

ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 7, 2026
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 65 NORTH CENTER STREET

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe, Chad Lyman and City Treasurer Nancy Porter. Council members Sally Orme, Ryan Cottam, and City Attorney Barry Huntington were excused.

City Recorder Stephanie Steed joined electronically.

Also present were Richard Birch, Karen Munson, Steve Witzdam, Bill Weppner, Victory Crawford, Richard Crawford, Brent Pickering, Connor Butterfield, Tari Cottam, Rhen Cottam, Soren Griffin, Declen Cottam and Julie Brugger.

Steve Kasper Joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Lyman moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman and Wilson voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2026 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting as written. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman and Stowe voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

RICHARD BIRCH

Mr. Birch introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his story and said that he is running for Garfield County Commissioner.

VICTORY CRAWFORD

Ms. Crawford spoke of the upcoming America 250 seminar Elevate Your Knowledge in Panguitch at the Garfield County Courthouse on May 9, 2026 from 10am to 4pm. There will be a \$20.00 charge per person and lunch will be provided.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS**AIRPORT APRON PROJECT**

Connor Butterfield with Lochner explained the airport apron rehabilitation project (attached). Mr. Butterfield said this project will also add more tie-downs. Mr. Butterfield said this grant is federally and state-funded with a 2.5% local cost share Mr. Butterfield said with regular upkeep this project should last at least 20 years. Mr. Butterfield said they plan to close the airport for 30 days in July to do the work. **Council member Wilson moved to approve this pavement project as submitted Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe and Wilson voting aye.**

STEVE WITZDAM - SEWER LINE TO 570 W 325 N

Mr. Witzdam asked if he were to dig the trench for the sewer line would the City install and connect sewer to his property. Public Works employee Brent Pickering explained that they would not be able to do this and said that any other subdivisions have had to install their own infrastructure. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Lyman moved to deny the motion to install a sewer line to 570 W. 325 N. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

KAREN MUNSON - ESCALANTE HERITAGE WILD POTATO FESTIVAL DONATION

Ms. Munson said she is asking the City to donate \$700.00 to help fund the Escalante Heritage Wild Potato Days Festival. **Council member Stowe moved to approve a donation of \$700.00 to the Escalante Heritage Wild Potato Festival. Council member Lyman seconded motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, and Stowe voting aye.**

BILL WEPPNER - COUNTY WATER METER

Council member Lyman moved to table Mr. Weppner's request for a county water meter. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman and Wilson voting aye.

YOUTH SPORTS - INSURANCE SPONSORSHIP

Declen Cottam and Soren Griffin came to the City on behalf of the Youth Sports Program to ask the City to pay their yearly insurance, Mr. Cottam and Mr. Griffin explained several sports would be covered by this insurance and that it supported 210 youth athletes last year. **Council member Lyman moved to approve payment for this insurance. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, and Wilson voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS**ADMINISTRATIVE**

City Treasurer Porter said she had received an email from the city's insurance provider to advise of the factors that need to be considered when you allow inflatables at functions held by the city or on city property. Mayor Torgersen said they will look at the possibility of more insurance for these events.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department had nothing to report at this time.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said since the last meeting there have been no calls. Mr. Weppner addressed the need to flush the city fire hydrants and said that Brent Pickering would be heading this project. Mr. Weppner explained Mr. Pickering would let the Fire Department know when we had the water to flush the lines as well as the best way to disperse the water. Council member Lyman asked for the fire department to please advise him if there is an area that needs to have a hydrant put in.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman said that on Monday the 13th representatives of Master Meter, ATech and Micro Meter will be here to talk about the system and the benefit of changing the meters to a new system and how it will save on manhours as well an app that will alert you if there is excess water use at a property.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM

Council member Cottam was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe said that the old library building will sit unoccupied for now and she wanted to let the council and attendees know that no books will be thrown away, they will be either donated or given away.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme was not present at said meeting.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Stowe moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman and Wilson voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session needed at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Nancy Porter City Treasurer

Date minutes approved: 04/21/2026