

Minutes of the joint work session of the Ogden City Council, also acting as the Redevelopment Agency, held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Work Room, and via electronic meeting, on the third floor of the Municipal Building, 2549 Washington Boulevard, Ogden City, Weber County, Utah.

Present: Chair Richard A. Hyer
 Vice Chair Dave Graf
 Council members Flor Lopez
 Kevin Lundell
 Shaun Myers
 Ken Richey
 Alicia Washington

Council Executive Director Glenn Symes
Council Assistant Executive Director Analyst Steve Burton
Communications Director Brandon Garside

Also present: Chief Administrative Officer Mara A. Brown
 Community and Economic Development Assistant Executive Director David Sawyer
 City Recorder Tracy Hansen

The purpose of the joint work session was to review the agenda for the Redevelopment Agency meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.; receive the Ogden Downtown Alliance Annual Report; discuss Council/Board business; and hear Council/Board comments.

Agenda Review

Chair Hyer reviewed the items listed on the agenda for the Redevelopment Agency meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Ogden Downtown Alliance (ODA) Annual Report

Reide Thompson, Executive Director of the Ogden Downtown Alliance (ODA), presented the 2025 Annual Report. She welcomed new City Council members and introduced Mark Hillis, incoming ODA Board Chair. Ms. Thompson provided background on the Downtown Alliance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit celebrating its 10-year anniversary, which focuses on increasing economic vitality and community vibrancy throughout Ogden's central business district. ODA's mission is to support local commerce through placemaking, destination marketing, focused community programming, and events. Ms. Thompson detailed the organization's funding breakdown, noting that unlike other downtown alliances, they do not collect membership dues from business owners or receive funding through special area tax assessments. Instead, their funding comes primarily from events production, grants, contracts, sponsorships, donations, and in-kind support. Key highlights from the report included:

- Economic impact of \$5.4 million through events and programs
- Approximately 50,000 more visitors than the previous year
- Distribution of \$42,000 worth of produce incentives to low-income households through SNAP at Farmers Market
- Support for 428 artists, entertainers, and performers with paid opportunities
- Provision of 620 hours of free entertainment
- 160+ volunteers contributing over 2,400 hours

Ms. Thompson reported record-breaking attendance at several signature events:

- Farmers Market Ogden had 230,000 attendees and \$12.4 million in estimated economic impact
- Historic 25th Street Car Show saw 28,000 people and over \$1.25 million in economic impact
- Harvest Moon celebration attracted over 35,000 people with 200 local vendors

Ms. Thompson addressed challenges including resource constraints with growing event sizes, the need for more safety planning, and questions about signature gathering policies at events. Thompson emphasized the need for additional funding mechanisms to support their work as the downtown continues to grow.

Council member Myers asked how the ODA addresses concerns from business owners who feel events on 25th Street might be burdensome to their operations or reduce their business traffic. Ms. Thompson responded that survey feedback is mixed—some businesses report event days as their highest-grossing, while others experience reduced traffic. However, overall, business owners still see value in these events bringing people to downtown Ogden. Council member Myers also raised concerns about dogs at the Farmers Market. Ms. Thompson acknowledged this challenge and explained they use signage to educate visitors about proper pet conduct and safety.

Vice Chair Graf inquired about how the ODA manages volunteer needs for their events, given that the city runs largely on volunteer support. He mentioned his experience registering as a volunteer with GOAL and questioned if there had been

conversations with other community partners to address the need for volunteers and whether these efforts had been successful. Ms. Thompson explained the ODA works closely with the GOAL Foundation to leverage connections and resources, especially for one-day signature events like the car show, Harvest Moon, and Arts Festival. However, Farmers Market presents a unique challenge as it spans 22 weeks and the tasks often require more than volunteer effort, needing consistent, paid labor due to physical demands and complex interactions. Thus, Ms. Thompson emphasized the need for more paid staff for the Farmers Market rather than volunteers, while still appreciating the partnerships for other events.

Council member Washington inquired about the process for conducting the surveys, referencing the completion of 67 responses from the general public and 30 from businesses. Ms. Thompson explained that the survey, initiated last year, is currently in its early stages. Ms. Thompson clarified that due to limited resources, the survey was promoted through the Downtown Alliance's communication channels like emails and social media, capturing feedback from those already engaged with their initiatives. She highlighted the aspiration to create a more formal and comprehensive survey process that would require additional budget allocation in the future. Council member Washington then inquired if there is a safety plan for the large-scale events organized by the Alliance, considering the growing attendee numbers, and whether there is a critical mass point where events might need to relocate to ensure safety. Ms. Thompson appreciated the question, acknowledging it echoed the Alliance's own concerns. She revealed recent meetings with Ogden City's public safety officials focused on risk mitigation and emergency preparedness. She stressed the importance of crafting a comprehensive safety plan that includes legal protections for the organization, underscoring a need for legal counsel to ensure their safety practices align with local regulations while maintaining the events' cultural integrity and ensuring public safety.

Council member Lundell raised a question regarding signature gathering policies at the Farmers Market, noting past concerns from constituents being told they couldn't gather signatures in public areas. He inquired about the policy on this matter and if clear guidelines would be established before the upcoming market season. Ms. Thompson acknowledged the complexity of the issue and that it seems to change based on venue. She explained their efforts to work with Ogden City to possibly designate a public zone for these activities, although they require legal guidance to ensure the policies respect everyone's rights while maintaining the market's atmosphere. Ms. Thompson mentioned spending considerable time addressing this and expressed a need for thorough legal counsel to clarify and consistently enforce a policy equitable for all participants.

Chair Hyer inquired about the possibility of hosting a concert event series in Ogden, similar to what Layton does at the Kenley Amphitheatre. He noted that many residents have expressed interest in such events, drawing different demographics than events like the Twilight Concert Series. Ms. Thompson acknowledged the desire for more cultural events in downtown Ogden, noting survey feedback and discussions indicate a community interest. She attributed the absence of a similar concert series to constraints in funding and limited organizational bandwidth. She noted all cultural entities, including the ODA, are maximizing their resources to their fullest capacity within current funding levels. There is potential for partnerships with other local arts and cultural organizations to increase events, but these efforts require further investment and resources, including securing additional grants and collaborations to meet staffing demands and expand offerings.

Council members commended the ODA for their significant economic impact and the successful execution of back-to-back events like the car show and Farmers Market.

Council/Board Business

Council member Lundell expressed appreciation for the Administration's quick response regarding the transparency portal for Flock data but noted one missing data field showing which agencies Ogden shares information with. He also raised community concerns about assurances that the national lookup feature is disabled. Council member Washington mentioned receiving constituent emails regarding Flock cameras and data and suggested having Chief Sube return to a future meeting to address additional questions.

Vice Chair Graf provided an update on the Utah Trails Network, which will utilize \$45 million allocated by the state last year, plus an additional \$45 million available annually going forward, to create a master plan connecting the Wasatch Front with community trails. He mentioned the Lane Shift Workshop scheduled for March 4, 2026, and thanked the Administration for covering the workshop costs. Chair Hyer noted that three Council members had already signed up to participate in the Lane Shift Workshop, which is the maximum number allowed without violating open meetings requirements.

Council member Richey provided an update on the legislative session, mentioning that they were monitoring House Bill 501, which has raised concerns about potentially adding taxes to water and sewer bills.

Council/Board Comments

The Council discussed the format of the open house immediately following the work session, which is designed to provide more direct dialogue with citizens beyond the traditional three-minute public comment period.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

RICHARD A. HYER, CHAIR

APPROVED: March 24, 2026