

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Poplar Meeting Room, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1
Pam Cotter	District #2
Clark Bullen	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4 – Council Vice Chair
Adam Hock	District #5 – Council Chair

Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administrator
GL Critchfield	City Attorney	Jeff Martin	Parks Director
Ryan Madsen	IT Supervisor	Nathan Leavitt	VCBO Architecture
Aaron Frisk	Water Superintendent	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Camron Kollman	IT Support		

Conducting: Council Chair Hock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole, February 3, 2026 and Council Workshop, February 5, 2026. Ms. Turner moved to approve both sets of minutes and Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0

Discussion Items:

- **Presentation on the Murray City Outdoor Pool.** Parks Director Jeff Martin said VCBO Architecture was hired last year to redesign the Murray outdoor pool. Mr. Martin displayed aerial photos of the existing 26-year-old pool and explained that the facility has experienced ongoing plumbing and mechanical issues and that the aging infrastructure in recent years has caused the pool to crack. Various mitigation efforts have only provided short-term relief, requiring repairs twice a year. The most recent method, to place a membrane over the expansion joints, has held water the best. He felt this was a band-aid fix and that the proposed project would resolve many operational challenges. VCBO Architect Nathan Leavitt shared conceptual ideas, schematics and engineering designs that proposed a new zero depth pool, activity pool, lazy river and programming pool.

Mr. Hock expressed concern with the layout because of too much concrete, no diving boards and a zero depth and activity pool smaller than the existing pool. He stated that after sharing the drawings with several residents, the response was overwhelmingly negative. Many said they would still prefer swimming at other city outdoor pools because of better features and more amenities. Mr. Hock believed if the City was serious about redesigning the pool, it should be done in a way to attract people to the City, especially young teenagers. He noted that few entities in Salt Lake County still operate outdoor pools so attendance at a bigger facility in Murray would be more successful.

Mr. Hock felt no more time should be spent considering the proposal since it offered smaller pool areas and asked whether the design could be improved with additional funding. Mr. Leavitt confirmed the given budget would not allow for larger pools or more amenities and that all concept pools were much smaller, and the 4-foot-deep program pool was not like the existing 13-foot-deep pool.

Mr. Bullen thought residents would question spending \$14 million on a smaller pool and thought if the City built a new pool, it should be larger with better amenities to serve visitors for the next 30 years.

Mr. Pickett emphasized that Mr. Leavitt created something good within a provided budget. Council Members

agreed that a new facility should offer bigger pools, with less cement, better amenities and more shaded pavilions. Ms. Cotter asked about a splash pad and Mr. Martin confirmed they are not successful at outdoor pool facilities. Ms. Turner thought the lazy river should be extended.

Mr. Hock discussed popular amenities like a FlowRider and a rock-climbing wall that allows swimmers to jump into a deeper pool, noting that such activities could be priced per hour, increasing outdoor pool revenue. Mr. Martin noted existing bathhouses were outdated, confirmed that large concrete areas were the result from having smaller pools and agreed the lazy river was small. He clarified that the budget prevented a FlowRider feature and proceeded to review concepts for a new support building, new entrance to the pool, and noted that some existing buildings would be saved also due to budget factors. He explained that due to regulations, any pool expansion would require more restrooms, which would also increase the overall cost.

Mr. Hock believed there was great potential for a better plan but no incentive to adopt the proposed plan. Mr. Martin confirmed plans were limited due to the budget, noting \$6 million in the Capital Improvements Program, \$6.2 million collected in unrestricted impact fees and \$481,000 provided by restricted impact fees.

Photos were viewed of pools in Linden and Payson, Utah, that VCBO successfully designed when costs were much less. Mr. Martin said a similar design today would cost the City approximately \$20 million. Council Members learned about shade panels, deck space requirements for slides, cabana rentals, and requirements for a FlowRider and food services. Mr. Leavitt estimated the cost to install a FlowRider at \$3 million and noted that the ninja course would make the City only the second in Utah to install one.

It was requested that VCBO return with new ideas involving larger pool designs. Chief Administrative Officer Kim Sorensen said that with a \$14 million budget, there would be additional costs associated with developing new concepts. He also pointed out that with pool construction costs rising 3–5% annually, another option would be to keep the existing pool, since it is larger, and staff could continue repairing leaks. It was also mentioned that a large sinkhole may lie beneath the pool, which could be catastrophic at some point.

There was consensus that structural should be addressed and that a new facility could focus on recreation and generate revenue with larger pools and popular amenities. Mr. Martin confirmed the existing outdoor pool was consistently rented out for private parties. Council Members agreed to see new concepts within a newly raised budget of \$20 million and that VCBO would return with new plans within that budget.

- **A resolution of the Municipal Council (the “Council”) of Murray City, Utah (the “City”) declaring the City’s intention to reimburse itself for expenditures incurred in connection with financing all or a portion of capital improvements to the water system of the City and related improvements, with proceed of bonds that the City intends to issue; and related matters.** Finance Director Brenda Moore stated that if the City needed to bond for a water system improvement project, the resolution allowed the City to reimburse itself by using bond proceeds for costs incurred within the past 60 days of the approved resolution, as well as for costs going forward from the resolution approval date. Costs have already started to incur for the well drilling on Winchester Street. She clarified that the resolution does not state that the City will issue a bond, but if needed, it would be limited to \$5 million. She stated that she anticipated the amount to be \$3.78 million.

Adjournment: 6:01 p.m.

**Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III**