

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FRUIT HEIGHTS CITY
910 South Mountain Road
March 3, 2026

WELCOME:

Mayor Jeanne Groberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE & OPENING CEREMONY:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Mark Cottrell with City Council Gary Anderson conducting the opening ceremony by prayer.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Jeanne Groberg Council Members, Gary Anderson, Mark Cottrell, David Hale, Eileen Moss, Blake Winslow.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Darren Frandsen, Public Works Director Layne Leonard, City Planner Jeff Oyler, Deputy Recorder Hailee Ballingham and Brad Christopherson, City Attorney

VISITORS:

Mary Monson Layon Monson, Jim Crismer, Scott Heusser, Jon Groberg, Oliver Jackson, Jacob Williams, Scott Justensen

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT(S) OF INTEREST:

None

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Winslow Report:

Council Member Winslow reported that the Legislative Policy Committee is in the final week of the legislative session and has been tracking numerous bills that could affect city budgeting, local control, and planning authority. He noted that cities working together have helped encourage legislators to revise bill language when concerns are raised. He also provided an update on the Communities That Care program, noting that several bills may impact how the program operates and its future budget, with outcomes expected by the end of the week.

Council Member Moss Report:

Council Member Moss reported that the Cemetery Committee continues to meet, with members completing assignments and gathering additional information. She noted that the committee is holding off on adding new members until roles and plans are more clearly defined. She also suggested including a call for volunteers interested in fundraising and planning pickleball courts in the RidgeRunner newsletter, with the goal of publishing in the April RidgeRunner.

Council Member Anderson Report:

Council Member Anderson reported that he and Council Member Hale have met once since the last council meeting with the City Manager to review budget items. He noted that they are carefully reviewing each line

item.

Council Member Hale Report:

Council Member Hale reported that the Emergency Preparedness Committee met. The committee plans to support the County Preparedness Fair in September and is promoting the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill on April 16th through the RidgeRunner newsletter. He noted that emergency preparedness booklets and handouts are available on the city website, through Mary Monson, or via area coordinators. Citizens interested in participating in specific topics for the upcoming preparedness fair can contact him or Mary Monson for more information.

Council Member Cottrell Report:

Council Member Cottrell provided updates from the Planning Commission. He noted that the next Planning Commission meeting will be Wednesday, March 25th (changed from Tuesday due to the City Council meeting) and will include public hearings on a rezone request, and the WUI code ordinance. They will also be talking about a lot split. These items are likely to be forwarded to City Council afterward. He expressed appreciation to Mayor Groberg and Councilmember Winslow for their dedication and involvement with the Utah League of Cities and Towns at the Capitol, noting their efforts have provided valuable information. Council Member Cottrell also reported that the mosquito abatement educational program will begin for third- to sixth-grade students at nearby elementary schools:

- Burton Elementary – 9:00 a.m., March 5th
- Kaysville Elementary – 2:15 p.m., March 19th
- Farmington Elementary – 10:00 a.m., March 26th

Each session will last approximately one hour, and parents or city representatives are welcome to attend.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Groberg Report:

Mayor Groberg expressed appreciation for Council Member Winslow and City Manager Frandsen for their active participation as Fruit Heights' voting members on the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), noting their work reviewing bills, communicating with legislators, and representing the city effectively during the legislative session. The City Attorney highlighted the complexity of current legislative issues, including property tax proposals, sales tax reductions, and impacts on city budgeting and reserves. The mayor also reported that the Planning Commission and City Council are planning a joint work session on May 12th to review the General Plan and related regulations. This session is intended as a discussion and evaluation of potential amendments, associated costs, and budget impacts. Lastly, Mayor Groberg highlighted positive community engagement related to the America 250 celebration. She encouraged volunteers to help with parade entries, historical projects, and event coordination, emphasizing the importance of gratitude, community participation, and honoring the nation's 250th anniversary. She invited residents to join the celebrations and thanked those already involved in planning.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Scott Heusser reflected on his previous remarks to Mayor Groberg and apologized for any offense caused by a prior heated exchange at the previous Council meeting in his public comment and in conversation afterwards. He commended Mayor Groberg for her efforts in protecting the city and neighborhood against the UDOT Highway 89 project, noting concerns about pollution, noise, traffic, and impacts on the community. Mr. Heusser emphasized that the community's role is to stay informed and hold elected officials accountable.

He raised questions regarding the city planner's dual role as both county and city planner, highlighting potential conflicts of interest in relation to the General Plan. He inquired whether the dual role was publicly disclosed, whether the county had taken a position on the city's General Plan, and if any formal interlocal agreement exists.

PRESENTATIONS:

5.1 Youth City Council Report – Oliver Jackson, Devin Jennings, Jacob Williams:

The Youth City Council members reported on recent and upcoming activities. They recently toured the local jail to learn more about its operations. At their March meeting, they discussed proper meeting etiquette and potential involvement in the America 250 celebration. Upcoming activities include attending a youth leadership camp to meet other student leaders from Utah. In April, they will be hosting the city's Easter egg hunt. They will get together to fill eggs and purchasing prizes in preparation for the event.

5.2 Annual Training – Open and Public Meetings & Ethics Act

City Attorney Brad Christopherson provided the annual training required for elected and appointed officials on the Open and Public Meetings Act and the Ethics Act. Some of the key points covered in this training included:

- **Open Meetings** – All meetings of the City Council are open to the public unless a closed session is authorized by law. Quorum and voting rules, as well as public participation opportunities, were explained.
- **Electronic Participation** – Officials may participate electronically in meetings. Public notice is required, an anchor location must be maintained, and audio recordings must be preserved permanently.
- **Minutes & Recordkeeping** – Written minutes are the official record, supported by audio recordings. Minutes summarize discussions, include votes, ordinances, and resolutions, and sign-in sheets or attendee lists are part of the permanent record.
- **Closed Sessions** – Limited to specific topics such as personnel matters, litigation, real property strategy, security deployments, or investigations. Votes are not taken, and the presiding officer must state the purpose.
- **Emergency Meetings** – Authorized when immediate action is necessary. Notice should be provided as practicable, and a majority of council members must approve the meeting.
- **Social and Chance Meetings** – Interactions with fewer than a quorum do not constitute a meeting. Discussion of city business in these casual settings should be avoided.
- **Electronic Communications** – Emails, texts, and other communications regarding city business are public records under GRAMA. Officials should avoid discussing city business via personal devices during meetings. Attorney-client communications remain privileged.

The full Annual Training on Open and Public Meetings and Ethics Act presentation can be viewed on the City's website by visiting the Agenda Center and selecting the March 3, 2026 City Council Agenda and Packet at <https://www.fruitheights.gov/AgendaCenter>.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6.1 Bid from Performance Audio for the Sound System in the Council Chamber

The Council and City Manager discussed ongoing issues with the chamber's audio system, which has experienced persistent problems affecting sound quality and recordings. The City Manager and Deputy Recorder have been working for several months to identify solutions, noting issues with microphone feedback, speaker placement, network connections, incompatible equipment, and analog signal interference. Performance Audio, a company recommended by other municipalities and listed on the state contract, was

proposed for the system upgrade. The company has over 45 years of experience providing audio solutions for government and courtroom facilities and has been responsive during previous visits to assess the chamber's system. The proposed upgrade includes replacing existing microphones with focused models, repositioning speakers, adding compatible equipment, installing additional cameras for council and Podium visibility, enabling split-screen and streaming capabilities, and broadcasting to the downstairs meeting room. Recording devices will be disconnected from the network to improve security.

The total bid for the project is \$45,057.77, which is within the current budget. Some existing equipment may be reused where compatible. The Council noted the anticipated benefits of the upgrade, including clearer audio, improved public streaming and recordings, enhanced security, and a long-term reliable system. Staff recommended approval of the bid and proceeding with installation and system configuration.

6.2 Social media policy

The Council discussed the development of a social media policy, noting that recent campaigns and elections highlighted the need for clear guidance for staff and elected officials. Staff requested direction on the level of detail the policy should include, whether it should apply to staff only or both staff and elected officials, and how city communications should be managed on social media.

Concerns were raised regarding the legal complexities of moderating comments, regulating public forums, and distinguishing between personal and official communications. Council members emphasized the importance of transparency, avoiding the appearance of bias, and ensuring that city communications are clear, accurate, and widely accessible. Mayor Groberg expressed support for the ability of staff to share posts to existing community pages, in the interests of utilizing available channels for better communication. The council was not ready to make a determination on the question.

Discussion also addressed the use of social media during municipal election years, the distinction between city-controlled posts and external shares, and the balance between broad public outreach and legal compliance. The Council agreed to begin with a simple, concise policy, allowing staff to produce a draft of approximately one to one-and-a-half pages. The Council will review the draft, provide feedback, and determine whether additional guidance or a more comprehensive policy is needed.

The City Attorney noted that the policy would serve as guidance to ensure consistent practices while maintaining compliance with state law and protecting the city from potential legal issues.

6.3 Budget

The City Manager, Frandsen, provided an update on the FY 2026–27 budget, noting ongoing efforts to compile figures from contracts, including the Sheriff's Office and Farmington Fire. Preliminary review of the general fund indicates a potential need for a truth-in-taxation hearing to address anticipated cost increases.

City Manager Frandsen highlighted recent legislative actions affecting the budget, including a proposed 15% allocation of sales tax revenue to support cities hosting homeless shelters, which could reduce the city's revenue by approximately \$150,000 for the year. Other proposed legislation, such as changes to allowable savings percentages in the general fund, was noted but did not pass. Potential revenue options, including a franchise tax and municipal energy use tax, were also discussed as possible inflation-protected revenue sources. A truth-in-taxation hearing maybe be required, it would likely be held in August, with public education on the proposed tax increase and its specific uses recommended.

Further budget discussions are planned in upcoming meetings, including review of other funds beyond the general fund.

ACTION ITEMS:

7.1 Approve/Deny Bid from Performance Audio for the Sound System in the Council Chambers

The Council asked for clarification on which part of the budget the expenditure would come from. The City Manager stated it would be split between the non-departmental and city building budgets. Council members confirmed that this allocation would not impact other planned projects, such as the cameras for the tunnel, noting that those are being addressed separately.

Council Member David Hale made a motion to approve the Bid from Performance Audio for the Sound System in the Council Chambers. Council Member Gary Anderson seconded the motion.

Council Member Winslow inquired whether there was a mechanism in the bid process to encourage reusing existing hardware instead of replacing everything. The City Manager explained that while some equipment might not ultimately be needed, including it in the bid avoids potential change orders if a piece fails. Council Member Cottrell noted that the bid represents a high-end estimate, and costs could be lower if existing equipment can be reused. Additionally, Cottrell highlighted a benefit of the proposed system: residents with hearing aids would be able to access audio directly through their phones via a QR code, improving accessibility for older community members.

Council Member Hale asked whether equipment that had been replaced in recent years, if no longer needed, could potentially be resold or repurposed. Staff responded that any unused equipment could be run through a surplus process and resold that way.

Council Member Anderson expressed disappointment that previous investments to resolve the audio issues had not fully fixed the problem. However, he stated that he supported the motion because improving the ability for the public to clearly hear and follow meetings is important. He noted that audio clarity has been an ongoing concern for about a year and acknowledged that clear communication with the public is necessary.

Council Member Moss noted the difficulty small communities face in obtaining multiple bids, explaining that having additional bids can help confirm whether pricing is appropriate. However, She acknowledged that this is often challenging for smaller cities. Council Member Cottrell added that vendors on the state contract have already gone through a significant vetting process, which helps cities rely on the quality, pricing, and equipment provided.

The motion was approved by the City Council by at (2:36)

Council Member Vote:

- Gary Anderson –YES
- Eileen Moss—YES
- Mark Cottrell – YES
- David Hale – YES
- Blake Winslow—YES

Motion Carried (5-0)

7.2 Approve February 17, 2026, City Council Minutes

Council Member Eileen Moss made a motion to approve February 17, 2026, City Council Minutes Council Member Blake Winslow seconded the motion.

no discussion

The motion was approved by the City Council by at (2:37)

Council Member Vote:

- Gary Anderson –YES
- Eileen Moss—YES
- Mark Cottrell – YES
- David Hale – YES
- Blake Winslow—YES

Motion Carried (5-0)

TABLED ITEMS:

None

PAST DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None

CALENDAR:

March 17,2026, Council Meeting was moved to the 24th due to the state caucus night

March 24, 2026, City Council Meeting

March 25, 2026, Public Hearing (Public Hearing)

CLOSED SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Blake Winslow made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Council Member Gary Anderson seconding the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Council. (9:39)

Date approved by City Council: March 24,2026

/s/ Hailee Ballingham

Hailee Ballingham, City Deputy Recorder