

Minutes of the work session of the Ogden City Council held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Work Room located 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 Steve Burton  
Communications Director Brandon Garside  
Communications Specialist Eric Davenport

Also present:    Chief Administrative Officer Mara A. Brown  
                  Public Services Director Justin Anderson  
                  Management Services Executive Director Lisa Stout  
                  Finance Director Justin Sorensen  
                  Assistant Finance Director Korahle Jensen  
                  Community and Economic Development Assistant Executive Director David Sawyer  
                  Chief Deputy Recorder Lee Ann Peterson

The purpose of the work session was to review the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.; receive the Nature Center Annual Report and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Grants Report; discuss Council business – specifically the Council member initiative regarding a joint resolution affirming community trust through public safety; and hear Council comments.

### Agenda Review

Chair Hyer and members of Council staff reviewed the items listed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. There was brief discussion about the agenda item related to the zone change at 1425 Kingston Drive; Council Assistant Executive Director Burton provided clarification about the rezone, explaining that rezoning from R-1-10 to R-1-8 would potentially allow for 10 lots instead of eight. He noted that the majority of the surrounding neighborhood was zoned R-1-10, but the subject property was adjacent to an existing R-1-8 area. Council members discussed the implications of lot sizes and the possibility of reducing from 10 to eight lots. Vice Chair Graf pointed out that having more homes served by the same infrastructure would create more affordable housing options and that R-1-8 is not particularly dense zoning. The Council also briefly discussed traffic concerns on Polk Street mentioned in a constituent email regarding the zone change.

### Nature Center Annual Report

Laura Western, Ogden Nature Center Executive Director, used the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Center's Annual Report. She described the center's mission of connecting people with nature and creating a community dedicated to environmental stewardship. Key points from her presentation included:

- Expanded community partnerships, including new relationships with the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone
- Conservation efforts including the removal of 15 acres of Russian olives and restoration plans with various partners
- Wildlife management, noting that 91 deer have been tracked on the property
- Facility improvements, particularly the renovation of the discovery room with educational components about the Great Salt Lake watershed, with new signage in both English and Spanish
- Diversification of community outreach, including a 50th anniversary Earth Day festival featuring cultural performances
- Educational initiatives, including the ICEE grant-funded programming that allows naturalist educators to travel throughout the state
- Financial challenges related to aging infrastructure, technology integration, animal care costs, and employee retention

Ms. Western asked the Council for feedback on whether the Nature Center was meeting the needs of the community. Council member Richey expressed admiration for the educational outreach and asked about potential expansion. Ms. Western mentioned exploring the possibility of a mobile "nature van" to reach more remote areas. Ms. Western then outlined the Nature Center's top priorities:

- Budget stability
- Major donor development
- Water restoration projects
- Enhanced public education, particularly for the north property
- Systems upgrades to improve information management

For a copy of Ms. Western’s presentation in its entirety, see the information packet for the meeting.

After Ms. Western's presentation, discussion shifted to the Nature Center's north property and trail system and programming offered by the Center. Council members shared positive feedback and inquired about any potential enhancements or expansions to the trails to accommodate increasing visitor numbers. Ms. Western acknowledged the importance of the trail system and mentioned plans to maintain and improve trail access. She also ensured the Center plans to continue to offer diverse programming that attracts a wide audience. She emphasized ongoing efforts to engage with the community to better align their offerings with visitor interests and needs.

**Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Grants Report**

Assistant Finance Director Jensen used the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Grants Report. She reported that the City had 88 grants and expended \$36.7 million in grant dollars during the fiscal year. A large portion came from the State of Utah (\$10 million) and the U.S. Department of Treasury through ARPA funds (\$18.4 million) She provided historical context showing that 10 years ago, the City had only 49 grants. She attributed the growth to the Council's approval of grant writer positions for the Police and Fire departments, as well as positions supporting Public Services, Community and Economic Development, and Management Services. For a copy of Ms. Jensen’s presentation in its entirety, see the information packet for the meeting.

Council member Richey expressed appreciation for the grant writers' work and the resulting funds flowing to the City.

**Council Business**

***Council member Initiative – Joint Resolution Affirming Community Trust Through Public Safety:*** Chair Hyer reported that consideration of this proposed joint resolution has officially been postponed to March 3.

Council member Washington explained that this agenda item was postponed because legislation (House Bill 571) was introduced at the State legislature the previous day at approximately 12:30 p.m. She and co-sponsor Council member Lundell wanted to track the bill before presenting the resolution to the City Council.

Council member Lundell expressed concern about the City's lobbying efforts at the State Capitol, noting that Council members do not have a clear picture of what the City is advocating for. He referenced two bills: the resolution topic and another bill affecting Utah Community Renewables. He emphasized that the Council should be protective of local control and the ability to govern as the community's elected officials.

Council member Washington reported that she and Council member Lundell held a community conversation about the proposed joint resolution on Sunday at the main library branch, which was well-attended and generated productive discussion.

***Council Calendar:*** Council Executive Director Symes then reviewed the Council calendar for the remainder of the month of February.

**Council Comments**

Vice Chair Graf raised concerns from constituents about fiber optic companies placing infrastructure in City rights-of-way and whether the City was being compensated. Chair Hyer noted that fiber companies do not pay franchise tax but do have authorization to place infrastructure within easements. Several Council members reported receiving similar constituent concerns about fiber installation in their neighborhoods. Council member Richey noted that residents should contact the city if their yards are not properly restored after installation work.

Vice Chair Graf also mentioned speed limit concerns on 26<sup>th</sup> Street, particularly around Rancho Market where pedestrian traffic is high and a dog was recently hit. Council member Washington suggested also examining speed limits on 24<sup>th</sup> Street near the library where there is significant foot traffic.

Council member Richey mentioned the Utah League of Cities and Towns' weekly Legislative Policy Committee meetings that are open to the public, noting there were currently 950 bills filed in the legislative session. Council members discussed the value of receiving the bill tracker from the League of Cities and Towns to stay informed about relevant legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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LEE ANN PETERSON, MMC  
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

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RICHARD A. HYER, CHAIR

APPROVED: March 24, 2026