



**MINUTES OF THE SPRINGDALE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026,
AT THE CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER, 126 LION BOULEVARD, SPRINGDALE, UTAH**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Bruno, Council Members Jack Burns, Randy Aton, Kyla Topham and Pat Campbell

ALSO PRESENT: Town Manager Thomas Dansie, Zoning Administrator Kyndal Sagers, Director of Parks & Recreation Ryan Gubler, Zoning Administrator Kyndal Sagers, Community Development Director Niall Connolly, and Town Clerk Robin Romero, recording

The Regular Meeting convened at 5:00 pm.

Mayor Bruno led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Regular Meeting Agenda

Kyla Topham moved to strike Agenda Item A.4. The motion was seconded by Randy Aton.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

A. Announcements/Information/Community Questions

1. General Announcements

Director of Parks and Recreation Ryan Gubler spoke of upcoming events in Springdale, and announced Zion National Park would host Navy Day on April 20, 2026 as part of America250 celebrations.

Lisa Zumpft, Springdale resident, announced an upcoming Wild and Scenic Film Festival in conjunction with Earth Day.

2. Zion National Park Update

Superintendent Bradybaugh provided information about Navy Day in Zion National Park. He reported visitation in March 2026 was up 15% compared to March 2025. Superintendent Bradybaugh reported the pedestrian entrance from Springdale in March was the busiest it had been in the last five years. He provided an update on current construction, and answered questions from the Council.

3. Council Department Reports, Questions, and Comments

None

~~4. Presentation by Natalie Britt, Zion Forever Project~~

5. Presentation on Zion Canyon Fiber Optics

Nancy Cozzens and Ava Pecora provided a high-level overview of the Zion Canyon Fiber Optics Project, which would provide design and construction of fiber infrastructure beginning just west of Hurricane and continuing along State Route 9 and Zion-Mount Carmel Highway through the East Entrance of Zion National Park. Ms. Cozzens said the project was driven by UDOT, and said construction was anticipated to be complete in December 2026. Ms. Pecora spoke of public engagement, and Ms. Cozzens said traffic data and other input from Springdale would be helpful in planning project timing. Mr. Burns suggested nighttime operations would be best in Springdale.

Community Comments

None

B. Consent Agenda

1. Review of Monthly Purchasing Report
2. Minutes: January 28, 2026 and February 11, 2026
3. Proclamation 2026-01: A Proclamation Designating April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the Town of Springdale
4. Proclamation 2026-02: A Proclamation Designating April 13 to April 20, 2026 as Dark Sky Week in the Town of Springdale
5. Proclamation 2026-03: Proclaiming April 2026 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Springdale, Utah
6. Proclamation 2026-04: Proclaiming April 20, 2026 as Navy Day

Jack Burns made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Pat Campbell.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Legislative Items

1. **Ordinance 2026-11: An Ordinance Enacting the Utah Community Clean Energy Program in the Town of Springdale**

Mr. Aton and Ms. Topham gave a presentation regarding the Utah Community Clean Energy Program. Springdale was one of nineteen participating communities in URC (Utah Renewable Communities). The Community Clean Energy Program was designed through a partnership between Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) and the Community Renewable Energy Agency (of which Springdale was a member). Mr. Aton presented two program goals: drive the development of clean energy while keeping the program affordable and accessible; and build enough program resources to match the amount of electricity used annually by participants. Mr. Aton said Year 1 of the program would begin with rate collection in early 2027, with a goal of no electricity needed from traditional sources by Year 4. The nineteen participating communities were required to pass an ordinance enacting the program by June 2, 2026.

Mr. Aton said prior to commencement, customers would receive two notices of opportunity to opt out of the program at no cost. After the first four billing cycles, a termination fee would be charged to opt out. The initial program rate would involve a flat residential fee of \$4 per month (\$3.88 monthly participation fee plus \$0.12 monthly surcharge for the low-income program). Qualifying low-income residential customers would not be charged the \$4 monthly fee. Non-residential customers would pay \$0.00609 per kWh used per month, plus a \$0.12 monthly surcharge for the low-income program. The rates for the Community Clean Energy Program would be periodically adjusted and

communicated accordingly. Mr. Aton added that all customers except those on Schedule 135 were eligible to participate. Mr. Aton spoke of the high cost to add solar panels to a residence, and expressed the opinion that the Community Clean Energy Program was an inexpensive way for residents to support renewable energy.

Questions from the Council:

Mr. Campbell asked if participation rates would go up if initial participation dropped below the anticipated 80%. Mr. Aton said the rates would not go up, but it would probably take longer than planned to develop the desired amount of renewable energy. Mr. Aton answered questions about opt-out notices.

Mr. Burns asked if the Council felt enough notice had been given to non-residential customers. Mr. Aton said the program rate had not been approved until March 4, 2026. Mr. Burns suggested including information in the Town newsletter and website.

Questions from the Community:

None

Council Deliberation:

Ms. Topham commented that if the Council chose that evening to not pass the ordinance and participate in the program, individual residents of Springdale would not have the opportunity to choose for themselves to opt in or out. She said she was supportive of the program. Mayor Bruno said she was comfortable passing the ordinance.

Randy Aton made a motion to pass Ordinance 2026-11, an ordinance enacting the Utah Community Clean Energy Program in the Town of Springdale, and authorize the Mayor to sign, with the following findings from the Town General Plan:

- **Municipal and Public Services General Goal. “either directly or through partnerships, the Town will ensure excellence in utilities such as power.”**
- **Subgoal D.1. “encourage implementation of renewable energy and conservation, use reduction, and the practice of sustainability in power utilities.”**
- **“The Town will adopt policies and participate in programs that promote the use and development of renewable and sustainable resources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal.”**
- **Natural and Public Resources General Goal. “the natural resources in and around Springdale, such as the dark night sky, clean air, and water will be protected and conserved; will be healthy and will enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors.”**

The motion was seconded by Kyla Topham.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Administrative Action Items

1. Review and Possible Approval of an Agreement with Utah State University to Provide Invasive Tree Removal Services Through the Utah Conservation Corps

Zoning Administrator Kyndal Sagers said the proposed Specialized Service Agreement with Utah State University would allow the Utah Conservation Corps to perform five weeks of treatment, retreatment, and revegetation in Springdale and Trees Ranch. The total cost for five weeks of treatment would be \$28,250. Funding would come through a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant

from the U.S. Forest Service. She said the Town Attorney had reviewed and recommended the agreement.

Mr. Aton asked if Springdale would be responsible for a matching amount. Mr. Dansie said the \$28,250 was a portion of the cost of a larger project, shared by different entities. He said the Town would be responsible for \$10,000 in cash, with the remainder of the Town commitment coming from a soft match.

Kyla Topham moved to approve the Specialized Service Agreement with Utah Conservation Corps with regards to invasive species, and direct the Mayor to sign. The motion was seconded by Jack Burns.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Review and Possible Selection of Bike Utah as Partner with the Town of Springdale for Community Engagement Services Regarding Trails in Springdale**

Mr. Gubler said the Town was awarded a \$20,000 grant from Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation in 2025. The application for the grant had specified the Town's desire for the project to cover two phases, with the first phase involving community outreach. Mr. Gubler said the Town received three qualified proposals for community engagement with an RFP. The reviewing committee recommended the Council approve a partnership with Bike Utah.

Mr. Campbell said he looked at the Bike Utah website, and did not get the impression Bike Utah had experience with unpaved trails. He asked how Bike Utah would be able to ask questions of the community on a subject with which they had no experience. Mr. Gubler said he believed Bike Utah's experience was more broad than just paved trails for bikes. He said there were pros and cons with each of the three applicants. Mr. Aton said the reviewing committee had reviewed the applications with a focus on community outreach. Responding to a question from Ms. Topham, Mr. Gubler said Bike Utah would work closely with staff.

Jack Burns moved to select Bike Utah as consultant for the Springdale trails community engagement. The motion was seconded by Kyla Topham.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Review and Possible Approval of an Independent Contractor Agreement for the Zion Regional Collaborative Coordinator Position**

Mr. Dansie said the Town had entered into an Independent Contractor Agreement for the last four or five years to fund the Zion Regional Collaborative (ZRC) Coordinator Position. He emphasized the ZRC Coordinator Position was crucial to successful operation of the ZRC group. Mr. Dansie reported the ZRC had lost some of the funding partners for the position, and said staff were working on solutions for funding to make the position viable. The compensation listed in the agreement was significantly lower than it was in the past, although the contribution from Springdale remained the

same. Mr. Dansie said the scope of work in the agreement had been adjusted in recognition of the reduced compensation. The Council praised Emily Freedman for the work she accomplished in the position.

Jack Burns moved to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for the ZRC Coordinator Position with Emily Freedman, with the Town of Springdale committing \$11,680, and direct the Mayor to sign. The motion was seconded by Kyla Topham.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion of Potential Blanket Allowance to Disturb the Anasazi Plateau Conservation Easement by Trimming Native Vegetation for the Purpose of Wildfire Mitigation, and Possible Ratification of Prior Approval of Fire Mitigation Work Already Completed**

Mayor Bruno disclosed that she lived on the Anasazi Plateau, but said her location of residence would not impact her decision on the matter. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Burns made the same disclosure.

Mr. Dansie said with the recent focus on wildfire mitigation, many homeowners had a desire to take steps to make sure their homes were fire safe. He said in some cases insurance companies were mandating homeowners to proactively do vegetation treatment around homes. Mr. Dansie said the Anasazi Plateau Conservation Easement allowed for some disturbance of vegetation, but required a homeowner to provide notice to the Town of a proposed action. He explained the Town Council had been the authorizing body for such requests in the past, but the Conservation Easement did not require that the Council act as the authorizing body.

Mr. Dansie said there would likely be a number of properties in the Anasazi Plateau that would need to do some type of wildfire mitigation to comply with Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code requirements and/or preserve homeowner insurance. He suggested that to have each homeowner come before the Council to make the request could be cumbersome. The Anasazi Plateau Homeowners Association made the recommendation that the Council offer a blanket authorization for wildfire mitigation in the Anasazi Plateau Conservation Easement (CE).

Mr. Dansie presented three conditions that staff recommended the Council attach to approval. He explained that some homeowners had already performed vegetation modification for fire mitigation purposes. At least one homeowner did so under threat of loss of homeowner insurance coverage, with a deadline from the insurance company that did not allow for the required 30-day notice to the Town. Mr. Dansie said he approved the request, and granted an exemption from the required 30-day notice period as allowed by Section 5.1 of the Conservation Easement. He answered questions from the Council about requirements in the CE. Mr. Dansie said the Planning Commission had already recognized potential for conflicting goals, and identified the CE as something they wanted to work on.

Ms. Topham commented that the conditions of approval proposed by staff did not address emergency situations. The Council discussed the possibility of differences between WUI Code requirements and requirements from an insurance company. Mayor Bruno commented that some individuals might use insurance as an excuse to remove more than the Town would want. Ms. Topham said she did not trust insurance companies to consider the interests of the Conservation Easement. Mr. Aton said the Council was considering approval of the proposed blanket allowance so homeowners could keep their insurance when possible.

Mayor Bruno suggested the Council authorize the Community Development Department to look at emergencies on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Dansie suggested the Council allow less notice than the required 30 days if a homeowner was under threat of losing homeowner insurance, with expedited review and placement on a Council meeting agenda. Mr. Burns said it had been his experience that insurance companies set their own deadlines, without consideration of Council meeting schedules. Mayor Bruno asked if Community Development would be comfortable making the decisions with regard to insurance companies. Niall Connolly said he believed Community Development could become comfortable with parameters and a process in place.

Superintendent Bradybaugh commented that WUI standards were national, developed by State and Federal agencies. He suggested asking the State Insurance Commission if they had wrestled with the question of WUI and private property. He suspected such a situation had come up before.

Mayor Bruno suggested the Council grant the blanket approval for WUI Code, and ask staff to check with the Insurance Commission and return with a recommendation. Ms. Topham said she knew there would be emergencies, and said she was not willing to let insurance companies run roughshod. Mr. Dansie asked if the Council would consider waiving the 30-day notice period or scheduling a special meeting if a homeowner within the Conservation Easement came to the Town with an insurance-imposed deadline that would not accommodate waiting for the next regularly scheduled meeting. He said he suspected there would not be many such instances.

Pat Campbell moved that the Town Council had reviewed the request to treat juniper trees in the Anasazi Plateau Conservation Easement (CE) based on the following findings: the WUI Code required property owners to provide defensible space around structures on their property. In many cases, native vegetation in the CE was also within the defensible space area associated with structures on individual lots required by the WUI Code. The CE allowed property owners to conduct certain activities in the CE, which could have an impact on the conservation value of the property, but only after notice and approval from the Town. Sections 4.1B and 4.1C of the CE allowed owners to maintain native vegetation and remove hazardous flora in CE property. To comply with WUI Code defensible space requirements, many property owners on the Anasazi Plateau would need to modify vegetation in the CE. It would be cumbersome and inefficient for each property owner to make individual requests to modify native vegetation in the CE near their homes for the purpose of compliance with the WUI Code defensible space. Finally, the Council found that a blanket approval for homeowners to perform defensible space vegetation modification in the CE was the most efficient way to accomplish this. As such, the Town Council approved the request with the following conditions:

- **All vegetation modification must be performed by a licensed arborist or other qualified tree professional who had been briefed on WUI Code defensible space requirements;**
- **Only vegetation modification necessary for compliance with WUI Code defensible space requirements was allowed. No other impact, modification, removal, or destruction of vegetation, whether deliberate or incidental, was permitted; and**
- **Prior to modifying any vegetation in the CE, a property owner must first submit a sketch plan of the proposed vegetation modification with dimensions to the Community Development Department. The sketch plan must be of sufficient detail, clarity, and accuracy for the Community Development Department staff to determine which specific vegetation was proposed to be modified, and whether such modification was necessary for WUI Code defensible space compliance.**

Further, the Town Council approved and ratified the Town Manager's earlier authorization of emergency vegetation modification undertaken to preserve a homeowner's insurance coverage, and authorized the Mayor to sign. Section 5.1 of the CE required a homeowner to give the Town 30-day notice period. The Council would waive the 30-day notice requirement in cases that did not fall under the blanket approval if requirements were imposed by an insurance carrier in excess of WUI Code requirements. The motion was seconded by Randy Aton.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Administrative Non-Action Items

1. General Council Discussion

None

E. Adjourn

Randy Aton made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm. The motion was seconded by Jack Burns.

Vote on the motion:

Campbell: Aye

Aton: Aye

Bruno: Aye

Burns: Aye

Topham: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

April Raddatz, Deputy Town Clerk

APPROVAL: _____ DATE: _____

A recording of the public meeting is available by accessing the Town's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@SpringdaleTownPublicMeetings>.