

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Ogden City Council held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, and via electronic meeting, 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 Policy Analyst Clint Yingling
Communications Director Brandon Garside
Communications Specialist Eric Davenport

Also present: Mayor Benjamin K. Nadolski
 Chief Administrative Officer Mara A. Brown
 City Attorney Gary Williams
 Community and Economic Development Assistant Executive Director David Sawyer
 Sustainability Coordinator Lorenzo Long
 City Recorder Tracy Hansen

At the request of the Chair, all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ogden City Police Honor Guard.

A moment of silence was observed.

Acknowledgements:

Chair Hyer presented an America250 acknowledgment focusing on the historical significance of "No taxation without representation," explaining how this principle emerged from British taxation of American colonists without parliamentary representation after the French and Indian War (1754-1763). He noted how this concept has since been adopted by various groups seeking representation, including the women's suffrage movement and advocates for District of Columbia voting rights.

Council member Lundell acknowledged the Project Success Coalition's Youth Council and their upcoming Take Down Tobacco Day event on Friday, April 10, at Lester Park from 4-6 PM. Betty Sawyer introduced the youth council, and Casey Arguello, President of Project Success, explained their mission to combat tobacco and harmful substances affecting youth, emphasizing education and community connection rather than force.

Council member Richey presented an acknowledgment for Child Abuse Prevention Month, citing sobering statistics that one in four girls and one in 13 boys experience sexual abuse during childhood. He emphasized the preventable nature of child abuse through community awareness and early intervention, highlighting the work of local organizations including the Christmas Box House, which has served over 6,000 children.

Recognition of the Weber State University Dance Team for winning the Division I Hip Hop National Finals at the Universal Dance Association Championships.

A memo from Council staff regarding recognition of the Weber State University Dance Team for winning the Division I Hip Hop National Finals at the Universal Dance Association Championships came before the Council for consideration. Council member Washington read the certificate of recognition issued by the Ogden City Council and Mayor Nadolski and presented Coach Erica Jordan with the certificate.

Ms. Jordan thanked the Mayor and Council for this recognition; she expressed gratitude for the opportunity she and her team had of representing both the University and the Ogden community on the national stage.

Public Comments

The public comment period featured extensive discussion on several key issues, with speakers addressing the ICE facility, renewable energy program, and community concerns.

ICE Facility and Immigration Issues: Multiple residents raised concerns about the ICE holding facility at 2487 South 1620 West and its compliance with conditional use permits: William Mitchell, Emily Fox, Jacob Padanos, Sara (no last name given), Joshua Creek, James Dixon, Thor Dorosh, Heath Satow, Angel Castillo, Demetrius Pagonis, and Alexa Hubert all spoke

about accountability and enforcement of conditional use permits for the ICE facility. Key concerns raised included:

- Violations of the original conditional use permit conditions regarding hours of operation and detention times
- Need for formal compliance review and fire safety inspections
- Request for written determination of compliance within a reasonable timeframe
- Calls for humane treatment of individuals processed through the facility
- Suggestions for ordinance requiring periodic review of conditional use permits over 10 years old

Utah Renewable Communities Energy Program: Several residents spoke in favor of and against the renewable energy program: Supporters: Rod Perry, Mark Stevenson, David Farrow, Dan Bedford, Linda Sevelov, Heath Satow, and Joanne Lawrence advocated for the program, citing:

- Economic benefits and cost savings compared to fossil fuels
- Increased choice for consumers
- Long-term sustainability and environmental benefits
- Protection from future rate increases

Opponents: Steven Van Wagner, Tiana Web, and Laura Lewis raised concerns including:

- The opt-out structure rather than true opt-in choice
- Lack of transparency about true costs and long-term obligations
- Questions about fairness to future residents and renters
- Requests for disclosure of political endorsements and funding

Other Issues:

- Joseph Baum commended the city for police and fire department funding, noting recent awards for the police chief and a detective. He also addressed the topic of water, sharing insights as a member of various water boards, specifically noting the strong management of Pine View Water Systems. He highlighted that secondary water will be turned on by April 20, which is earlier than some other agencies like Weber Basin, which plans to activate water systems by May 15, aiming for more infrastructure readiness. Mr. Baum stressed the significance of maintaining Ogden City's effective water management, urging residents to appreciate the city's approach amidst regional water allocation challenges.
- David Belknap expressed concerns about Weber County Sheriff's Office funding requests and the 287(g) agreement
- Chris Bassett raised parking concerns about a proposed townhome project on 16th Street
- Linda Sanchez called for unity and collaboration among city leadership
- Teresa Bramwell advocated for expanded ICE facilities to address crime concerns

Council member Comments

Council member Lundell thanked Mr. Baum for his comments about the scarcity of water in Utah; he briefly discussed the importance of water conservation, acknowledging the importance of responsible water use and efficient management in alignment with community goals. He then provided transparency about receiving endorsements and donations from Stewardship Utah, expressing pride in the shared values. He reported following up on fire inspection requests for the ICE facility, receiving a response that staff conducted a drive-by inspection but saw no reason for a full inspection. He has not received information about when the last formal fire inspection occurred.

Vice Chair Graf thanked community members for engagement and disclosed receiving endorsement and campaign donation from Clean Air Utah in 2023. He explained differences in Ogden's form of government compared to surrounding communities, noting that the City Council has legislative but not administrative responsibilities. He confirmed that Council questions about the ICE facility have been forwarded to the Administration.

Council member Richey acknowledged questions about the renewable energy program and announced plans for a second work session to gather additional information. He clarified that Ogden does not contract with the Weber County Sheriff's Department like other communities without police departments.

Council member Washington requested that questions sent to Administration be read during the meeting. Council Executive Director Symes noted it might take a while to gather all the questions as they have been submitted over the past months, mentioning that he typically organizes them into a folder for compilation and recent inquiry. Council member Washington then reported that she has inquired about the process for calling a special meeting, referencing a request she made for a special meeting during the March 26 meeting. She expressed appreciation to Council leadership and staff for clarifying what constitutes a special meeting, reviewing Council rules and norms, and offering further insight into this process. She then provided updates on her follow-up with Weber County health department regarding the ICE facility. She reported that a field inspector attempted to enter the facility but was only able to have discussions with facility staff. A written report is pending. She also disclosed not receiving campaign contributions from renewable energy advocacy organizations.

Council member Myers expressed cautious optimism about the renewable energy program and reported extensive Council staff research on ICE facility issues, including studies of approaches taken by other communities. He disclosed receiving no organizational endorsements, only support from friends.

Council member Lopez invited community members to join various city boards and commissions, particularly noting vacancies on the Community Engagement and Opportunities Commission.

Chair Hyer provided updates on water conservation measures from Weber Basin, including delayed water system startup until May 15 and shutdown on September 15, with 20% reduction requests for agricultural and secondary water usage. He asked

for input from Mr. Symes regarding the Council's role in approving or revoking a conditional use permit and input from City Attorney Williams regarding conditional use permit enforcement. Mr. Symes explained that changes in state law now restrict cities from imposing conditions. Instead, cities can only mitigate reasonably anticipated detrimental effects, which means conditional use permits today are more akin to permitted uses with conditions rather than the case-by-case permits they once were. Mr. Williams provided clarification on conditional use permit enforcement and federal supremacy clause implications, explaining that while federal agencies should comply with generally applicable land use laws, the supremacy clause limits local government's ability to obstruct core federal functions.

Chair Hyer then discussed his philosophical concerns about the renewable energy program's opt-out structure and role of government, while acknowledging the thoroughness of presentations received for City staff and members of the Utah Renewable Communities Board. He then emphasized Ogden's transparency compared to other jurisdictions and addressed constitutional principles regarding separation of powers and federal supremacy, noting that accountability for federal agencies lies with federal representatives (Senators Lee, Curtis, and Representative Moore) rather than local government.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Nadolski addressed several key issues raised during public comments:

- **ICE Facility Response:** The Mayor detailed his administration's approach to investigating the ICE facility, emphasizing treating it the same as any other business. He explained that when asked to conduct a fire inspection, staff followed standard procedures for existing businesses, which typically require specific violations, or new construction permits to trigger deeper inspections. A drive-by inspection was conducted but no specific violations were found to warrant further investigation. He stated the Administration would ask for permission to conduct a more thorough inspection if ICE allows it. Regarding allegations of conditional use permit violations, Mayor Nadolski reported that his administration has not been able to substantiate claims of overnight detention or violations of operating hours with available evidence. He noted meetings with both ICE officials and the sheriff to validate information from different sources.
- **Immigration Policy:** The Mayor acknowledged the personal impact of immigration issues on his family and community, stating his commitment to ensuring humane treatment while working within legal boundaries. He announced plans to be more vocal with congressional delegation about comprehensive immigration reform, emphasizing that local governments cannot solve federal immigration policy issues.
- **Weber County Sheriff Funding:** Mayor Nadolski addressed concerns about double taxation, explaining that Ogden residents may be subsidizing police services for other communities through general county funds while maintaining their own police department. He expressed intent to address this issue aggressively.
- **Water Conservation:** The Mayor announced upcoming communications about water restrictions and fire safety measures, based on conditions and well-developed policies with clear triggers for different restriction levels.

Council member Washington raised questions about the conditional use permit (CUP) at the ICE facility, highlighting the requirement that for fire safety, the building is expected to be sprinklered to the satisfaction of the fire marshal. She sought clarity on where documentation confirming such inspections could be located, given that codes may have changed over time. Mayor Nadolski noted that during their investigation, no specific violations were found that warranted further inspection than what is typical for existing facilities. He emphasized that the Administration aimed to treat the facility as any other business and reiterated compliance with standard procedures, which usually rely on new construction permits or specific violations to trigger more thorough inspections. City Attorney Gary Williams acknowledged that physical documentation of inspections might no longer be available due to the age of the CUP, dating back over two decades. However, he stressed that compliance at the time of approval would have been necessary to obtain a use permit initially. While no documentation could immediately be found, the presumption is that compliance was verified at that time.

Council member Lopez encouraged patience regarding ICE facility investigations and thanked the Mayor for his commitment to work on federal immigration policy issues.

There being no further business to come before the Council, **COUNCIL MEMBER LUNDELL MOVED THE MEETING ADJOURN AT 8:19 P.M. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LOPEZ, ALL VOTING AYE.**

TRACY HANSEN, MMC/CRA
CITY RECORDER

RICHARD A. HYER, CHAIR

APPROVED: May 5, 2026