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City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Council Chambers – Room No. 140
2600 W Taylorsville Blvd
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

ATTENDANCE

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Kristie S. Overson
Robert Knudsen, Council Chair
Curt Cochran, Council Vice Chair
Ernest Burgess, Council Member
Meredith Harker, Council Member
Anna Barbieri, Council Member

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Betsy Valora, Deputy City Recorder
Grant Allen, Senior Planner

Excused: Assistant City Administrator/Chief Financial Officer Scott Harrington and Chief of Strategic Engagement Dina Blaes

Others Present:

6:00 P.M. BRIEFING SESSION

1. Review Agenda

Chair Knudsen called the briefing session to order at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was conducted, and all council members were in attendance.

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the regular meeting. Regarding Agenda Item #1.2.1, Mayor Overson explained that no action would be required.

As for the Blackburn's who were being appointed to serve on the Public Safety committee, they could only commit until the summer when other commitments would take them out of state.

The Parks and Recreation committee would assist with the improvements being made on the north side of city hall, most likely on Saturday, April 25th.

2. Adjourn Meeting

The briefing session adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

42 **6:30 P.M. REGULAR MEETING**

43 **ATTENDANCE**

44 **Elected Officials Present**

45 Mayor Kristie S. Overson
46 Bob Knudsen, Council Chair
47 Curt Cochran, Council Vice Chair
48 Ernest Burgess, Council Member
49 Meredith Harker, Council Member
50 Anna Barbieri, Council Member

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Ben White, City Engineer
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Dir.
Grant Allen, Senior Planner
Betsy Valora, Dep. City Recorder
John Hiskey, Legislative Affairs

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55 **Excused:** Scott Harrington, Assistant City Administrator/Chief Financial Officer and Chief of
56 Strategic Engagement Dina Blaes

57
58 **Others Present:** Steven Kuhlemeir, Lynn Handy, Russell Goodman, Marissa Beckstrom, Kyrene
59 Gibb, Ken Donarski, Jason Wheeler, Alli Despain, and Nicholas Webster

60
61 **1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

62 Chair Knudsen called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.
63 A roll call was conducted wherein all council members were present.

64
65 **1.1 Opening Ceremonies-Pledge and Reverence**

66 Chair Knudsen led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, after which he shared a thought
67 from Gordon B. Hinckley about being good for something and contributing positively to the world.

68 **1.2 Mayor's Report**

69 Mayor Overson provided updates on recent city activities, including Chamber West's professional
70 development lunch where Economic Development Director Dina Blaes represented Taylorsville
71 alongside other economic development directors from member cities. The mayor highlighted the
72 collaborative spirit between west side cities and congratulated Barbara Riddle, Chamber West
73 CEO, on being named one of Utah's most accomplished professionals by Utah Business.

74 The mayor shared her participation in Calvin Smith Elementary's April Fool's Day joke, where she
75 was filmed in a video announcing the school would be renamed "Elementary Elementary" with a
76 mascot called "the school school."

77 She reported on the first Tourism, Recreation, Culture, and Convention (TRCC) board meeting of
78 the year, noting that applications for funding would begin the following month with submissions

79 due in June. The Youth Council partnered with the Exchange Club to place pinwheels representing
80 child abuse prevention awareness on 5400 South.

81 Mayor Overson discussed the challenge of bringing the city into compliance with new Americans
82 with Disabilities Act requirements and Department of Justice guidelines by April 24th. This
83 involved making all public-facing digital content accessible to people with disabilities, including
84 translation services for the city's diverse population where 25-30 percent spoke a language other
85 than English at home.

86 She thanked Captain Rich and Taylorsville fire stations for their quick response to a recent house
87 fire, emphasizing the importance of four-handed crews. The mayor also shared an amusing letter
88 from the Taylorsville, Kentucky police chief who regularly received calls intended for
89 Taylorsville, Utah.

90 **1.2.1 Announcement of Committee Chairs**

91 Mayor Overson announced the reappointment of committee chairs for 2026. Susan Holman will
92 continue to chair the Arts Council, Green Committee chaired by Mark Wendell, Historic
93 Preservation Committee by Susan Yadeskie, Parks and Rec Committee co-chaired by Mark*¹ and
94 Alli Despain, and Public Safety Committee by Tony Henderson. The mayor also recognized Lynn
95 Handy's transition from Budget Committee chair to committee member after serving as chair since
96 2010, with Cameron Kellett taking over as chair.

97 **1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events**

98 Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed upcoming city events.
99

100 **1.4 Public Comment**

101 Chair Knudsen opened the public comment period, noting that those interested in speaking during
102 the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) public hearing would be heard at that time.
103 There was no one who expressed a desire to speak.

104 **2. APPOINTMENTS**

105 **2.1 Appointment of Richard Blackburn and Sue Blackburn to the Public Safety** 106 **Committee – Mayor Overson**

107 Mayor Overson presented applications from Richard and Sue Blackburn to serve on the Public
108 Safety Committee.

109 **MOTION: Council Member Burgess moved to approve the appointment of Richard**
110 **Blackburn and Sue Blackburn to the Public Safety Committee. The motion was**
111 **seconded by Council Member Barbieri.**
112
113

¹ Kevin

114 **Council Member Harker** Yes
115 **Council Member Cochran** Yes
116 **Council Member Barbieri** Yes
117 **Chair Knudsen** Yes
118 **Council Member Burgess** Yes

119

120 **Motion Passed 5-0**

121

122 **3. REPORTS**

123

124 **3.1 Legislative Report²- *John Hiskey***

125 Legislative Affairs Consultant John Hiskey discussed UTA governance changes which would
126 expand the commission from three to seven members, with appointments from the senate, house,
127 and governor. The governor's appointments must consider recommendations from local councils
128 of government.

129 Property tax issues dominated discussions, with 39 entities having tax increases denied in 2025 for
130 procedural violations. Changes to truth-in-taxation procedures would require hearings *before*
131 budget adoption rather than after. A proposed 5% cap on tax increases failed by one vote in the
132 senate.

133 Among others, the following bills and their potential impact on Taylorsville were mentioned:

134 HB68: Housing and Community Development Amendments

135 HB492: Would establish a \$100 million state housing infrastructure partnership fund for system
136 infrastructure improvements.

137 SB232: Would require local legislative bodies to consider impacts on families when passing
138 ordinances

139 HB33: Political Sign Amendments

140 **3.2 Y2 Analytics – *Kyrene Gibb***

141 Y2 Analytics Partner and Vice President of Research Kyrene Gibb presented results from the
142 annual city survey with 415 respondents distributed across the five council districts. The survey
143 shifted to postcard and text message invitations, achieving good representation with a 4.8 percent
144 margin of error.

² Due to audio difficulties, the minutes on this agenda item may be incomplete.

145 Key findings showed 79 percent approval of elected officials and an overall quality of life rating
146 of 74 out of 100. A majority of residents believed the city was headed in the right direction, with
147 42 percent saying the city was better now than five years ago.

148 Top pressing issues identified were crime, taxes, and cost of living (a new focus area this year).
149 Residents prioritized city services including parks and trails, police services, surface maintenance
150 of streets and roads, and street lighting in budget allocation exercises.

151 Neighborhoods consistently received positive descriptions as quiet, safe, and friendly. Residents
152 felt safe in most activities, with some concerned about children attending public schools in the
153 city.

154 For police focus areas, traffic violations and road safety topped the list. Residents wanted an indoor
155 swimming pool, updated recreation center, and additional parks or biking trails.

156 Taylorsville Dayzz remained the most attended event, though many residents didn't hear about
157 events until afterward. There was strong interest in email notifications for better communication.

158 Service ratings showed fire and emergency medical services leading at 80 out of 100, followed by
159 garbage collection at 75 and police services at 72. Police service ratings had consistently improved
160 since bringing the department in-house.

161 **3.3 Salt Lake County Public Works – Steven Kuhlmeier**

162 Director of Public Works Operations Steven Kuhlmeier reported on the mild winter, showing
163 Taylorsville used only 142 tons of salt compared to the five-year average of 3440 tons. The warm
164 weather allowed crews to focus on pavement preservation, pothole repairs, crack sealing, street
165 sweeping, and right-of-way cleanup.

166 The 2026 pavement preservation plan included over one million square feet of work with extensive
167 slurry seal operations. Mill and overlay work required lowering utilities in advance, followed by
168 concrete collar installation to match road grades.

169 Residents would receive flyers one week before slurry seal work on their streets and again one day
170 prior. There would be a curing period during which the roads needed to remain closed in order to
171 prevent damage to the treatment.

172 Service request statistics for 2025 showed 183 responses, with street light maintenance accounting
173 for about half, followed by pothole fills. Average response time for potholes was typically much
174 faster than the 72-hour goal.

175 New tracking tools included snowplow tracker maps and street sweeping maps that showed service
176 history using GPS technology. A storm drain maintenance tool helped track five-year cleaning
177 cycles and guide future surveys.

178 **3.4 Parks & Recreation Committee – Alli Despain**

179 Alli Despain, the new Parks and Recreation Committee co-chair, reported on the successful
180 inaugural Boo Dash event, though the committee was considering instituting a small registration
181 fee to reduce no-shows. The committee conducted park assessments across all city parks,
182 evaluating amenities and identifying needed repairs or improvements. The committee received a
183 Healthy City award from Salt Lake County for their work promoting active lifestyles through
184 events like the Boo Dash.

185 Upcoming activities included helping plant trees at city hall with vouchers from Rocky Mountain
186 Power, hosting another Ride, Roll and Stroll event, and implementing a "Get Outside Summer
187 Bingo" program to increase event awareness. The Bingo cards would feature various city events
188 and activities, with prizes for completion. The Bingo cards would be available at Starry Nights and
189 Ride, Roll, and Stroll.

190 **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

191 **4.1 Minutes of March 18, 2026 City Council Meeting**

192

193 **MOTION: Council Member Harker moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2026**
194 **meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Burgess.**

195

196 **Council Member Burgess** Yes

197 **Council Member Harker** Yes

198 **Council Member Cochran** Yes

199 **Chair Knudsen** Yes

200 **Council Member Barbieri** Yes

201

202 **Motion Passed 5-0**

203

204 **5. PLANNING MATTERS**

205 There were no planning matters on the agenda.

206

207 **6. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

208 **6.1 Public Hearing Accept and Consider Public Comment for Funding Priorities for**
209 **the 2026-2027 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME**
210 **Programs – *Grant Allen & Ken Donarski***

211 Senior Planner Grant Allen explained the requirement for public comment on CDBG applications.
212 In addition to that evening's hearing, there was a 30-day public comment period that would soon
213 begin, with results compiled for the May 20th council meeting.

214 Ken Donarski explained that tonight's hearing was an opportunity for those who had submitted
215 applications to seek support for those applications and why they should be funded. The final
216 decision would be made by the Council.

217 Chair Knudsen opened the public hearing.

218 Russell Goodman from Community Development Corporation of Utah requested \$120,000 to
219 acquire land for a community land trust, which would enable building single-family homes for
220 households at or below 80 percent area median income with capped appreciation to maintain long-
221 term affordability.

222 Marissa Beckstrom from The Road Home thanked the city for continued CDBG support for
223 homeless resource center programs serving 80 percent of Salt Lake County's year-round shelter
224 beds, noting increased demand.

225 Jason Wheeler from ASSIST Community Design Center described their emergency home repair
226 and accessibility retrofit program that helped approximately 30 Taylorsville homeowners annually
227 stay in their homes by providing critical repairs and modifications.

228 Nicholas Webster from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah explained their mentoring programs for
229 at-risk youth aged 6-18, noting they served 892 youth in 2025, with 80 percent from low- to
230 moderate-income homes and 50 percent living in poverty.

231 There was no one else who expressed a desire to speak, so Chair Knudsen closed the public
232 hearing.

233

234 **7. OTHER MATTERS**

235 There were no "other" matters on the agenda.

236

237 **8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)**

238 Council Member Harker asked for clarification about website accessibility requirements that had
239 been mentioned earlier. Mayor Overson and City Attorney Tracy Cowdell explained the new
240 Americans with Disabilities Act compliance involved creating toggles and tools to make website
241 content accessible to people with various disabilities through features like text-to-speech, font
242 adjustment, and simplified layouts. The requirements stemmed from federal law and Department
243 of Justice guidelines, with artificial intelligence helping provide translation and accessibility
244 features.

245 **9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS**

246 Chair Knudsen reviewed the dates and times of upcoming planning commission and city council
247 meetings.

248

249 **10. CLOSED SESSION (Conference Room 202)**

250 There was no need for a closed session.

251

252 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

253

254 **MOTION: Council Member Barbieri moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by**
255 **Council Member Burgess and Chair Knudsen declared the meeting closed.**

256

257 The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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261 **Jamie Brooks, MMC**

262 **City Recorder**

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264 *Minutes Prepared with the Aid of HeyGov Artificial Intelligence*

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