIER
TOWN OF ANNABELLA**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2026**

Minutes from the Annabella Town Council Meeting held Thursday, February 12 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, located at 295 East 300 North, Annabella, Utah. Mayor John Chartier conducting.

1. **ROLL CALL.** Mayor John Chartier called the meeting to order and noted that the full Council was present, including Councilmembers Louis Brown, Kelvin Johns, Chris Nielson, and Stephanie Morgan.
2. **OPENING REMARKS.** Councilmember Johns offered the opening prayer.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Councilmember Nielson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **CITIZEN INPUT.** There was not any citizen input.
5. **APPOINTMENT: THOMAS PETERSON –COMMUNITY WILDFIRE MUNICIPAL PARTICIPATION COMMITMENT.** Thomas Peterson, Central Area Manager for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, and Justin Short, Area Forester, presented information about the Community Wildfire System (CWS). Peterson explained that the system helps municipalities pay for wildfire suppression costs.

Peterson outlined how the CWS program functions: When a wildfire crosses into or out of municipal boundaries, the State assumes the associated suppression costs, provided the Town participates in the system. Participation requires adopting the 2006 Wildland Urban Interface Code and identifying the community's wildland–urban interface areas. Municipalities must also either pay a small annual fee or complete approved mitigation or preparedness efforts in lieu of that payment. Peterson noted that Annabella's current participation cost is \$0 due to updated mapping and previous mitigation work.

Peterson also informed the Council about pending legislation (HB 41) that, if passed, would require municipalities to adopt the 2024 Wildland Urban Interface code, which would use a structure exposure score of 5 and above to identify wildland urban interface areas. Justin Short showed the Council a map indicating areas above the canal would be classified as having a score of 5 or above.

Discussion followed about high-risk properties and the separate HB 48 legislation that would assess fees to property owners in high-risk areas, with property owners having the option to reduce those fees by implementing mitigation measures. Peterson clarified that this was independent of the CWS program.

The Council decided to proceed with participating in the CWS program. **Councilmember Brown moved to start the process for participation in the CWS program and turn it over to the Planning Commission to start the public hearing process. Councilmember Stephanie Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. APPOINTMENT: NEWELL HALES - INTRODUCTION AS A CANDIDATE FOR SEVIER COUNTY COMMISSIONER. Newell Hales introduced himself as a candidate for Sevier County Commissioner. He shared his background as a fifth-generation Sevier County citizen and outlined his experience serving on the Salina City Council during two different terms. He highlighted his accomplishments, including developing the Salina Industrial Center, spearheading the creation of the North Sevier Recreation Department, and improving Salina's culinary water system and other infrastructure.

7. APPOINTMENT: TYLER TIMMONS (R6) TO DISCUSS FUNDING AND DESIGN OPTIONS FOR A PICKLEBALL COURT. Tyler Timmons discussed the Utah Direct Community Parks and Recreation Grant application for pickleball courts. He explained the grant is very competitive but could provide up to \$200,000, with a 30% match requirement (either cash or in-kind services).

Last year's application included a multipurpose court design with basketball, tennis, and pickleball capabilities at an estimated cost of around \$120,000. Council members expressed support for pursuing the grant again this year. Several potential locations were discussed, including the area north of the Community Center and the baseball field area.

Timmons stated he would draft a broad application that could accommodate either location, with final details to be determined if the grant is awarded. The consensus was to proceed with the grant application.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The Council reviewed the January meeting minutes. **Councilmember Christopher Nielson moved to approve the minutes as printed. Councilmember Stephanie Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

9. APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER. The Council reviewed the warrant register. Councilmember Brown asked about the payments to the Forest Service for access fees related to ditch and reservoir maintenance. Tina Mitchell explained that these are annual fees that have been in place for approximately ten years and noted that she had emailed Councilmember Johns to confirm their continued validity. Councilmember Nielson inquired about the pond repair expenses, and Eric Nielsen reported that the work addressed a leaking drain valve. **Councilmember Christopher Nielson moved to approve the warrant register as published. Councilmember Kelvin Johns seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING THE MUNICIPALITY COOPERATIVE WILDFIRE SYSTEM AGREEMENT. This item was addressed during Thomas Peterson's presentation.

11. CONSIDER APPOINTING DEVIN SQUIRE AS THE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. The Council considered the appointment of Devin Squire to serve on the Board of Adjustment as the Planning Commission representative. **Councilmember Louis Brown moved to appoint Devin Squire as the Planning Commission representative to serve on the Board of Adjustment. Councilmember Nielson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

12. CONSIDER REAPPOINTING MONTE ALDRIDGE, ANGIE BLACKBURN, AND DAVID PETERSON TO ANOTHER TERM ON THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. The Council discussed reappointing three members to the Board of Adjustment and agreed it would be beneficial to stagger the terms to avoid having all members' terms expire simultaneously. **Councilmember Christopher Nielson moved to reappoint Monte Aldridge, Angie Blackburn, and David Peterson to the Board of Adjustment, with Monte Aldridge's term to match Brad Powell's term and the other two to serve 5-year terms. Councilmember Stephanie Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TOWN COUNCIL DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITY PLANNING.

Mayor Chartier presented proposed department assignments:

- **Beautification & Parks:** Councilmember Stephanie Morgan
- **Activities & Cemetery:** Councilmember Christopher Nielson
- **Roads:** Councilmember Louis Brown
- **Water:** Councilmember Kelvin Johns

Mayor Chartier recommended assigning multiple Council members to each community event to distribute responsibilities more evenly. Councilmember Nielson will act as the primary lead for upcoming activities, with individual Council members assigned to specific celebrations to help plan, prepare, and carry out each event.

Event assignments are as follows:

- **Easter Egg Hunt (April 1)**
 - Mayor Chartier
 - Councilmember Morgan
 - Youth Council

- **Fourth of July (July 4)**
 - Councilmember Nielson
 - Councilmember Brown
 - Councilmember Morgan

- **Halloween (October 31)**
 - Councilmember Nielson
 - Councilmember Johns

- **Pheasant Hunters Dinner (November 7)**
 - Councilmember Nielson
 - Councilmember Brown
 - Councilmember Morgan
 - Councilmember Johns

- **Christmas Party (December 7)**
 - Councilmember Nielson
 - Councilmember Johns

The Youth Council, represented by Kayla Johns, requested approval to hold a Mother's Day boutique at the park on May 2nd. They envision an event similar to the previous food truck rally but with booths focusing on Mother's Day gifts. The Council supported this event.

14. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

BEAUTIFICATION, PARKS. The Council discussed a quote from Blue Jay Window Service for cleaning windows, gutters, and caulking at the Community Center. After discussion, the Council decided to handle these maintenance tasks in-house rather than accepting the quote.

ACTIVITIES. The Town Council discussed the upcoming Easter event on April 1st. Councilmember Nielson explained what had been done in previous years, including the egg hunt, an adult egg toss, and a scavenger hunt for older children.

CEMETERY. Councilmember Nielson noted the cemetery had looked better last year than in previous years in terms of being green and well-watered. He recommended continuing with the fertilizer program that had been successful.

ROADS. Eric Nielsen reported that the Town has purchased pre-emergent spray for the upcoming season and noted that application will begin soon. He also led a brief discussion about future road maintenance options, including potential crack sealing or scheduling street sweeping.

WATER. Eric Nielsen discussed the need for watering restrictions in the upcoming season due to low water levels in the aquifer. He noted that the aquifer had only recovered about one foot this winter instead of the usual 2-6 feet. He recommended implementing no daytime watering (from 10am to 6pm) and taking at least one day per week with no watering at all to allow the system to recover.

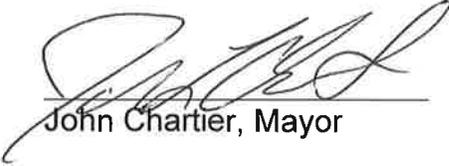
Eric explained that last year, both wells hit the shutoff point three times during the season when running simultaneously. He plans to stagger the wells' operation and continue bringing mountain water down slowly throughout the summer as he did successfully last year.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

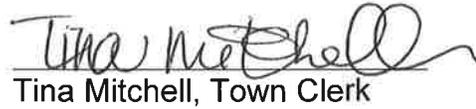
PRICING OPTIONS FOR LIFT EQUIPMENT. Eric Nielsen proposed looking into purchasing a small boom lift that could be used for various maintenance tasks including gutter cleaning, tree trimming, and replacing streetlights. He estimated the cost would be under \$10,000 for a used unit and noted it would save money over time compared to renting equipment. The Council supported researching this purchase further.

16. ADJOURN At 7:58 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held Thursday, February 12, 2026 were approved this 12th day of March, 2026



John Chartier, Mayor



Tina Mitchell, Town Clerk