

Minutes of the work session of the Ogden City Council held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Work Room, and via electronic meeting, located on the third floor of the Municipal Building, 2549 Washington Boulevard, Ogden City, Weber County, Utah.

Present: Chair Richard A. Hyer
 Vice Chair Dave Graf
 Council members Flor Lopez
 Kevin Lundell
 Shaun Myers
 Ken Richey
 Alicia Washington

Council Executive Director Glenn Symes
Council Assistant Executive Director Steve Burton
Council Communications Director Brandon Garside
Council Communications Specialist Eric Davenport

Also present: Chief Administrative Officer Mara A. Brown
 City Attorney Gary Williams
 Management Services Executive Director Lisa Stout
 Finance Director Justin Sorensen
 Management Analyst Jess McClelland
 Public Services Executive Director Justin Anderson
 Public Services Assistant Executive Director Edd Bridge
 PGA Pro/Director of Golf Todd Brenkman
 Deputy City Recorder Jason Gould

The purpose of the work session was to review the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.; receive the Visit Ogden annual report; discuss proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 mid-year fee amendments pertaining to Public Services, Golf; receive an Administrative update; discuss Council business, specifically, a training regarding Open Meetings and Ethics, and a Council member initiative regarding a joint resolution affirming community trust through public safety; and hear Council comments.

Agenda Review

Chair Hyer and members of Council staff reviewed the items listed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Visit Ogden Annual Report

Sara Toliver, President/CEO of Visit Ogden, used the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to provide the entity's annual report for 2025, noting challenges and wins; federal budget cuts, travel declines, events canceled by the US Forest Service, and a federal government shutdown all impacted local business occupancy. Poor snow conditions reduced ski tourism, although golf thrived. While 2024 tourism tax collections rose by \$200,000 to \$8,678,000, 2025 saw a 6% drop in transient room tax collections; restaurant and vehicle lease taxes rose slightly, totaling \$9,268,556. Short-term rentals grew, boosting revenue despite slight occupancy and rate declines. Visitor spending in 2024 increased 4% to \$559 million, with local sales tax generating \$175.8 million in Weber County. Visitors accounted for 11% (\$77 million), meaning residents would need to spend \$2,024.50 each to equal visitor spending. Toliver emphasized Visit Ogden's focus on marketing, community engagement, and destination stewardship. The team handled 55 events with over 40,000 attendees, generating nearly \$20 million in economic impact and \$1.5 million in venue revenue. Events boosted summer occupancy, offsetting early-year travel losses. Los Angeles remained the top out-of-state market, noted for its easy travel, especially among skiers, with efforts also targeting the Pacific Northwest, Denver, Nevada, Arizona, and during ski season, extending to Texas, Florida, and New York. Marketing efforts include a podcast, "The Ogden Wire," now with over 75,000 social media followers. Visit Ogden completed a destination stewardship plan in 2025, setting cultural, environmental, and economic goals for the next five years and offer quarterly hospitality training and a heritage walking map. For a copy of the presentation in its entirety, see the information packet for the meeting.

Chair Hyer asked for more information about Los Angeles being the top out-of-state market. Ms. Toliver explained that Los Angeles has consistently been their number one out-of-state feeder market both summer and winter, noting it's an easy travel destination and Ogden attract a lot of skiers typically in the winter. She mentioned Visit Ogden also targets the Pacific Northwest, Denver, Nevada (especially Las Vegas), Mesa, Arizona, and in ski season it extends to Texas, Florida, and New York.

Chair Hyer expressed appreciation for Visit Ogden's work and noted they really do pay their way very well and enhance the quality of life in the community. He suggested working with the curling club to recruit newbies, noting that curling is infectious once people try it.

Council member Myers asked about securing curling for the 2034 Olympics, noting that his understanding was that the Ice Sheet arena does not have enough seating. Ms. Toliver explained that the stated reason for the 2034 move to the Salt Palace is capacity, but Visit Ogden feels the Ice Sheet can easily accommodate curling events and that having a full venue creates more energy than being in a larger arena that feels empty.

Vice Chair Graf asked about concerns from the Milan Cortina Winter Olympic Games regarding distance between venues. Ms. Toliver noted that what came up more was how amazing the experience is going to be in Utah after experiencing the distance between venues in Milan Cortina, where there wasn't a feasible way to get from host community to host community in a timely manner. Ms. Toliver highlighted several upcoming events, including the Men's World Curling Championships, which Visit Ogden took on when the previously selected host country had to rescind their acceptance. She emphasized this as their opportunity to reopen the door to securing curling for 2034. She also mentioned the Hill Industry Partners Exchange (HIPE) event in May, created in collaboration with Hill Air Force Base Supply Chain Management Group, and America250 programming happening throughout the year.

She concluded by noting that Weber County will host all alpine events for both men's and women's skiing in 2034, plus Paralympic alpine events, making Snowbasin the only ski resort hosting alpine events.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Mid-year Fee Amendments – Public Services, Golf

PGA Pro/Director of Golf Brenkman presented the proposed fee amendments for the golf courses. He noted that 2025 was a perfect weather year that set the bar high, with historically dry conditions that were excellent for playable days. Both courses played golf through the winter and are currently back open. The proposal includes raising the 9-hole green fee rate by one dollar, incremental adjustments to punch tickets, and a small increase to the season pass rate from \$1,100 to \$1,200 for a 7-day adult season pass. Mr. Brenkman noted that their closest neighbor is now at \$1,800 for one course while they offer two courses, and Davis County is now at \$2,200. Mr. Brenkman explained they have historically stayed with a plan of a dollar increase per 9 holes every two years, choosing not to capitalize on the COVID boom like other courses did. The proposal also adds a tournament rate of \$2 per person Monday through Thursday and \$4 Friday through Sunday for events that include custom signage, scorecards, and personal service at the pavilion. He emphasized that fee increases are more tolerable to the public when they see investment, noting they are constantly making improvements to the facilities. Under the proposal, the peak rate Monday through Thursday would be \$54 to play 18 holes and ride, and \$56 Friday through Sunday, compared to Cache Valley's \$60 and \$64, and Bountiful City's new rate of \$66.

Vice Chair Graf asked about capacity and speed of play. Mr. Brenkman explained that supply and demand have flipped, and it doesn't take long to book tee sheets from open to close on weekends. He noted that people must book immediately when the booking window opens or they won't get a spot.

Council member Lundell asked about City employee discounts and their impact on revenue. Mr. Brenkman noted they don't sell that many City employee discount passes and wish more City employees would take advantage of the discount rate. He explained they have chosen not to restrict discount passes to weekday time periods because many City employees work Monday through Friday.

Council member Myers expressed concern about expense increases outpacing the modest 6 percent revenue increase over two years, noting that inflation for businesses is more than six percent. Mr. Brenkman acknowledged this concern, stating that costs like golf cart leases have doubled, and they may need to get out of the every-two-year-one-dollar model based on expense side pressures.

Council member Richey asked about safety concerns after receiving a constituent email about golf balls leaving the course area. Mr. Brenkman explained this was the first time such an incident had been reported to him in his career. He detailed planned safety improvements, including a \$150,000 project to replace screening along the ninth hole at Mount Ogden. He noted that 95 percent of golfers are right-handed and slice to the right, so the park properties are fortunately on the left side of the fairways. He committed to conducting shot tracking in the problem areas to assess the actual frequency of balls going toward property boundaries.

Council member Lundell asked about the golf course being self-sustaining while requiring \$1.3 million in CIP funding for infrastructure. Mr. Brenkman explained that generally, facilities don't have capital on hand for major infrastructure like irrigation systems, and they either go to City funding sources or bond for such projects. He noted that smaller projects like cart shed improvements can be done with cash balances, but big-ticket items like irrigation systems typically require other funding sources even for private courses.

Chair Hyer provided context that he views municipal golf courses similar to parks - as recreational amenities where golf fees cover golf operations, but major infrastructure improvements are part of maintaining City assets, like park maintenance and improvements.

Administrative Update

Management Analyst McClelland presented an update on initiatives to better connect with residents and make services more accessible. He acknowledged that the City is a complex organization and it's not easy for residents to understand where to go for help, whether that's finding elected representatives, getting trash cans fixed, or learning about events. He explained they are trying to open as many doors as possible for residents, recognizing that people operate differently - some prefer in-person

interactions while others, like his 18-year-old, prefer using phones and apps rather than talking to people or coming in person. The goal is to expand options without taking away existing ones. The presentation focused on two main tools: Archie (their chatbot) and the Ogden Serve mobile app. Archie provides 24/7 guided assistance and is configured only for Ogden City web content, unlike other chatbots that pull from anywhere on the internet. This has pros and cons - it only knows what the City website knows, so if content is missing, they need to improve it. Mr. McClelland explained that every interaction with these tools potentially saves a phone call or forced office visit. The GOGov platform gives centralized request tracking and connects to back-end systems so requests go directly to the appropriate departments without staff having to learn new software. He also mentioned other improvements including all business license types now available online, contractors can schedule inspections online, and they're implementing digital review tools that will allow direct markup on plans rather than separate comments.

Chair Hyer asked about language capabilities of the system. Mr. McClelland confirmed the system supports 72 languages and can toggle between languages within conversations.

Council member Lopez asked about response times for the system. Mr. McClelland explained it depends on the service request type - water leaks are monitored 24 hours a day and get an immediate response, while less pressing issues like sidewalk problems might take 2-3 days. Code enforcement requests typically have a 3-day service level agreement, while graffiti issues are often resolved on the same day.

Council member Lundell noted struggles with Archie not finding information he was certain was on the website, such as Council rules and norms, while ChatGPT could find the same information. Mr. McClelland explained that Archie does not currently search documents, only web content, and that better reporting tools will be available at the end of the month to identify where the system is failing. He also mentioned that a new web portal for utility billing payments is coming soon that will make autopay signup much easier.

Chair Hyer noted his similar experience with Archie not knowing basic facts like Ogden's population or land area, though he acknowledged this was from a while ago and encouraged everyone to try the tools again.

Council Business

Training – Ethics, Open Meetings: This item was not discussed.

Council Member Initiative – Joint Resolution Affirming Community Trust Through Public Safety: Council Executive Director Symes provided an overview of the Council initiative process, explaining that this first work session allows Council members to review the proposal and make a determination of support about whether to proceed with further research or work.

Council member Washington began by stating that the resolution would not move past this work session due to findings by Council Member Lundell and counsel from City Attorney Williams regarding state code. She emphasized hoping this would lead to a generative conversation about constituent concerns, fears, anxiety, and issues the resolution brought up. She outlined the process, beginning with comments from Mayor Nadolski and Police Chief Sube during the January 20, 2026 work session stating that Ogden City will not enter into a 287g agreement. Following that, she and Council member Lundell announced they would be working on proposing a joint resolution, drafted examples from other municipalities, submitted it through the Council initiative process, and held a community conversation.

Council member Lundell explained that during their research, he reached out to Commissioner Reed from Helena, Montana, who told him their attorney general and governor were coming after them for their resolution being against state code. This prompted him to research Utah state code, specifically 76-14-205, which they forwarded to City Attorney Williams before the resolution became public.

Council member Washington noted she and Council member Lundell learned of House Bill 571 being introduced during the legislative session on February 17, which led to postponing discussion of the resolution. She also mentioned learning of the Mayor's comments regarding the resolution through a KSL article, which was the first time she and Lundell received statements from the Mayor about the joint resolution.

Council member Lundell emphasized that while the resolution can't move forward as written due to possible state code violations, the title remains important - how to reaffirm community trust through public safety as elected leaders.

Council member Myers expressed relief about the direction, noting he had hesitancy about the uncharted territory and potential consequences. He referenced Senator Curtis's statement about the federal government needing to take a kinder approach to immigration and wondered if there might be some way to express concern and desire for a gentler approach.

Council member Richey acknowledged all the voices heard from concerned residents - parents worried about children, students concerned about coming home to empty houses, residents believing policies in writing would provide reassurance, and others thinking it could create unintended consequences and increase anxiety. He expressed confidence in the Mayor's and Chief's comments about what Ogden does and doesn't do, noting that trust is built through daily interactions with police officers and that crime has been decreasing. He suggested being more proactive in supporting affected communities, praising the PATH program that helps people attain citizenship.

Vice Chair Graf thanked Council members Washington and Lundell for their work and connection with the community, noting what happened across the country was horrifying and frightening. However, he emphasized that for him, this is about trust - trusting the Administration and Police Chief who have said they will not engage in a 287g agreement. He stated that until he has reason to distrust their words, he doesn't think the resolution is constructive and it could be seen as saying "I hear you, but I really don't trust you." Vice Chair Graf noted that the Council has more powerful tools available, particularly the budget. If the Police Chief suddenly decided to engage in 287g agreements, that would change their mission, and he would change his opinion about what kind of budget they should get. He expressed concern that the spotlight on the community through KSL articles might alarm the community it's intended to protect, noting that people he knows have disappeared - not been disappeared, but have left and

aren't answering phones or texts. Vice Chair Graf also noted the lack of collaboration with other Council members, stating that neither Washington nor Lundell had contacted him individually about the proposal, and he didn't believe other Council members had been contacted either. He invited them to take under advisement the importance of engaging with Council members around Council initiatives going forward.

Council member Lopez expressed disappointment about the process, stating she wasn't clear about the resolution initially and realized it wasn't a good idea for undocumented people when she researched it. She felt disappointed that the community event was held without reaching the community most affected, noting that undocumented people typically use Sundays for family, church, and house cleaning.

Chair Hyer noted that there were two groups of people - those who thought the resolution was wonderful and those who thought it was terrible - and whatever they did would make one group feel unloved or uncared for. He emphasized that what motivates him is what does the most good, and he had conversations with mayors of other cities and legislators who were concerned about unintended consequences. Chair Hyer reported spending an hour with the sheriff asking pointed questions about constituent fears. The sheriff told him ICE has not done any sweeps or raids because the sheriff signed the 287g agreement and does two of its four aspects - the jail model and targeted model. When someone breaks the law and gets arrested, detainees are processed at the jail. The other aspect involves officers helping ICE find known criminals in the safest manner possible. According to the sheriff's data, these approaches are preventing sweeps and raids.

Council member Lundell disagreed, citing a sweep and raid in Idaho where the sheriff had a 287g agreement and rounded up 500 people, 300 of whom were legal residents who had to be released. He argued that 287g agreements don't prohibit such actions based on facts from other areas. Council member Lundell also noted that community members want an opportunity for public discussion rather than having decisions made behind closed doors and presented as fait accompli, acknowledging this might be different from past processes.

Council member Washington concluded by reflecting on the process, recognizing that what she thought was more open and different actually closed off some processes. She committed to moving forward differently and working with the City Council to strengthen the legislative branch's role. She asked for clarity about whether having the Mayor and Police Chief state they won't enter 287(g) agreements creates any liability given the state code Council Member Lundell found.

Chair Hyer suggested carrying the conversation on after the regular meeting to address the liability question, and the work session was recessed at 5:55 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

City Attorney Gary Williams provided a comprehensive explanation of the relevant state statute, reading portions of the law that prohibit state or local government agencies from limiting or restricting law enforcement agencies' ability to assist federal immigration enforcement through ordinances, regulations, or policies. He noted this was an unusual statute because it essentially prevents local officials from managing certain aspects of police operations, which he described as "strange" since there are very few laws that tell managing authorities they cannot manage. He explained that the statute was part of 2011 legislation designed to prevent sanctuary cities, with most of the original provisions struck down by a famous Arizona case in 2012, leaving only this particular restriction in place. He clarified that while the City cannot adopt formal ordinances, regulations, or policies restricting police cooperation with federal immigration authorities, officials can still make statements as long as they don't give direct orders to law enforcement agencies. Regarding the Police Chief's position on not entering 287(g) agreements, Mr. Williams emphasized that the statute does not require local law enforcement to cooperate with federal authorities, and the Chief has the right to make that determination. He noted that in this particular situation, the Chief's position has more strength than the Mayor's position or the Council's position, which is an unusual situation.

Council member Lopez encouraged her colleagues to meet individually with the sheriff, noting that she had already met with him twice and found the information helpful. She emphasized the importance of Council members serving as voices between the Administration and the community, providing accurate information to constituents.

Chair Hyer shared his perspective from a previous meeting with the Mayor and Police Chief, where he understood their position to be that officers want to remain non-political in their duties and simply enforce the law as they've been asked to do. He also mentioned conversations with community members, including those he believed were undocumented, who expressed trust in the police based on their history and were concerned that the proposed resolution might draw unwanted attention.

Council Member Lundell acknowledged that Council members had heard from various voices in the community, including some from the undocumented community who wanted more action and assurances, emphasizing the importance of hearing all perspectives.

Council Member Washington inquired about the possibility of inviting the Weber County Sheriff to speak at a work session about the County's 287(g) agreement with ICE, given that community members were discussing this topic. Chair Hyer confirmed that the Sheriff had offered to speak with anyone who wanted to discuss the matter, suggesting Council members could contact him directly.

Vice Chair Graf expressed concern that bringing the Sheriff to City Council Chambers might create a "lightning rod" situation and suggested it would be better to meet at the Sheriff's location or invite a neutral party who could provide information about 287(g) agreements.

Council Member Myers advocated for the Council to be more proactive in promoting the positive work Ogden City is already doing, rather than being defensive. He suggested highlighting that the undocumented community has protections, that the Police Department enforces City law without federal immigration mandates, and showcasing the Police Department's accomplishments in reducing crime. He stated he appreciated that the topic had been brought forward despite stirring some controversy and emphasized the need to craft a consistent message for the community.

Council Member Lundell referenced the 2017 resolution as a statement of values responding to national events and

suggested the Council might consider reaffirming those principles.

Mr. Williams clarified that the Council could adopt a resolution and speak on immigration topics as long as they do not give direct orders to law enforcement agencies through ordinances, regulations, or policies.

The discussion concluded with Chair Hyer noting that the conversation had provided clarity on the legal boundaries and how to communicate with constituents on this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

JASON GOULD
DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

RICHARD A. HYER, CHAIR

APPROVED: April 21, 2026