

**STATE OF UTAH
COUNTY OF SEVIER
TOWN OF ANNABELLA**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2026**

Minutes from the Annabella Town Council Meeting held Thursday, April 9, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, located at 295 East 300 North, Annabella, Utah. Mayor John Chartier conducting.

1. ROLL CALL. Mayor John Chartier called the meeting to order and confirmed the presence Councilmembers Kelvin Johns, Christopher Nielson, and Stephanie Morgan. Councilmember Louis Brown was excused.

2. OPENING REMARKS. Mayor Chartier offered the opening prayer.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Johns.

4. CITIZEN INPUT. There was not any citizen input.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The minutes were reviewed and discussed for approval. **Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Councilmember Johns and seconded by Councilmember Nielson. The motion carried unanimously.**

6. APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER. **Motion to accept the warrant register as printed was made by Councilmember Nielson and seconded by Councilmember Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.**

7. CONSIDER APPROVING REQUEST FROM ERIC AND TAMARA ROBERTS TO PURCHASE TWO ADDITIONAL CEMETERY PLOTS. Tina Mitchell explained that Eric and Tamara Roberts currently own four cemetery plots and are requesting two additional ones. The cemetery policy allows up to four plots per household, with additional plots requiring Council approval. The additional plots would be located next to their existing plots.

Councilmember Nielson clarified the policy regarding plot ownership and resale restrictions. If plots are unused and families no longer need them, they must be sold back to the Town at the original purchase price rather than on the open market. It was noted that residents pay \$300 per plot and non-residents pay \$600. **Motion: Councilmember Nielson moved to approve the Roberts request to purchase two additional cemetery plots. Councilmember Kelvin Johns seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

8. YOUTH COUNCIL BUSINESS. The Youth Council shared several updates and requests. Kayla Johns explained that, due to a scheduling conflict, they will

be shifting their planned Mother's Day boutique to a Movie Night on May 8th. They are considering mother-themed films such as *Freaky Friday* or *Brave*. Food trucks would begin serving at 5:00 PM, with the movie starting around 8:30 PM, once it is dark. The event will use the Youth Council's newly purchased projector, screen, and popcorn machine.

For their annual t-shirts, the Youth Council proposed opening a public design contest rather than offering multiple pre-selected designs. The theme would center on patriotism and America's 250th anniversary, creating a limited-edition shirt for this year's celebration.

They also discussed participating in Town Cleanup Week during the dumpster availability period (April 27–May 4). They plan to coordinate with local wards to help with any service projects during that time.

Councilmember Nielson asked if they could help set up flags for Memorial Day. Kayla will check to see how many Youth Council members are available to help.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE UTAH PROJECTS PORTAL AND POTENTIAL CIB PROJECT SUBMISSIONS, INCLUDING STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS. Tyler Timmons, R6, explained the timeline for CIB (Community Impact Board) project submissions. Projects must be on the priority list by May 1st to be eligible for funding applications, which can be submitted June 1st, October 1st, or February 1st. Annabella's water project is currently on the medium-term (2-5 year) list, while storm drainage improvements are also on the medium-term list.

Mayor Chartier reported on a recent letter from the canal company outlining several requirements that would need to be met before they are willing to consider working with the Town to allow storm drainage as part of their project; requirements that do not offer a viable or mutually workable solution. As a result, Mayor Chartier requested that the storm drainage project be moved to the one-year list, so it is eligible for emergency funding if needed.

The current cost estimate is \$1.5 million, though the actual cost may be closer to \$2.5–3 million. Tyler Timmons noted that the CIB is flexible regarding cost estimates between the application stage and the final project.

The Council also discussed adding improvements to the parking lot west of the Community Center to the 2 to 5-year list, noting that this project is a lower priority given the Town's current water situation.

Timmons provided an update on the pickleball grant, which was submitted and should receive a decision by late May.

10. DISCUSSION OF THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR. Tina Mitchell, presented the preliminary budget to the Council. The draft features additional line items designed to improve tracking of revenue

generated from specific community events, such as the Fourth of July celebration and the Pheasant Hunters Dinner. Previously, income from these events was included in the park rent category, which made it more difficult to monitor event-specific financial data.

The budget also allocates funds for Shane Phelps to pursue his water certification. Upon successful certification, Shane Phelps will become eligible for employee benefits, including medical insurance and participation in the Utah retirement program.

Specific projects include sealing the lower culinary tank lid, irrigation valve replacements, and pond screen repairs. The budget maintains the standard 3% annual raise for employees.

Mitchell will reach out to Council members individually for input. A public hearing will be set at the May meeting, with final adoption scheduled for June.

11. DISCUSS RESERVOIR WATER LEVELS AND IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY ALONG WITH POSSIBLE UPDATES TO CURRENT WATER RESTRICTIONS. Maintenance Supervisor, Eric Nielsen, reported alarming developments with the upper culinary well. Despite running it only a few times since starting the irrigation system for the season, the well is already hitting its safety shutoff point. The static water level has dropped from 253 feet to 254 feet after pumping only 500,000 gallons over two weeks—a concerning one-foot drop in the aquifer.

He noted that the electronic probe system was recalibrated last year and is functioning correctly, confirming that the well is genuinely drawing down to dangerous levels. This is occurring with only the upper well running; the lower well hasn't been activated yet. Last year, similar shutoffs only occurred when both wells were running simultaneously.

Nielsen reported that mountain water sources are in dire condition. The reservoirs are barely touching the outflow gauge when they should be halfway up at this time of year. Based on historical data, the irrigation system used 110 million gallons last season, with 87 million coming from mountain sources. With virtually no mountain water available this year, the system is severely compromised. Nielsen estimated they may have only three weeks of water in the mountain reservoirs, and even that may be optimistic given current conditions.

The Council engaged in detailed discussion about operational adjustments including:

- Reducing pump flow rates from 450 to 350-400 gallons per minute using variable frequency drives
- Tightening tank operating bandwidth to preserve spring water and reduce well pumping cycles

After discussion regarding implementation timing and public education, the Council settled on new restrictions. Councilmember Nielson noted his concern about changing policies too frequently, having just implemented restrictions when the pressurized irrigation was turned on.

The discussion revealed the severity of the situation: the Town faces water shortages on both culinary and irrigation systems simultaneously, eliminating the usual option of supplementing one system with the other. Nielsen emphasized this is unprecedented in his four years with Annabella and possibly the worst conditions longtime residents have ever seen.

Motion: Councilmember Johns made a motion to implement water restrictions that would prohibit outside watering for two consecutive days (Thursday and Friday), while allowing residents to select any two of the remaining days of the week for outside watering. The motion failed due to the absence of a second.

Motion: Councilmember Nielson made a motion to implement water restrictions with no outside watering for two consecutive days (Thursday and Friday), allowing residents to choose any three of the remaining days of the week for watering, with strong recommendations to reduce usage as much as possible. Restrictions will be revisited at each Town Council meeting based on current data and conditions. Councilmember Stephanie Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the watering restrictions, including no outside watering between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and no watering during windy or rainy conditions, will remain in place. It was also noted that automatic sprinkler systems may run only one cycle per day on the selected watering days.

The Council agreed to develop a comprehensive public education campaign including a detailed mailing to all residents, Annalert notifications with links to explanatory information, and signage at the Post Office. The mailing will be prepared by Monday and sent out Tuesday to reach residents by Wednesday/Thursday, with restrictions beginning the following Monday, April 20th.

12. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS:

PARKS AND BUILDINGS

Councilmember Morgan reported that the Town is in the process of obtaining bids for new doors and a larger entry to the storage room at the Community Center. The Town has received one bid so far, Tina Mitchell will follow up with the two remaining contractors so the project can move forward.

Councilmember Morgan mentioned plans to remove some pine trees around Community Center that are obstructing signage and appear unsightly.

ACTIVITIES

It was noted that Victoria Singleton and Kaylon Johns have volunteered to help with Annabella's 4th of July celebration, which will integrate America's 250th anniversary.

CEMETERY

Councilmember Nielson discussed concerns about the need for a cemetery headstone and memorial policy. He shared examples from other communities where inappropriate content, including offensive messages and other non-traditional elements have created conflicts. While Annabella's current policy includes size and placement restrictions, it lacks provisions regarding content appropriateness.

Councilmember Nielson noted that other communities have policies stating "No words or images may be engraved on a memorial that would be considered profane or offensive to the general public." He expressed concern about potential future conflicts given the substantial cost of headstones (\$7,000-10,000) and the legal complications that could arise if inappropriate memorials are installed before policies are established.

Councilmember Nielson will research local policies and draft appropriate language for consideration for the Council to review.

ROADS

No items for discussion.

WATER

This topic was covered extensively under the water restrictions agenda item.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Officer Murdock reported that he had spoken with the father of the youth responsible for leaving motorcycle tire marks under the pavilion at the Community Center. The father confirmed they would bring a pressure washer to clean the marks and would work with the youth to reinforce the importance of not damaging public property.

14. ADJOURN. At 8:12 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Nielson. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried unanimously.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held Thursday, April 9, 2026 were approved this 14th day of May, 2026.

John Chartier, Mayor

Tina Mitchell, Town Clerk