

**IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 23, 2026**

Minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. March 23, 2026 in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Kenneth Robinson	Commission Chair
Michael Bleak	Commissioner
Paul Cozzens	Commissioner
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

Lucas Little	County Auditor
Nichole Rosenberg	County Treasurer
Terry Palmer	Building & Zoning/Planning
Richard Wilson	Chief Engineer
Sam Woodall	Deputy Attorney
David Johnson	Economic Development
George Colson	Emergency Management
Jennifer Bradbury	HR Director
Bruce Anderson	Public Works

Others in Attendance:

Gary Bezzart	Dax Mangus	Bruce McDonald
MaKayla Roundy	Valerie Smith	Barbara Sugarman
Bruce Washburn		

SYNOPSIS

ADJOURNMENT 6

ANNUAL PILT PAYMENT/WMA REPORT/UPD REPORT..... 4

APPROVAL OF CLAIM FOR PAYMENT 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS..... 2

INVOCATION 2

NON-DELEGATED ITEMS..... 6

PERSONNEL 5

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE..... 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS 3

PROCLMATION 2026-3, APRIL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH 4

SEWER UPSIZE COSTS SHARE PERCENTAGE..... 5

TAX INCREMENT REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR SOLAR FARMS..... 5

INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Bruce Anderson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the pledge of allegiance by Michael Bleak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting held on March 9, 2026. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Claims for Payment from March 9, 2026, to March 22, 2026. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Terry Palmer, Iron County Planning/Building & Zoning Administrator, reported that as of March 23rd, 101 permits had been issued and 90 permits were issued to new dwellings. Building and Zoning completed 116 Project Reviews, conducted 1,051 inspections (stops). Terry noted that AMPAC was in the middle of an expansion. There were several industrial projects in the construction process; the BZI sewer and lift station was nearly complete, and Frank Nichols had three industrial shell buildings under construction. Terry reported that the Sheriff's Complex was proceeding forward. There were issues with Layton Construction regarding scheduling and proceeding without inspections from Iron County. He listed upcoming Major Projects, and the Code Enforcement personal were busy trying to work with different land owners to clean up their projects. Terry reported that the budget was on track. He explained that the Planning Commission was considering placing the Data Center Ordinance and the Solar PV Farm Ordinance on the agenda for review and possible modification. Terry reported on Building Maintenance. Work continued at the Iron County Fairgrounds, the Cedar City Senior Center, the diamond block around the Justice Center Building, and the backfilling of the dirt. There was a discussion regarding the steel building that Al Matheson (SWHA) was donating to Iron County, and visiting a Data Center.

Richard Wilson, Iron County Engineer, reported that Sunrise Engineering was selected to manage the Iron Springs Road Project, and the High-T onto Iron Springs Road for UDOT. Richard noted that he had received an MOU with BZI for a contributing share, which would be a significant offset to Iron County's contribution/in-kind share (\$500K) of the Iron Springs Road. The projected start date for the project was in June, and it was going out to bid for construction on Friday, March 27th. He explained that the High-T was the intersection of Iron Springs Road and Hwy 56. It was a signalized intersection, which meant that there would be dedicated turn lanes, through lanes, and a traffic light. He noted that the intersection had been in plans for at least 5 years. Richard reported that Brian Norton was hired as a Full-Time Sign Technician, and would go through a month or two of integrated training from Martin Olaya, Engineer Sign Tech. He noted that Brian also had a CDL License, which would be a benefit for the department. Richard reported that the department continued to be busy with all that had to be done. They were working on the BZI 30" pipeline and lift station. The lift station was 95% complete. He noted that maintenance of the channels with water control from the mountain had lessened flood issues because of the lack of rain.

Bruce Anderson, Iron County Public Works Director, reported on the Road Department projects, which included: working on road materials bidding, bidding on the Survey of Gold Springs Road, working on 5600 West in Beryl on Kevin Woods road, bladed the infield at the Fairground, crushing at the Parowan Landfill with a rented crusher, East Buckhorn frontage was ready to chip, and there would be a crew to begin skim patching within the next month. Bruce noted that the budget was on track, and the department was down one position;

interviews would be held on Thursday. Bruce reported on the Landfill projects: He and Jeremy Truman attended the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) training, and the main topic was the issue with lithium batteries. There was a discussion regarding the lithium batteries; the state DEQ was performing a recycle survey; Iron Springs Road was cleaned with the help of Thayne and VIPs; he would be getting the water sample tomorrow; the water pull was up and running; and fires at the landfill from lithium batteries continued to be an issue. Bruce noted that the landfill was fully staffed and reported on the statistics for the landfill. The Iron County Landfill, as well as other landfills, continued to increase work from construction across the state. Bruce expressed his appreciation for his crew.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he toured the new Sheriff Complex and the construction continued to progress. He attended the E&I meeting in St. George, where Senator Vickers and Congresswoman Maloy reported, attended the Cedar/Beaver Watershed meeting, the UAC Board meeting, his Caucus meeting, and the Planning Commission's Public Hearing regarding the Data Center, which was a three-hour meeting.

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he met with Nicole Rosenberg, Iron County Treasurer, regarding the tax implications for the different projects. Mike met with Nicole, Luke Little, Iron County Auditor, and the ICSD to discuss the tax implications of upcoming projects in Iron County. Mike reported that he heard from a constituent who was concerned about all the building and development west of Cedar City, with past nuclear testing and radiation concerns. They had a good discussion on some things that Iron County might be able to do to ensure development was being done in a safe manner. He had a meeting with the Cedar City/Iron County Fire Department and the entities' Fire Chiefs regarding their fiscal year budget, and he noted that Iron County contributed 41% of the Budget. Mike met with Child Abuse Utah, which was on the agenda. He had been invited to present at the Inland Port Authority Conference in Salt Lake City; spoke at the Ribbon Cutting of the new Emergency/Imaging Center at the Cedar City Hospital; met with Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office to address security concerns with the different infrastructure in Iron County, which included power and water; had met with David Johnson, Economic Development Director, site selectors, region representatives, and different municipalities, and had a site visit on the "Lucy" Project. Mike noted that he was asked to have a follow-up meeting regarding Project Lucy on Friday. He reported that Project Lucy would be bringing their project to Iron County, which would bring approximately 160 technical jobs to Iron County. The owner of the company decided to bring the project to Iron County because of the kindness of the people in Iron County.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commissioner, met with the Forest Service after the previous commission meeting regarding their plans for the year. The Governor signed a Co-Management Agreement with the Forest Service, but he was not sure of the meaning, only that Utah would help manage the forest. Ken had a Weed Board meeting with Amber Hatch, Weed Supervisor, and the different entities to discuss the year's plan and the progress of grant applications. He attended the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) and the Water Conservation District #3 in St. George and had dinner with the Director and Vice Chair of UDAF. He and Paul Cozzens spoke with the Director of Agriculture regarding some compensation for damage to the two farms in Parowan by the UPD. Congresswoman Maloy's office was working on getting compensation. Ken attended his area caucus meeting, and a Community Leaders event, where he was on a panel answering questions from the community. Ken reported that while he was with the UDAF officers, they talked about drought relief, he was told that if Iron County created a Drought Declaration, it would open loans through the state for transportation of feed and water for local agriculture producers. He explained the process of getting the loans. Hopefully, the commission could have that declaration on the next commission agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were offered.

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL PILT PAYMENT, FISHERIES PRESENTATION, AND UPD PRESENTATION FROM THE STATE OF UTAH

Dax Mangus, Regional Utah DWR Supervisor, presented the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payment to the commissioners for \$2,515.35. He expressed that it was great to work with Cedar City and the Commissioners. Dax noted that he was new to the position and anyone was welcome to call or email him at (435)790-5320 or daxmangus@utah.gov. Dax turned the time over to MaKayla Roundy.

MaKayla Roundy, Aquatics Biologist Division for the DWR, reported on the Yankee Meadows Wildlife Management Area (WMA). MaKayla reported on the Habitat Management Plan Review; listed the stakeholders who were presented with the review; what was included in the WMA Plan; and the Advisory Reviewers. She reported on the General Yankee Meadows WMA information, which included the acreage, purpose, and establishment; popular species in the WMA; annual maintenance on the WMA; Habitat concerns; the WMA Access Management; the 2025 WMA User Survey Results of the overall residency by state, and Utah residency by county visiting from Memorial Day through Labor Day. MaKayla noted that the Fisheries Management Goals were: 1. Resilient Fishery, 2. Family-Oriented angling, and 3. Aquatic invasive species protection. MaKayla turned the time over to Barbara Sugarman.

Barbara Sugarman, DWR Utah Prairie Dog (UPD) Recovery Biologist, reported on the Parowan Valley UPD Habitat Management Plan. Barbara explained that the UPD was a Federally Listed Species and that the DWR had no management authority (e.g., rules and regulations). She noted that the USFW managed the authority. The DWR could only make habitat management plans that affect the property itself. Barbara reported on the Habitat Management Process (HMP) and Plan; Stakeholders; statistics on the Parowan Valley and a map of the WMA area; listed other species of wildlife in the Parowan Valley; and the current conditions of the WMA. Barbara noted that 2 Habitat concerns were the UPD establishment on neighboring property and vegetation. There was a discussion regarding the large count of the UPD on the property of Adams and Halterman, and a possible solution. She reported on the Habitat Management and improvements, and the Annual Maintenance Plan for the Parowan Valley WMA.

Dax Mangus explained that if the commissioners wanted to respond to the WMA plan after they reviewed it, there were two ways they could do that. One was to respond directly, or it would soon go through the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC), and Iron County was welcomed to comment through the RDCC process.

UPDATE ON THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No one was present to report on the agenda item.

PROCLAMATION 2026-3, DECLARING APRIL AS THE CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, reported that Child Abuse Utah was a non-profit organization that worked with the Attorney General's Office, had a very strong lobby in the Legislature, worked closely with Children's Justice Centers, and other agencies to help prevent child abuse. Mike noted that they reached out to him to see if Iron County was willing to declare April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. This proclamation included an Outreach Program primarily in Northern Utah that has home visits for support to victims of child abuse. Moving forward, the Outreach Program was going to expand to Iron County and coordinate with all the municipalities in Iron County.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Proclamation 2026-3, declaring April as the Child Abuse Awareness Month. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

CONVENE AS THE IRON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL AGENCY (ICCD&RA)

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the convening of the ICCD&RA.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2025 INCREMENT PAYMENT FOR THE RED HILLS RENEWABLES, BERYL SOLAR, BUCKHORN SOLAR, CEDAR VALLEY SOLAR, FIDDLER'S CANYON SOLAR, ENTERPRISE SOLAR, GRANITE MOUNTAIN SOLAR EAST, GRANITE MOUNTAIN SOLAR WEST, IRON SPRINGS SOLAR, SUN EDISON PHASE 1, AND APPALOOSA SOLAR 1 COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREAS

David Johnson, Iron County Economic Development Director, reported that the listed Solar CRAs had met all the requirements by the April 1st deadline, and recommended approval. Terry Palmer, Building & Zoning Administrator, noted that Red Hills Renewables Solar was not in compliance with vegetation management. David noted that he was unaware of the issue and would check into it.

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Increment Payment for the Solar Community Reinvestment Areas, subject to follow up on the Red Hills Solar vegetation management to be compliant. Second by. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

RECONVENE AS THE IRON COUNTY COMMISSION

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the resumption of the Iron County Commission.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF COST SHARE PERCENTAGE FOR SEWER UPSIZE COSTS BETWEEN IRON COUNTY AND CEDAR CITY

Richard Wilson, Iron County Engineer, reported that the Engineer Department had been working for several years with BZI while they were upsizing important sewer installations. The two items were a sewer line and a lift station. During the course of their meetings, it was decided to separate the sewer from the lift station. Richard noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was written for the upsizing costs of the 30-inch line between Iron County and Cedar City. Of the \$1.2M for the upsizing, 37.7% was Iron County's share, and 62.3% for Cedar City. He explained the purpose of the upsizing cost. Sam Woodall, Iron County Deputy Attorney, explained the payment process. He noted that this was for the 30-inch pipe, and the lift station would come later. Jon Whittaker expressed concern. The commissioners had been aware of nine postage-stamp Public Infrastructure District (PIDs). This was an infrastructure, and he wanted to make sure that when the taxes were collected under the PIDs, and BZI would be paying an additional levy inside the PIDs, that Iron County was reimbursed. Richard noted that it was also a concern of theirs. Danny Stewart, Inland Port Authority Associate Vice-President, attended their recent meeting with Cedar City, and he explained the portion of the percentages which would go toward the infrastructure. He explained that a company was hired to develop a Capital Facilities Plan, a portion of that was sewer. There was a discussion on impact fees.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the Cost Share percentage for sewer upsize costs, as presented. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

PERSONNEL

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, presented the new hire of Jesse Hehn as a Full-Time Deputy, for the Sheriff's Department – Patrol, effective March 30th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the promotions of Anna Teeples and Dared O'Mealy from a Full-Time Deputy 3 to Corporal in the Sheriff's Department – Patrol, effective March 15; bilingual pay for Dallin Linginfelter in the Sheriff's Department – Patrol, effective March 15th; the new hire of Spencer Gail as a Full-Time Deputy for the Sheriff's Department - Corrections,

effective March 29th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the promotion of Matthew Malachowski from a Full-Time Corporal to Sergeant for the Sheriff's Department - Corrections, effective March 15th; the promotion of Pierce Robinson from Deputy to Corporal for the Sheriff's Department – Corrections, effective March 15th; the new hire of Terry Keys as a Part-Time Meals on Wheels Driver in Cedar City for the Council on Aging, effective April 7th; the new hire of Brian Norton as a Full-Time Sign Technician in the Engineer Department, effective March 30. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the new hire of Boston Miles as a Full-Time Technician in the I.T. Department, effective April 13th. This was a backfill of a vacant position.

Kenneth Robinson made a motion to approve Personnel changes as presented by Jennifer Bradbury. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

Jennifer Bradbury presented a modification to the position description of the Community Wildfire Specialist, effective March 15th, for the Emergency Management Department, and an adjustment to the pay scale for Cassie Meredith. Mike Bleak reported that the position description was for a Public Information Officer (PIO) for Cassie Meredith. Jennifer read the modification to the position description.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the modification to the position description of the Community Wildfire Specialist, and to adjust the pay scale for Cassie Meredith to include additional tasks as outlined in Position Description Modification for the Emergency Department, effective March 15th. Second by Kenneth Robinson. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

NON-DELEGATED ITEMS

Boards:

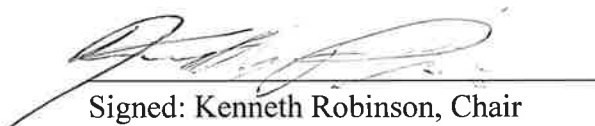
Paul Cozzens made a motion to appoint Don Williams as a member of the Iron County Weed Board as requested by Amber Hatch, Iron County Weed Specialist. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

David Johnson read the members to the Cedar City & Iron County Economic Development Committee, and the Iron County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board. He explained the responsibilities of the Opportunity Advisory Board and the Development Committee. Daisy Burns was hired as an Economic Development Coordinator.

Michael Bleak made a motion to appoint the members to the Iron County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board and to appoint Michael Bleak as the Iron County Commission representative on the Cedar City & Iron County Economic Development Committee. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared adjournment.


Signed: Kenneth Robinson, Chair


Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk

