



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION – MOAB CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

**Moab City Council Chambers
217 East Center St., Moab, Utah**

**MINUTES
17 April 2026**

The Grand County Commission and Moab City Council met in a special joint meeting on April 17th, 2026. The meeting was held in-person in the Moab City Council Chambers. Attending the meeting in-person were Commission Chair Melodie McCandless, Commission Vice-Chair Bill Winfield and Commissioners Trish Hedin, Jacques Hadler, Mary McGann, Brian Martinez and Mike McCurdy, along with Mayor Joette Langianese and Moab City Councilfolk Kaitlin Myers, Miles Loftin, Jason Taylor, Colin Topper, and Tawny Knuteson-Boyd.

Chair McCandless called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

1. UMTRA Site Discussion

a. Site Futures

Overview and update given by Commissioner McGann and Saxon Sharpe of the UMTRA Site Futures Committee regarding the status of the tailings pile and work done by the site futures committee, including an introduction of the public planning process initiated in 2012, the mission and vision of the committee formed at that time, benefits of establishing a community vision, the 10 principles for site design and implementation established by the committee, existing site constraints, community vision map resulting from formal outreach efforts, and a discussion regarding proposed infrastructure to remain.

Mayor Langianese specified that a land transfer to Grand County would follow completion, with as of yet unknown deed restrictions, and with the County to work closely with the City regarding future development. Langianese added that conversation with legacy management regarding future development has been sparse, to date, but that urgency should be applied to implementation of any infrastructure. Commissioner McGann added that Legacy Management only serves to monitor the site once remediation is complete.

Councilperson Topper asked how the rail lines figured in to the future site development, with Langianese highlighting the desire for the current Rocky Mountaineer line to be able to use the Union Pacific rail line in order to extend service directly into Moab.

b. Memorandum of Understanding Between Grand County and Moab City Atlas Park

Mayor Langianese introduced this topic by addressing a potential effort to design a master plan for the future site in anticipation of completion in 2029, an effort for which a dedicated staff member could be hired. City Manager Michael Black spoke to the draft MOU which would serve to develop a concept, an effort that potentially could garner DOE grant funds designed to serve underprivileged communities impacted by energy related mining, and which would first require completion of transfer to local ownership. Commissioner McGann stated that the federal bill designed to transfer ownership to Grand County could

potentially move swiftly. Mayor Langianese stated that if there is draft legislation already in Congress, then perhaps the proposed funding mechanisms would already be available.

Councilperson Myers questioned whether a staff planning effort would appropriately be led by the County if the County were the one to assume formal ownership. Commissioner Martinez referenced the Green River pipeline and its potential availability to future development at the site, and stressed that generally the site futures effort would be a liability until it could be considered an asset after realization of future development.

2. Prospective Planning Efforts

a. Main Street Sidewalk Installation - Liquor Store to City Limits

City Manager Michael Black explained that UDOT approached Moab City about construction of a sidewalk to service the new State Liquor Store, where there is currently a 675-foot sidewalk gap that abuts Grand County boundaries, with an estimate currently at \$75,000 for completion of the project, not including curb, gutter, and drainage. Clarification given that no effect to private property would result from this construction.

UDOT District Engineer Dan Hinckley gave an overview of UDOT's commitment to the project, which would include the curb, gutter, and drainage aspects, with an estimate for that aspect currently at \$65,000, which is work that would be reimbursed to the local entities and included in a consolidated scope of work and associated project. County Engineer Sean Yates explained that the project scope could potentially be included with the Jackson Street drainage project via change order, a project which is set to commence in 2026. Black stated that he would not wish for this project to delay the Jackson Street project, or vice versa.

Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall explained that the Commission would be finalizing the scope of the Jackson Street project within the next month, and at that time it would be clear if this sidewalk job could be included. Black explained that the standalone project would likely go out to bid in late June early July. Langianese expressed urgency with the Liquor Store already open. Commission Vice-Chair Winfield confirmed that the County would only be responsible for the design portion and project management under the currently contemplated arrangement.

3. Economic Development

a. Moab Area Partnership for Seniors Project (MAPS)

Mayor Langianese gave an overview of the Canyonlands Healthcare Special Service District Master Plan for the area adjacent to the hospital, with the primary goal being independent senior housing and the establishment of lower maintenance housing options to the aging local population, with the possibility for some new commercial retail spaces integrated into the neighborhood. Mayor Langianese explained that the Walnut Lane neighborhood could be considered as part of future development, and discussed other specific ideas in the current plan.

Chair McCandless stressed her current efforts to champion the effort to serve the senior population through housing and other services, stating that the strongest concern in the community is the challenge for people to stay in this community as they age. Discussion regarding current efforts to seek public input regarding how best to serve the aging population. Commissioner Martinez advocated for data via the needs assessment process as an important way to garner State funding for such efforts.

b. Downtown Plan Update

City Manager Michael Black gave an overview of Moab City's current approach to the Downtown Plan, with a current Master Plan from 2017 requiring an update. Black described the approach to a unified vision, safety, infrastructure needs, and other comprehensive planning. Black used a map to identify likely nodes that exist and could be further developed in the downtown area, identified current accomplishments, and referenced a current grant application for funding to support the current planning process. At present, the County could form part of a multi-jurisdictional committee to facilitate the appropriate collaboration.

Commissioner Martinez sought clarification that this planning process would be well integrated into the City's current Land Use Code update. Martinez expressed the need to prioritize spaces for tourism-related business to develop and grow, with it being such a vital economic driver. Black explained that the outfitter designation for the C3 zone is currently included as part of the City's planning process. Commissioner McCurdy stressed the importance of the Spanish Valley Drive Multi-Use Pathway for general connectivity to the downtown core. Black explained that the downtown plan and any associated committees would look to be initiated in June.

c. Moab Golf Course Studies

City Manager Michael Black and County Economic Development Director Melisa Jeffers lead a broad discussion regarding the effort for recognizing and establishing the Moab Golf Course as an asset to the wider community. Black explained that a Lease and Master Plan update are currently being worked on by the private golf course, with technical support from both the City and County so that it can maintain its health well into the future. The course currently holds a no cost lease unless it makes money along with a lower water rate, with well water not available under certain drought conditions. Intentional Strategic vision and investment will be needed to keep the golf course operating long term. Commissioner Martinez identified the golf course as an important economic driver for tourists and locals alike. Commission Vice Chair Winfield expressed interest in seeing user data related to the Moab golf course, which the current planning process will work to illuminate. Black explained that results of current planning efforts are slated to be completed in summer of 2026.

4. City/County Water Conservation Plan

Commissioner Martinez led a discussion regarding current efforts to conserve water under severe drought conditions. Martinez referenced watersavers.com for individual household conservation, state grant availability for turf replacement, and push to encourage residents to wait until Mother's Day to begin watering. GWSSA adopted a water conservation plan in 2025, which represents a usage goal of 20% less than the state recommendation. A Grand County water use and preservation element is currently being drafted as part of a General Plan update effort. Martinez explained that in Utah, the unprecedentedly low snowpack is causing errors in the current runoff models, with several records currently being broken in the state of the drought. Reservoir levels critically low for a time of year when they are typically full. In the context of the CO river basin, there is a 3.08-million-acre feet gap for allocation by the upper basin. EIS to be released by the bureau of reclamation, with presentation of a variety of alternatives to address the current unchartered territory.

Councilperson Loftin emphasized the household conservation strategies currently being promoted, with conservation critical now for the dropping well levels that are to be anticipated later in the season. Moab City Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm gave an overview of Moab City's water shortage response plan, which includes a variety of voluntary measures and upcoming outreach campaigns, as well as introduction of a water conservation plan update slated for this year.

As a future consideration, Chair McCandless specified that the next City-County joint meeting was scheduled to take place August 18th in the Grand County Commission Chambers, and is expected to begin prior to the regular County Commission meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Melodie J. McCandless

Melodie McCandless
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

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- Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)
- Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)

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SIGNED

Signed by Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)

2026/04/22
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SIGNED

Signed by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)

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