



**CITY OF KEARNS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

April 13, 2026, 6:00 PM

ELEMENT EVENT CENTER- 5658 COUGAR LN, KEARNS, UTAH 84118

****DRAFT MINUTES – UNAPPROVED****

CITY OF KEARNS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jesse Valdez, Mayor
Chrystal Butterfield, Council Member
Lyndsay Longtin, Council Member
Lorrin Colby, Jr., Council Member
Patrick Schaeffer, Council Member

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Nathan Bracken, City Attorney
Diana Baun, City Recorder
Chief Levi Hughes, Unified Police Department
Chief Tyler Lintz, Unified Fire Authority
Jeff Miller, Planner

Others Present: Evan Tyrrell, Renee Plant,

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jesse Valdez, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. DETERMINE QUORUM

Mayor Jesse Valdez announced that a quorum was present allowing the meeting to proceed.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. VISITING PUBLIC OFFICIALS - None

5. CITIZEN PUBLIC INPUT

Darren Nerdin addressed the Council and provided an update on ongoing and planned community tree-planting activities. He explained that seven trees were planned for installation at Mountain Man Park on May 2, pending County approval because the County maintained the

CITY OF KEARNS COUNCIL

MAYOR JESSE VALDEZ, COUNCIL MEMBER CHRYSTAL BUTTERFIELD,
COUNCIL MEMBER LYND SAY LONGTIN, COUNCIL MEMBER LORRIN COLBY, JR.,
COUNCIL MEMBER PATRICK SCHAEFFER

park. He also noted that he had \$1,000 in Rocky Mountain Power tree vouchers that could purchase four to five additional trees. He invited suggestions from the Council or community regarding public areas in need of new trees and stated that Tree Utah continued to support large-scale plantings of twenty to thirty trees at a time, with prior projects at Oquirrh Park and Lodestone Park. He mentioned possible future planting opportunities near areas such as Bruce Field, David Gourley Park, or any other suitable open-space locations.

Casey Saxton then spoke and explained that he had reached out to Council Members earlier in the day to share concerns regarding the Clean Energy Program appearing later on the agenda. He stated that the program would raise residential utility rates by approximately \$4 per month, totaling nearly \$50 annually, and would increase non-residential customer rates by roughly 5%. He emphasized that he supported environmental stewardship but preferred that the city consider either declining to enter the program or shifting it to a voluntary opt-in model so residents were not automatically enrolled. He asked the Council to consider the potential financial impact on residents as they deliberated the matter.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes**
 - a. March 10, 2025 City Council Meeting
 - b. March 9, 2026 City Council Meeting

Council Member Butterfield moved to approve the March 10, 2025 and March 9, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes as published. Council Member Longtin seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

- B. Monthly Financial Report (Acknowledgment of Report)**

Council Member Butterfield moved to have the council acknowledge receipt of the monthly financial report as published. Council Member Schaeffer seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

7. STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

- A. Unified Fire Authority (UFA) – Chief Tyler Lintz**

Chief Tyler Lintz provided the Unified Fire Authority report and began by thanking the Mayor and Council for attending the recent Fire School 101 training. He invited feedback on the event, and Council Member Lyndsay Longtin stated that she had enjoyed every part of the experience. Mayor Jesse Valdez added that the training had been valuable, noting that the hands-on demonstrations helped the Council better understand the daily challenges firefighters faced and the reasons behind specific operational procedures.

Chief Lintz then reviewed multiple updates from UFA operations. He stated that significant construction activity would soon occur at Station 107, explaining that both the male and female bathrooms were scheduled for full reconstruction and that the station would also receive a new

roof. He reported that UFA had recently installed a new Air Nation exhaust-filtration system in the apparatus bays to remove diesel particulates, helping reduce cancer risk among firefighters. He noted that additional construction activities would continue throughout the summer as part of the ongoing RFP process.

Chief Lintz continued by highlighting UFA's "Connecting Seniors to Adult Aging Services" initiative. He explained that EMS crews could initiate referrals with a single button in their reporting system and that seniors were then connected to programs providing home-safety improvements, ramps, handrails, food support, and other resources. He reported that since 2022, more than 200 Kearns seniors had been connected to services through this process.

Turning to seasonal updates, Chief Lintz warned that the 2026 wildland fire season was expected to be especially severe. He stated that UFA had activated all wildland resources earlier than usual and that personnel were already preparing for demanding conditions. He noted that Kearns had limited urban-interface areas, but UFA continued to monitor risks closely.

Chief Lintz then informed the Council that a community CPR class was scheduled for April 25 at Magna Station 111, located on 3500 South, and emphasized that this was the closest class location available to Kearns residents.

Finally, Chief Lintz reviewed the fireworks restriction map created in ArcGIS and explained that no changes were recommended for 2026. He described the restricted areas, which included schools, parks, railroad corridors, and locations under power lines. He also noted that if late-season conditions worsened significantly, UFA could return to request emergency restrictions, as had occurred in 2021. Council Members indicated they had no objections to keeping the restrictions unchanged.

B. Unified Police Department (UPD) – Chief Levi Hughes

Chief Levi Hughes presented the Unified Police Department update, beginning with a detailed overview of the proposed FY 2026–27 precinct budget. He explained that UPD had been directed by the UPD Board to stay under a 3% cost increase and that he had maintained Kearns' precinct budget at the same base level as the previous year. He noted that although the service level remained constant, external cost drivers—including health insurance, retirement contributions, utilities, and fuel—would require Kearns to allocate approximately \$125,000 from its precinct savings account to maintain current operations. He stated that he anticipated returning about \$250,000 to the precinct's savings at year-end due to savings accumulated earlier in the year during periods of staffing vacancies.

Chief Hughes described the difference between restricted and unrestricted precinct savings funds. Restricted funds were reserved for payouts in the event of mass personnel turnover, while unrestricted funds—currently about \$450,000—could be used only with Council approval.

He noted that because the precinct was now fully staffed, no new vacancy-driven surpluses were expected in the coming year. He also explained that the precinct's use of the meta tax had previously restored two police officers and a crime analyst position that had been lost during a prior funding reduction. He highlighted the success of crime analyst Faith, who had recently been named UPD Civilian of the Year, noting that her work demonstrated strong return on the City's investment.

Chief Hughes then discussed the ongoing need for a dedicated traffic enforcement car. He stated that Kearns remained the only precinct in the valley without one and that the lack of a traffic car required officers to be diverted from higher-priority calls. He explained that adding a traffic car would involve an estimated ongoing cost of approximately \$630,000 funded through the MET tax, and he asked the Council to consider authorizing the position at a future meeting. Council Member Lorrin Colby asked clarifying questions regarding traffic enforcement equipment, including the use of a motorbike already assigned within the precinct.

Chief Hughes also reviewed investigative accomplishments, highlighting a recent bicycle-theft case. He described how Detective Webb tracked a suspect engaged in multiple thefts, resulting in a successful pursuit and recovery of stolen bicycles. He used this example to demonstrate the investigative unit's commitment to addressing both major and minor crimes within Kearns.

C. Kearns Improvement District (KID) Updates – Greg Anderson

Greg Anderson presented updates from the Kearns Improvement District. He began by reading a public statement regarding current drought conditions. He reported that the 2025–2026 winter season had produced the lowest snowpack on record and that warm temperatures had led to reduced reservoir recharge, prompting state agencies to declare a Level 2 Code Orange drought. He urged residents to delay outdoor watering until May 15, water no more than twice per week thereafter, and irrigate only between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. He encouraged all customers to enroll in the free AMI Smart Metering System, which provided real-time usage tracking and leak-detection alerts.

Mr. Anderson then reviewed progress on the 4865 South water-line replacement project, explaining that the existing 6-inch water line was being upsized to a 12-inch main to improve fire-flow capacity at Kearns Junior High. He stated that approximately 1,000 feet of pipe had already been installed and that the full line was expected to be completed by the end of the following week, with final paving anticipated by July 1.

He also reported that KID planned to participate in the upcoming Kearns Days celebration with a float and booths and announced a new promotional event—the “Running Toilet 5K”—to raise awareness about indoor water-waste prevention. The event would include cash prizes and costume contests. He added that the District had recently received the 2026 American Water Works Association Public Communications Award and would accept the award at the national

conference in Washington, D.C. later in the year. He concluded by expressing appreciation to UPD Sergeant Fawcett and other officers for recently providing active-shooter response training to KID staff.

D. Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District (WFWRD) – Evan Tyrrell and Renee Plant

Evan Tyrrell and Renee Plant presented a comprehensive overview of WFWRD operations and new initiatives. Mr. Tyrrell introduced himself as the district's new general manager and described ongoing efforts to expand communication, customer education, and service transparency. He reviewed the services included in the base user fee, including weekly trash and recycling collection, the seasonal SCRAP program, landfill vouchers, glass drop-off locations, leaf collection, container repairs, Christmas tree pickup, and subscription-based green-waste and glass-recycling services. He provided districtwide service statistics: more than 86,000 households served, including over 10,000 in Kearns, and 2025 annual tonnage totals of roughly 110,000 tons of trash, 6,000 tons of green waste, and 18,000 tons of recycling.

Ms. Plant discussed trends within the SCRAP container-reservation program. She explained that in previous years, 38–41% of households reserving containers had also reserved one the year before. To improve fairness, WFWRD implemented the tiered reservation system adopted last year, which created “early bird” and “general access” windows. She explained that the new system eliminated the prior issue of residents logging in at midnight to secure reservations, allowing WFWRD to open scheduling at 8 a.m. instead.

Both presenters described expanded capacity for the 2026 program season, including additional leased trucks, additional seasonal drivers, and increased daily collection targets. They also announced a new centralized bulk drop-off event scheduled for June 23–25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in partnership with Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation. The event would allow up to 540 additional bulky-waste drop-offs through an online reservation system. They emphasized that WFWRD would manage staffing, traffic flow, and daily site cleanup. Council Members expressed support, and Council Member Patrick Schaeffer asked whether shredding events could return in future years. Mr. Tyrrell stated that such events were feasible but more expensive, and WFWRD would evaluate opportunities to add them back.

Mr. Tyrrell also introduced a new year-round curbside special-item pickup program beginning May 1. He noted that the program would allow residents to schedule collection of items such as tires, mattresses, and appliances requiring Freon removal, with in-district customers billed on their regular account and out-of-district customers paying up front. He also addressed a rumor that WFWRD did not actually recycle collected materials, emphatically clarifying that all recyclable items collected in Kearns were delivered to licensed materials recovery facilities for proper sorting, baling, and resale. He described safety protocols and contamination-prevention measures used by WFWRD drivers.

Ms. Plant then discussed WFWRD's transition to a new payment-processing system, Point & Pay, effective May 4. She asked residents using autopay or electronic billing to register new accounts and explained that WFWRD would shift to postcard billing beginning in June.

8. WORKSHOP - None

9. PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Updates on Economic Development Outreach – Langdon Group

Dan Adams with the Langdon Group presented an update on the ongoing Olympic Oval Area Assessment and Economic Development Outreach Project. He explained that his team had now conducted over thirty interviews with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Salt Lake County Mayor, leadership from Unified Fire Authority, state-level representatives, the office of Congressman Burgess Owens, transportation officials from UDOT and UTA, and a number of local residents and community leaders. He stated that the purpose of these interviews was to gather perspectives about Kearns' future, potential opportunities surrounding the Olympic Oval, and the infrastructure and transportation needs associated with long-term planning and the upcoming Olympic cycle. He noted that approximately six interviews remained before the assessment phase would conclude.

Dan Adams reported that the Langdon Group had also reviewed earlier studies and planning documents prepared over the past decade addressing the same geographic areas. He stated that many of these documents contained relevant information that could be updated and incorporated into a unified set of recommendations. He informed the Council that once the interviews were complete, the Langdon Group would compile its findings, prepare a report containing recommendations, and outline a process for broader community engagement. He added that these materials would be presented to the City Council and further discussed in a scheduled work session that evening regarding real-property acquisition considerations tied to economic development around the Oval. The Council thanked him for the update.

B. City Code Restatement Project Updates

No updates at this time.

C. MyKearns Community Coalition

Don Bartlett, Chair of the MyKearns Community Coalition, introduced coalition members who were present and provided an overview of the organization's work. He explained that the coalition was founded in 2015 under the name Evidence2Success and had since transitioned into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. He stated that the coalition was in the second and final term of its federal Drug Free Communities grant, which would sunset in September 2027. Don Bartlett described the coalition's mission to reduce youth substance use and other harmful behaviors by implementing evidence-based programs, environmental strategies, and community engagement initiatives. He explained that the coalition operates with a governing board of at least twelve members representing sectors across the community, with typical

meeting attendance averaging twenty to twenty-five participants.

Don Bartlett outlined several programs currently supported by the coalition, including Project CREST, which focuses on building resilience among elementary-age youth; Guiding Good Choices, which provides parenting-skills courses; Meantime, which supports youth mental-health initiatives; and the Youth Court program, which offers an opportunity for peer-to-peer accountability and helps participating youth avoid having minor infractions placed on their permanent records. He explained that once the DFC grant ended, the loss of funding would significantly affect outreach capacity, programming, and educational events. He stated that the coalition hoped to begin discussions with the City regarding allocation of Beer Tax revenue to sustain substance-use-prevention work and offered to prepare a detailed budget demonstrating that the expenditures would comply with statutory Beer Tax requirements.

Charles Henderson, Chair of the Healthy Kearns Workgroup, then addressed the Council regarding the renewal of the Get Healthy Utah “Healthy Kearns” designation. He explained that the designation had originally been obtained several years earlier and that the workgroup had already completed the required three-year action plan and strategy update. He stated that renewal required a letter of support signed by the Mayor and the City Council. Charles Henderson highlighted that the previous designation had resulted in a \$5,000 grant used to develop plans for a community garden and that renewal could open the door to similar grant opportunities.

Council Member Lyndsay Longtin asked about prior efforts to establish a community garden. Charles Henderson, together with Chief Tyler Lintz, provided background spanning several years. They explained that earlier plans had identified potential sites near the library, along 5600 West and 6200 South, and at the proposed city-center area. They stated that a small grant had previously been awarded, but the materials acquired were insufficient to fully launch the project. They emphasized that enthusiasm for a garden remained strong and that the coalition continued to seek a permanent location and partnership.

Chief Levi Hughes also addressed the Council and voiced strong support for directing Beer Tax funds toward prevention initiatives operated by the coalition. He explained that the coalition’s coordinator position was currently funded through the grant, and that if the grant expired without replacement funding, Kearns would lose essential capacity for youth-prevention programming. He stated that in his view this position was vital to the health and long-term well-being of the community, and he encouraged the Council to consider dedicating local funds to maintain the program.

The Council thanked the presenters for their continued work and partnership.

10. COUNCIL BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

- A.** Discussion and Potential Approval of **Ordinance 2026-O-02**, Amending Side Yard Setback Requirements for the R-1-62, R-1-7 and R-1-8 Single-Family Residential Zones

Planner Jeff Miller presented background on a citizen-initiated request submitted by resident Perla Rivera, who sought to construct a one-car attached garage on her property. He explained that the current zoning code required either two 8-foot side setbacks or a 5-foot/11-foot split, and that while reviewing Ms. Rivera's lot, staff discovered that its configuration made compliance impossible. Jeff Miller added that many neighboring homes had existing garages built with 5-foot setbacks on the garage side, demonstrating that the existing 11-foot requirement did not reflect historical development patterns. He described the proposed amendment as providing needed flexibility by allowing either two 8-foot setbacks or a cumulative 16-foot total between the two side yards, with no individual side yard less than 5 feet. He stated that the Planning Commission had forwarded a favorable recommendation.

Council Members asked clarifying questions about how the ordinance would apply to attached garages and whether it affected front- or rear-yard setbacks.

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-O-02, Amending Side Yard Setbacks as described above and Council Member Lyndsay Longtin seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5–0.

- B. Discussion and Potential Approval of Ordinance 2026-O-03, An Ordinance of the Kearns City Council Amending Chapter 2.56 of the Kearns Municipal Code to Establish the Kearns Community Council as an Official Committee of the City for the Purpose of Planning and Implementing the City's Planned Annual Civic Events**

City Attorney Nathan Bracken reviewed the proposed ordinance converting the long-standing Kearns Community Council into an official City committee to ensure compliance with updated state-level reporting, accounting, and Open and Public Meetings Act requirements. He explained that the current Community Council had six seated members and three vacancies, and that staff recommended transitioning the six existing members into the new committee with their current terms to avoid quorum issues.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding what the committee should be named. Nathan Bracken noted that the ordinance required a specific name to be inserted before adoption. Community Council representatives expressed a preference for retaining the acronym KCC and the words "Community Council" if possible. The Mayor and Council discussed various hybrid names that would preserve the group's identity while distinguishing it clearly from the City Council. Ultimately, consensus formed around the name Kearns Community Committee, which retained the KCC acronym while addressing concerns about public confusion.

Nathan Bracken then clarified that the Council would need to amend the draft ordinance to reflect the chosen name and to revise the section dealing with staggered terms so the newly established committee members would continue under their existing term end dates. He read the list of individuals and term expiration years to be incorporated, with five members serving terms ending December 31, 2029, and four serving terms ending December 31, 2027, including the three vacant seats to be appointed.

Council Member Longtin moved to approve Ordinance 2026-O-03 with the amendments described by the City Attorney, and Council Member Patrick Schaeffer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Discussion and Potential Approval of Resolution R2026-11, Authorizing Property Owners in Kearns to Participate in the C-PACE Program (Theddi Chappell available for questions)

City Attorney Nathan Bracken gave a brief overview of the program and accompanying Ordinance as outlined in the documents published prior to the meeting.

Council Member Longtin moved to approve Resolution R2026-11, Authorizing participation in the C-PACE Program. Council Member Schaeffer seconded the motion, vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

- D. Discussion and Potential Approval of **Ordinance 2026-O-04**, Enacting the Community Clean Energy Program

City Attorney Nathan Bracken provided an overview of the Community Renewable Energy Program (CREP). He explained that Kearns had joined the multi-city program several years earlier and had been participating on a “wait-and-see” basis as details were finalized. He stated that the Public Service Commission had now approved the final program rates and requirements. Under the program structure, all Rocky Mountain Power customers within Kearns would be automatically enrolled, with the ability to opt out within the first six months at no cost. After the opt-out window, a \$30 fee would apply.

He acknowledged public-comment concerns expressed earlier in the meeting regarding the anticipated \$4 per-month increase for residential customers and the approximate 5% impact on non-residential users. He noted that while long-term cost savings were possible, there was no guarantee, and the City could choose whether or not to continue in the program. Council Members discussed the issue in depth and agreed to table action until the following month to allow time for public outreach and further review.

- E. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Job Description for a City Administrator

Nathan Bracken reviewed the proposed job description for the soon-to-be first full-time employee of the City of Kearns: the City Administrator. He stated that the salary range had been revised to \$95,000–\$140,000 to allow flexibility, noting that candidates might vary in the benefits packages they would seek. He recommended posting the position for a minimum of two weeks through the Department of Workforce Services and other job-listing platforms.

He further recommended establishing a hiring committee to review applications and present finalist recommendations to the Council. Mayor Jesse Valdez proposed a committee consisting of himself, Council Member Chrystal Butterfield, Marla Howard from MSD, Chief Levi Hughes,

City Attorney Nathan Bracken, and consultant Lisa Watts. Council Members agreed with the proposed structure.

Council Member Lyndsay Longtin moved to approve the job description, authorize posting for at least two weeks, and appoint the hiring committee as described. Council Member Chrystal Butterfield seconded. The vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

- F. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Description of a Contract Community Impact Coordinator
- G. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Description of a Contract Freelance Visual Storyteller
- H. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Description of a Contract IT Services Provider

City Attorney Nathan Bracken explained that these three positions were envisioned as contracted roles rather than regular employees and would work alongside the City Administrator. Mayor Jesse Valdez described the purpose of each position, emphasizing that the Community Impact Coordinator must reside in Kearns and would support strategic communication, constituent services, and resident engagement. He also described the importance of modernizing city operations and strengthening communication through dedicated technology and storytelling roles.

Council Members stated they needed additional time to review all three job descriptions.

Council Member Patrick Schaeffer moved to table the three items—Community Impact Coordinator, Freelance Visual Storyteller, and IT Services Provider—until the May meeting. Council Member Chrystal Butterfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5–0.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Legislative Updates

City Attorney Nathan Bracken provided legislative updates, noting the passage of SB 284 and related land-use changes. He reported that Kearns is already compliant with several provisions, including allowance of detached ADUs, and stated that Planning Commission members will require updated annual training on ex parte communications, impartiality, and ethics. Bracken also noted the Legislature has prohibited City Councils from serving as land-use appeal authorities, but Kearns already uses an Administrative Law Judge for appeals.

Council Member Schaeffer moved to recess the City Council Meeting and move into Closed Session for the reason(s) indicated below. Council Member Butterfield seconded that motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

12. Closed Session if Needed as Allowed Pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-205

- A. Discussion of the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual
- B. Strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation
- C. **Strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property**
- D. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and/or
- E. Other lawful purposes as listed in Utah Code §52-4-205

13. **Adjourn**

Council Member Butterfield moved to adjourn the April 13, 2026, City Council Meeting. Council Member Schaeffer seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

This is a true and correct copy of the April 13, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes, which were approved on May 11, 2026.

Attest:

Diana Baun, City Recorder

Jesse Valdez, Mayor