MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Poplar Meeting Room, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett District #1 – Excused
Pam Cotter District #2
Clark Bullen District #3 – Arrived at 4:04 p.m.
Diane Turner District #4 – Council Vice Chair
Adam Hock District #5 – Council Chair

Others**:**

Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Brooke Smith	City Recorder	Pattie Johnson	Council Administrator
GL Critchfield	City Attorney	Kathy White	Murray Chamber of Commerce
Ryan Madsen	IT Supervisor	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Matt Hastings	UAMPS	Elvon Farrell	Economic Development Specialist
Jackie Coombs	UAMPS	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Greg Bellon	Power Director	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Cory Kowalski	Power Resource Manager	Matt Youngs	Assistant Power Director
Eric Bracewell	Power Operations Manager	Chris Niemann	Power Engineering Manager
Citizens		Ben Gray	IT Support

Conducting: Council Chair Hock called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole, February 17, 2026. Ms. Turner moved to approve and Ms. Cotter seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Discussion Items:

- **Murray Area Chamber of Commerce 2025 Hot Air Balloon Palooza report.** Murray Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kathy White reported that the 2025 Hot Air Balloon Palooza was successful, drawing approximately 7,000 attendees and generating a net profit of $9,000, thanks to the contributions of the balloon committee, pilots and their crews, sponsors, community booths, entertainment, and 65 volunteers. This year the event would be re-branded with a new logo as Magic Over Murray, a few scheduling changes would be made and 100 volunteers would be needed. Ms. Turner asked how the 2025 event compared to the previous year. Ms. White confirmed that in 2024 approximately 6,000 people attended and the net profit was about $5,000.

- **A resolution authorizing donations of nonmonetary assistance for the Murray Area Chamber of Commerce.** City Council Executive Director Jennifer Kennedy stated that the request made by the Murray Chamber was to waive the golf cart rental fees for a golf tournament they would hold on June 12, 2026. Ms. White confirmed that approximately 120 people would participate. Ms. Kennedy stated the in-kind donation would be equal to $2,400.

- **An ordinance vacating two municipal utility easements located at approximately 4816 South State Street and 4837 South Poplar Street, Murray City, Salt Lake County, State of Utah**. Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson stated that two existing Murray Power utility easements located in the middle of Block One must be vacated to accommodate a planned underground parking garage. This early step in the development process was requested by Rockworth Companies' financial lenders.

Mr. Wilkinson clarified that all easements, including those held by other private parties, must be vacated to satisfy the lender's requirements and minimize risk before Rockworth can secure funding. Once financing was secured and building permits were obtained, Rockworth would demolish the existing buildings, relocate utility easements to the site perimeter and begin excavation for the parking structure. He reported that Enbridge completed the gas line reroute, one inactive line will be removed at the start of construction and the project is on schedule.

Ms. Turner asked when existing parking areas would be closed. Mr. Wilkinson confirmed that all parking at Block One, including the employee lot, would be closed, with the employee parking lot expected to be removed in late spring.

- **Energy Day Ahead Market presentation**. Power Director Greg Bellon introduced UAMPS (Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems) representatives Matt Hastings and Jackie Coombs, to explain that the EDAM (Energy Day Ahead Market) discussion would be part of the discussion item below:

- **A resolution authorizing and approving the amended and restated Power Pooling Agreement with UAMPS for the pool project; authorizing execution and delivery thereof; and related matters**. Mr. Hastings stated that in the past and present, UAMPS has acted as an agent for all its members for scheduling energy, balancing load requirements, marketing excess energy and negotiating and providing the transmission of energy. UAMPS uses the transmission lines of Pacific Corporation throughout Utah and manages that transmission service relationship for the City. The Pool Project is just one of 18 energy projects offered to members and the output of all energy projects is contractually required to be assigned into the Pool. The Pool Project, in essence, pulls together all of the energy resources of all UAMPS members and then ensures that all members have their energy loads met.

  Mr. Hastings stated that UAMPS members were not required to purchase their power and energy needs from UAMPS, but most members do. Currently EDAM purchases go into the Pool Project, as energy is collected on a day ahead and hour-to-hour basis by trading groups, and this process has been in practice for the last 40 years as part of the original Pooling agreement.

  He explained that BAs (Balancing Authorities) ensure voltage control and reliable power. Since UAMPS is in the PacifiCorp East BA, which covers most of Utah as well as parts of Idaho and Wyoming—it must now participate in EDAM because PacifiCorp joined EDAM on May 1, 2026. As a result, UAMPS is required to modernize the existing Pool Project Agreement. He emphasized that this was not an option on whether or not UAMPS would join EDAM, because every UAMPS member within each BA was by extension mandated to join EDAM. Because UAMPS has to follow certain requirements, its members have to follow those same requirements also.

  Mr. Hasting explained that the 1980 Pooling Agreement set up a basic framework for UAMPS members to buy, sell, and schedule power bilaterally, but due to modern computing systems and improved solutions the bilateral purchasing process was now outdated. The new amended and restated Pooling Agreement would be similar to the original agreement allowing flexibility to each UAMPS member, however, it would now include both bilateral and organized market transactions. The new agreement would also provide the ability for UAMPS members to opt out of certain provisions.

  He explained that in the bilateral environment, each entity's loads and resources were balanced individually, requiring manual, intensive work from traders. In the new centralized market, a single operator at CAISO (California Independent System Operator) can view all loads at once, allocate resources, and determine the most economical way to meet demands.

Ms. Coombs clarified how Murray Power currently matches its own available energy resources to its own energy load requirements on an hourly basis before reaching out to UAMPS to use the bilateral process. Under the new agreement, load requirements and resources would be separated, and instead of purchasing energy hour by hour, loads are met one day in advance. She explained how a Centralized Market agreement makes balancing loads with resources more manageable because energy would be pre-scheduled. Mr. Hasting reviewed how supply and demand would be met under the new day-ahead system.

Ms. Coombs stated that currently the Pool Project purchases the City's unused resources, shares them with other entities and provides for the City's load requirement. Now UAMPS would stack all resources, sell them to the market, then provide the City with the revenue from the market purchase and Murray Power would buy its load requirement from UAMPS, hopefully at the same cost.

Ms. Cotter asked what advantages or disadvantage under the new agreement. Ms. Coombs said the new process was put together for market rate benefits, so that operations were more cost efficient. Mr. Hastings agreed CAISO would be dispatching energy on a five-minute basis throughout the west and depending upon different renewable portfolios to generate profiles, CAISO would have more options to distribute power, while at the same time monitor in real time all load requirements throughout the west.

Mr. Hasting explained that under the new agreement, UAMPS would be authorized to make market purchases for up to a year in advance, without additional approval, in accordance with the Annual Purchase Plan. Each year, UAMPS would work with Murray Power to determine daily forecasted load requirements, assess forecasted energy generation from resources, identify any residual needs, and include these details in the Annual Purchase Plan.

Ms. Turner asked about the current process and whether the City would be losing any of its energy resources. Ms. Coombs explained that the City currently manages its own power supply, with UAMPS providing energy options and purchasing surplus power on a non-contractual basis. Under the new agreement, UAMPS would be contractually obligated to cover the City's load. She pointed out that the City could elect to opt out or withdraw their authorization for UAMPS to make purchases annually. If this was decided, Mr. Bellon would continue to contact UAMPS for power supply needs, who would buy specific resources for the City.

Ms. Coombs stated that the Pool offers buying power where energy is streamlined, purchases are made quickly, dispatchers evaluate price points more effectively and blocks of power can be purchased throughout an entire year to the fill the needs of UAMPS members. She felt this was a better process, and with the option to withdraw from the annual purchasing plan, Murray Power could still keep the same autonomy that it currently has.

Mr. Hock asked if the option to opt out was an annual decision. Mr. Hastings clarified that if the City opted in, the City would agree on the annual forecast, the annual procurement plan and that UAMPS would execute the purchasing, which would occur one day ahead.

In the opt out scenario, Mr. Bellon would ask UAMPS to purchase a number of megawatts month by month, hour by hour or for certain hours of the day or night throughout the entire year. Mr. Hasting said the current process was cumbersome, awkward and costly, due to quickly fluctuating market prices that occur while purchase decisions are being made before paper work was even completed. In the future opening prices would be seen and purchases would be executed faster. Ms. Coombs confirmed that Mr. Bellon would still be required to sign off on the forecasting process and by planning purchases together the most economic decisions would be made for the City.

Mr. Hock asked if all the City's resources would be included in the Pool Project. Ms. Coombs confirmed that all the City's energy resources would go into the market for centralized purchasing and the market would compensate the City for what is sold to other entities. The City would then use that revenue to buy its energy load requirement.

Mr. Bullen thought the new process could be more expensive because the City would be competing to buy less expensive energy that was previously being purchased by the Power Department. Mr. Hastings said the benefit would come through dispatchable resources, where less expensive purchases would be made automatically on the five minute basis. Murray Power would be instructed by the market on when certain resources would be more economic to operate.

Mr. Bellon confirmed that the City was mandated to approve the amended and restated Pool Agreement and the Council would consider the resolution in two weeks. Ms. Coombs explained that upon approval, the amended and restated Power Pooling Agreement would take effect on May 1, 2026. UAMPS would begin forecasting loads in October 2026 for the first Annual Purchase Plan, which must be adopted by December 15, 2026, which was when the City could opt-out of the annual purchasing plan. Ms. Turner asked how long would the agreement be in place. Mr. Youngs stated another 40 years.

Adjournment: 5:15 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III