

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.

6:30 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Kristie S. Overson
Bob 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
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

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

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

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

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

1.1 Opening Ceremonies-Pledge and Reverence

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

1.2 Mayor's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.2.1 Announcement of Committee Chairs

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

1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed upcoming city events.

1.4 Public Comment

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

2. APPOINTMENTS

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

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

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

¹ Kevin

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| Council Member Harker | Yes |
| Council Member Cochran | Yes |
| Council Member Barbieri | Yes |
| Chair Knudsen | Yes |
| Council Member Burgess | Yes |

Motion Passed 5-0

3. REPORTS

3.1 Legislative Report²- *John Hiskey*

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

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

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

HB68: Housing and Community Development Amendments

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

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

HB33: Political Sign Amendments

3.2 Y2 Analytics – *Kyrene Gibb*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.3 Salt Lake County Public Works – *Steven Kuhlmeier*

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

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

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

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

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

3.4 Parks & Recreation Committee – *Alli Despain*

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

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes of March 18, 2026 City Council Meeting

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

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| Council Member Burgess | Yes |
| Council Member Harker | Yes |
| Council Member Cochran | Yes |
| Chair Knudsen | Yes |
| Council Member Barbieri | Yes |

Motion Passed 5-0

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters on the agenda.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

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

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

Chair Knudsen opened the public hearing.

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

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

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

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

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

7. OTHER MATTERS

There were no "other" matters on the agenda.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

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

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

10. CLOSED SESSION (Conference Room 202)

There was no need for a closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Jamie Brooks, MMC
City Recorder

Minutes Prepared with the Aid of HeyGov Artificial Intelligence



Approved 04/15/26