

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UTAH
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES
HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026
MULTI-AGENCY STATE OFFICE BUILDING**

Commissioner's Present:

Stephen Handy, Commission Chair
Jacquelyn Orton
Christopher Conabee
Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert
Falyn Owens

Commissioner's Absent:

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair

Staff Present:

Executive Director, Ericka Evans
Deputy Director of Finance and Administration,
Todd Darrington
Deputy Director, Legal & Regulatory Affairs,
Brian Swan
Managing Director of Operations, Jeremy
Sommerlath
Alcohol Education Director, Doug Murakami

Also Present:

Assistant Attorney General, Samuel McHenry

Note: A copy of related material and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.abs.utah.gov

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Erin Hinkel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Handy opened the meeting by sharing that the commission is heavy-hearted as their colleague, Vickie Ashby, is being laid to rest today. He noted Executive Assistant Vickie Ashby always took good care of the commission and announced time will be reserved at the end of the meeting for attendees and staff to share memories of her.

Chair Handy introduced the commissioners and staff members assisting the commission and made the following announcements.

- a. Proposed Future Meeting Schedule (*subject to change*)
 - Thursday, April 30, 2026 - MASOB
 - Thursday, May 28, 2026 - Garfield County Courthouse

- b. Upcoming Holiday Closures
 - Monday, May 25, 2026 (*Memorial Day*)

- c. Public Comments

- Those present, please complete the form located at the back entrance to the room.
- Those participating virtually, please email your name, city, topic, and affiliation (if applicable) to hotline@utah.gov by 5:00 pm. on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.
- Comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

4. PARENTS EMPOWERED UPDATE:

Alcohol Education Director Doug Murakami presented an update on the Parents Empowered community partnership projects in Summit County. He shared examples of campaign messaging that encourages parents to walk and talk with their kids to keep them alcohol-free.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Todd Darrington provided a financial update for period 8 of fiscal year 2026 through February 28, 2026. He noted overall revenues were down about 2.5% from last fiscal year, while period 8 expenses were up. The department is on track to return approximately \$64 million to the general fund.

6. OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Executive Director Ericka Evans provided updates from the legislative session ending March 6, 2026. She noted some changes are effective immediately, and more information is available on the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services website. She also announced the department is seeking applications for package agency contracts in Panguitch, Richfield, and Payson.

Managing Director of Operations Jeremy Sommerlath shared how the operations and business analyst teams collaborated to improve data reporting and provided examples of updates to the planning dashboard.

Commissioner Orton expressed appreciation for the department's efforts to keep the commission informed.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REVISION: (Brian Swan) *[action item]*

- a. Proposed revisions to:
 - (1) Administrative Code, R82-4-101, Age Verification
 - (2) ~~Administrative Code, R82-4-102, Mobile ID Verification~~ **STRIKE**

Deputy Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs Brian Swan presented the proposed administrative rules revisions. He removed item 2, administrative code, R82-4-102, mobile ID verification, from the agenda. He explained the amendment to item 1, administrative code, R82-4-101, age verification, revises electronic identification scanning requirements to align with statutory changes from the 2026 General Session and improves readability.

Ericka Evans added that compliance staff will reach out to educate licensees, answer questions, and help them verify their scanners.

Motion: Commissioner Thue called for a motion to direct the department to publish the proposed rules revision with the Office of Administrative Rules. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Chair Handy

Vice Chair Tarazon

Commissioner Tennert

Commissioner Thue

Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Owens

Commissioner Orton

8. VIOLATIONS: (Samuel McHenry) [*action item*]

*Referral Sources – Layton Police Department (LPD), State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), West Valley Police Department (WPD).

[The following Consent Calendar items include uncontested letters of admonishment (written warnings) and settlement agreements that have been agreed to and accepted by the licensees. They are considered as a block with one vote unless one of the commissioners requests that any item be removed for individual discussion.]

a. Consent Calendar

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| (1) | Collies Sports Bar & Grill, Park City | *SBI (LB) |
| (2) | 7-Eleven Store #26838C, West Valley City | *WPD (OP) |
| (3) | Brickyard Bar, Millcreek | *SBI (BAR) |
| (4) | Hilton Salt Lake City, Salt Lake City, Kimberly Newman
and James Koch (<i>employees</i>) | *SBI (HL-4) |
| (5) | Willies Lounge, Salt Lake City | *SBI (BAR) |
| (6) | Butcher's Chop House, Park City | *SBI (LB) |
| (7) | 501 On Main, Park City | *SBI (RF) |
| (8) | Hana Ramen Bar, Summit County | *SBI (RL) |
| (9) | Last Chance Store #11, Layton | *LPD (OP) |

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry gave an overview of the items on the consent calendar noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

Motion: Commissioner Conabee moved to approve the settlement agreements for a. violations consent calendar items 1 through 9. Commissioner Owens second the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Discussion: Chair Handy noted several consent calendar violations resulted from a lack of food. Commissioner Tennert reminded licensees to follow on-site food preparation laws to prevent future violations.

Yea - 6

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Chair Handy

Vice Chair Tarazon

Commissioner Tennert

Commissioner Thue

Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Owens
Commissioner Orton

- b. Order to Show Cause
 - (1) Kdals LLC, Delta (BAR)

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry presented Item b. Order to Show Cause regarding Item 1, bar establishment license, Kdals LLC in Delta. He noted that the applicant does not meet the minimum licensing requirements.

Motion: Commissioner Tennert moved to suspend the license of Kdals LLC until proof of a valid sales tax license is provided to the Department. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion.

Discussion: Executive Director Ericka Evans suggested an amendment to include a date for the applicant to check back with the department.

Commissioner Tennert discussed the licensee's responsibility to send collected sales tax to the state.

Amanda Nielsen, owner of Kdals LLC, Curry's Lounge addressed the commission. She stated she has the funds and is prepared to make her payment at the Tax Commission building.

Substitute Motion: In response to the discussion Commissioner Conabee offered a substitute to the motion.

Withdrawal of Motion: Commissioner Tennert withdrew her original motion.

Motion: Commissioner Conabee moved to grant the applicant 48 business hours, expiring at the end of business on Monday, March 30, 2026, to provide proof of payment and a valid sales tax license to the department. Failure to comply by this deadline will result in the suspension of the license. Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy

Commissioner Tennert

Commissioner Thue

Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Owens

Commissioner Orton

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

~~(2) — Pat's Barbecue, LLC, South Salt Lake (RF) STRIKE~~

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry explained that the department received proof that Pat's Barbecue meets the minimum qualifications to hold a license. He noted the department recommends the commission withdraw the order to show cause and strike item 2, Pat's Barbecue from the agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Conabee moved to withdraw the order to show cause for Pat's Barbecue. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Chair Handy

Vice Chair Tarazon

Commissioner Tennert

Commissioner Thue

Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Owens

Commissioner Orton

~~(3) — Pedalbar LLC, South Jordan (RL) STRIKE~~

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry explained the department has found Pedalbar LLC in South Jordan in compliance. He noted the department recommends the commission withdraw the order to show cause and strike item 3, Pedalbar LLC from the agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Conabee moved to withdraw item 3 Pedalbar LLC from the order to show cause. Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Discussion: Commissioner Thue asked staff to clarify the posted hours of operations and suggested discussing seasonal license rules with the legislature due to the state's diverse weather.

Violations Program Manager Erin Hinkel noted Pedalbar LLC's hours and clarified that summer seasonal licenses run from May 1 through October 31.

Commissioner Conabee noted the commission subcommittee has extensively discussed operating hours, and staff will educate licensees on minimum operating requirements.

Yea - 6

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Chair Handy

Vice Chair Tarazon

Commissioner Tennert

Commissioner Thue

Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Owens

Commissioner Orton

9. LICENSEE RECOGNITIONS: (Ericka Evans)

- a. Passed Utah Dept. of Public Safety, SBI Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) Inspections

Executive Director Ericka Evans reported since the February commission meeting, 119 licensees passed the Public Safety SBI Underage Buyer inspections. She congratulated those who passed and thanked them for following the alcohol safety laws.

10. APRIL 2026 LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER: (Brian Swan)

- a. Renewal Period April 1 to April 30, 2026
 - Liquor Transport (LT)

Deputy Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs Brian Swan announced the renewal period for liquor transport licenses starts April 1, 2026, and ends April 30, 2026.

11. CONSENT AGENDA: (Brian Swan) *[action item]*

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - (1) February 26, 2026 Commission Meeting
 - (2) March 4, 2026 Special Commission Meeting

- b. Off-Premise Beer Retailer State License

License Changes of Ownership:

 - (1) Quality Quick Stop # 2, Tooele (*purchase agreement March 4, 2026*)
 - (2) Pioneer Market, Lehi (*purchase agreement February 2, 2026*)

New Applicants:

 - (1) 7-Eleven Store #12948C, South Salt Lake
 - (2) Beyond Food Mart Sunoco, Virgin (*conditional*)
 - (3) Cathedral Valley Inn, Torrey
 - (4) Home2 Suites, Lehi
 - (5) Pilot Travel Center #294, Marriott-Slaterville (*conditional*)
 - (6) Pilot Travel Center #742, Lake Point
 - (7) Pilot Travel Center #743, Nephi
 - (8) Pilot Travel Center #744, West Haven
 - (9) Pilot Travel Center #746, Salt Lake City
 - (10) Pilot Travel Center #747, Springville
 - (11) Pilot Travel Center #748, Willard City
 - (12) Pilot Travel Center #772, North Salt Lake
 - (13) Pilot Travel Center #773, Richfield
 - (14) Pilot Travel Center #774, Snowville
 - (15) Pilot Travel Center #775, St George
 - (16) Rally Stop #18, Cedar City
 - (17) Su Casa Market, Herriman
 - (18) Summit Vista, Taylorsville
 - (19) Tejedas Market, West Valley City
 - (20) Woodruff Corner Store, Woodruff

- c. Hotel Sub-License

New Applicant:

 - (1) Westgate Park City Resort & Spa, Summit County (*Spa*)

- d. Liquor Warehouse

New Applicant:

 - (1) Devil's Juice, Salt Lake City

- e. Special Use Permit
New Applicant:
 (1) Honest John Bitters Co., Park City (*Industrial and Manufacturing*)
- f. Airport Lounge
License Change of Ownership:
 (1) Tailwind Concessions, St. George (*purchase agreement January 22, 2026*)
- g. Restaurant Beer Only
New Applicants:
 (1) Five Star BBQ Company, Orem (*violation history*)
 (2) Las Palmas Authentic Mexican Food III, St George (*conditional*)
 (3) Wu's Crab, Layton (*conditional*)
- h. Restaurant Limited-Service
License Change of Ownership:
 (1) Cordwood, Mount Carmel (*conditional*) (*purchase agreement December 23, 2025*)
New Applicants:
 (1) Buono Ristorante LLC, Sandy
 (2) Sukihana, North Salt Lake
 (3) Caracas Grill, Riverton (*conditional*)
 (4) 1st Chair Thai & Ramen, Brian Head (*conditional*)
 (5) Bobby's Burgers by Bobby Flay, Holladay (*conditional*)
 (6) Takumi Japanese Grill, Brigham City (*conditional*)
- i. On-Premise Beer Retailer - Recreational Amenity
New Applicant:
 (1) Gem E.C, Salt Lake City
- j. Restaurant Full-Service
Extended Closure:
 (1) Chimayo, Park City (*requesting until December 31, 2026*)
Extension of Conditional License:
 (1) Henry Baker, Salt Lake City (*requesting until July 25, 2026*)
License Change of Ownership:
 (1) Tucci's Cucina Italiana, Salt Lake City (*purchase agreement January 29, 2026*)
New Applicants:
 (1) Fini Pizza Utah City, Vineyard (*conditional*)
 (2) Lifetime Fitness-South Jordan, South Jordan (*conditional*)
 (3) Bricks Corner, West Valley City (*conditional*)
 (4) Los Tapatios Authentic Family Mexican Restaurant, Kanab (*conditional*)
 (5) Nomad Eatery, South Jordan (*conditional*)
 (6) El Chile Verde Burrito, Stockton (*conditional*) (*will surrender their Restaurant-Beer only license upon approval*)
 (7) Under Canvas, Virgin (*will surrender their Restaurant - Limited license upon approval*)

- (8) Taste of Red Iguana, South Jordan (*conditional*)
- (9) Magleby's, Pleasant Grove (*will surrender their Restaurant - Limited license upon approval*)
- (10) Futoi Roll Sushi, Draper (*conditional*)

Deputy Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs Brian Swan presented the consent agenda and noted the items are ready for commission action. He suggested the commission discuss item 1, Henry Baker, regarding a conditional restaurant full-service license extension.

Henry Baker applicant Edd Hutchins updated the commission on the business's operational readiness, noting he expects to finish by June 1, 2026. He answered the commissioners questions about his timeline to open within the 6-month period, financial investment, and securing investors.

Motion: Commissioner Thue made a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed on the commission agenda a-j. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Chair Handy

Vice Chair Tarazon

Commissioner Tennert

Commissioner Thue

Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Owens

Commissioner Orton

12. LICENSE APPLICATIONS CONSIDERATION ITEMS:

- a. Bar Establishment (Rob Hansen) [*action items*]

License Changes of Ownership:

- (1) ~~Premiere Park City, Park City (*conditional*) (purchase agreement December 2, 2025)~~ STRIKE
- (2) Saints & Sinners, St. George (*conditional*) (purchase agreement November 21, 2025)

Training Program Manager Rob Hansen presented the license changes of ownership applications, noting item 1 moved to the April commission meeting.

The commission interviewed Saints and Sinners owner Ed Tracy regarding his change of ownership application, specifically detailing his experience with the city of St. George, bar license quotas, and the bar's food menu.

Motion: Commissioner Thue moved to approve the conditional license change of ownership for the bar establishment item 2, Saints & Sinners in St. George. Commissioner Conabee second the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Owens
Commissioner Orton

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

New Applicants:

- (1) GEM 21, Salt Lake City (*will surrender their Bar Establishment license approval*)
- (2) Squatters Corner Pub Bar, West Valley City (*conditional*) (*violation history*)
- (3) The Break Draper, Draper (*conditional*)
- (4) Gradys, Midvale (*conditional*)

Training Program Manager Rob Hansen presented the new bar establishment applications. He noted 27 year-round and 2 winter seasonal bar licenses are available. He explained item 1, GEM 21, will surrender its bar establishment license if approved, keeping the quota unchanged.

Motion: Commissioner Owen moved to approve the license application consideration items a. bar establishment, new applicants, (1) GEM 21 in Salt Lake City, a conditional bar establishment licenses to (2) Squatters Corner Pub Bar in West Valley City, (3) The Break Draper in Draper, and (4) Grady's in Midvale. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Chair Handy
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Conabee
Commissioner Owens
Commissioner Orton

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon

13. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC

Chair Stephen Handy led a moment of remembrance for their late colleague, Vickie Ashby. Several members shared brief remarks honoring her memory, including Chair Stephen Handy, Vice Chair Jennifer Tarazon, Executive Director Ericka Evans, Deputy Director Finance and Administration Todd Darrington, Commissioners Juliette Tennert, Tara Thue, Christopher Conabee, Falyne Owens, and Jacquelyn Orton. The commission and staff reflected on her kindness, community impact, fierce advocacy, and crucial role in the department. Members expressed deep gratitude for their time with her and urged everyone to cherish their loved ones.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Commissioner Orton moved to adjourn the March 26, 2026 commission meeting. Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 6

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Chair Handy

Vice Chair Tarazon

Commissioner Thue

Commissioner Tennert

Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Owens

Commissioner Orton

The commission adjourned the meeting at 11:17 am.