

BRIGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026, at 6:30 pm

**Approved at the Town of Brighton Council Meeting on May 12th, 2026*

ATTENDANCE

Council: Scotty John (Mayor and meeting chair)

Council Members: Keith Zuspan, Lise Brunhart, Jeff Bossard, Carolyn Keigley

Staff: Polly McLean, Nate Rockwood, Jane Martain, Kara John, Laura Bossard, Heinrich Deters,
MSD- Richard Stephens

Partners:

UPD- Anna Walker and Tyler Ackerman,

UFA- Craig Ellingson,

Brighton Resort- Mike Doyle, Solitude Resort- Amber Broadaway,

BCCA- Barbara Cameron

Public: Angus Robertson, Amy Kelley, Ulrich Brunhart, Chad Smith, Michael, Jonathan Owens,
Brian Reynolds, Angela Bovo

ANNOUNCEMENTS. RECORDING 0:0:23

Chipper Days dates are July 20 – 30. Residents can sign up until July 19th [Chipper Days Sign-Up Form | Brighton UT](#)

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MINUTES. RECORDING 0:01:07

Lise Brunhart moved to approve the minutes for the Town Council Meeting on March 10th, 2026, and Jeff Bossard seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Unified Polic Department (UPD). RECORDING 0:01:38

Dispatch 801-840-4000

Property checks 385-468-9920

Detective Anna Walker reported, in March, officers responded to a total of 233 calls for service within the Town of Brighton. There was one reported case of domestic violence, one assault, and three incidents involving intoxicated individuals. Additionally, officers responded to 3 search and rescue calls, 31 motorist or citizen assists, and 38 contacts were made related to watershed violations. Traffic enforcement efforts included 65 traffic stops. Citations were issued for offenses such as speeding, reckless driving, impaired driving, improper passing, and other traffic-related violations.

Detective Walker noted seasonal changes, including warming temperatures and melting snow, and encouraged residents to request property checks or proactive patrols as needed. Residents

may contact the department via email or through the holiday precinct, with contact information available on the Town of Brighton's official website, [Police and Fire | Brighton UT.](#)

Jeff Bossard noted a KSL article from earlier today about an arsonist in the canyon. Detective Walker noted it occurred in the lower canyon and it's an open investigation, so more information is expected to be released later. Chief Ellingson added that the suspect has been apprehended.

Unified Fire Authority (UFA). RECORDING 0:03:42

Chief Craig Ellingson reported that crews responded to 85 calls for service within the Town of Brighton. Approximately 82% of these calls were medical in nature, with the majority occurring at ski resorts, primarily involving falls and traumatic injuries. It's consistent with seasonal winter recreation activity. Additional incident types last month included 1 vehicle fire (minor in nature), and several residential alarm malfunctions. Overall activity is typical for this time of year, with a shift expected from ski resort-related incidents toward increased trail, hiking, and recreational vehicle-related responses as we transition from ski season into mud season.

Chief Ellingson reported that fire season is anticipated to begin earlier than usual this year. Wildland fire crews have already been deployed for several months, including assignments in Texas and Nebraska, and are currently returning as regional preparedness efforts increase. The department is actively preparing for wildfire conditions and will be increasing messaging related to fire safety, mitigation, and prevention. Last year was successful in keeping fires out of the canyon and those efforts will continue this year.

SKI RESORTS

Solitude. RECORDING 0:05:43

Amber Broadway reported the resort is approaching the end of its winter season operations and will officially close on Sunday, marking the final day of the season. Late-season conditions are uncertain but there is hope for additional precipitation, whether rain or snow, through the end of the season. Prior to closing, Solitude will host the "High Fives Military to the Mountains" camp this week, in partnership with the National Ability Center and Wasatch Adaptive. The program supports wounded veterans who train in Texas prior to participating in adaptive ski and snowboard instruction at Solitude. This weekend's event is the "Last Chance Rodeo," featuring a mechanical bull and axe throwing. After closing, resort operations will pause briefly for the offseason while they prepare for summer operations; updates expected at next month's meeting.

Brighton. RECORDING 0:08:08

Mike Doyle reported the winter season is winding down and business has slowed particularly during midweek periods. Snake Creek and Explorer will remain open through Sunday. They are building for the Meltdown, and park operations will officially begin on Monday and run through May 3. The terrain park build is a large-scale feature extending from the top of Crest, intended to support late-season activity. The upcoming weekend will include a live DJ at Alpine Rose and

Moab Brewing presence on the deck. There won't be a shutdown period between the regular season and Meltdown operations this year. If conditions allow, an additional weekend will be considered, but rain could prevent that.

BUSINESS

- a. Approve Resolution 2026-R-4-1, Adopting the Tentative Budget for the Town of Brighton, Utah for the Fiscal Year 2027 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and set a time and place for a public hearing on May 12th, 2026, at 6:30 PM at Fire Station 108, 6788 S. Big Cottonwood Canyon Rd, and electronically via Zoom. Presented by Nate Rockwood. For discussion and adoption.**

PACKET pages 13-30. RECORDING 0:10:10

Nate Rockwood presented the tentative budget and outlined an updated timeline for the budget adoption process. He explained that the Town is moving the tentative budget adoption up by one month to better align with the Municipal Services District (MSD) budgeting process to allow better coordination among their other member entities. The MSD will adopt their tentative budget next week, and their final budget May 13th. Therefore, the town's tentative budget is being presented and adopted in April (instead of May); and the final budget adoption remains scheduled for June (no change). Budget adjustments can be made at any time of the year, but this allows an extra month for changes before the final budget is adopted. The state requires the budget to be adopted by June 30, but we will set a time and place for the public hearing and adoption at the regularly scheduled council meeting on June 9th. The town will also adopt a zero-property tax increase by resolution, which is a required procedural step even though the Town of Brighton does not levy a municipal property tax. This is entered into the state system as a formal "zero" tax rate.

Per Scotty's question regarding the timeline to make changes, Keith noted the fiber conduit project will be budgeted with the MSD's Capital Fund and it will be spread across multiple budget years. Nate noted most entities are on a fiscal year, but the state and county budgets go by calendar years.

Nate presented an overview of revenue trends, noting that the town remains heavily dependent on sales tax revenue, reinforcing its resort-based economy. Revenue demonstrates clear seasonality tied to tourism and ski operations. Unlike other Utah ski areas, early season revenues were normal despite low snowfall conditions. The positive impact on revenue was due to the skimo event. He noted that future projections assume average conditions, and that a significantly low snow year could impact seasonal revenue trends in future reporting periods.

Looking at other revenue sources, the town collects a portion of the county public transportation tax. There are 5 quarter cent sales taxes for transportation, so it's called the fifth of the fifth because it's one fifth quarter cent tax. It must be used for transportation. The local option tax goes to the MSD, and then we get that administrative money back. The resort community tax and municipal transient room tax come directly to Brighton, and we can decide how to use those resort/community-generated revenues.

For informational context, Town of Brighton does not levy a municipal property tax. The major portions of property tax support regional services, including the school district, law enforcement services, and fire services.

The budget is structured with actuals, adopted budget, adjusted budget, and next fiscal year projections. Adjustments are made throughout the fiscal year as needed.

Revenue assumptions are updated conservatively based on long-range trends. Notable revenue adjustments are parking violations and the addition of the new county public transportation tax revenue stream. The parking violation revenue increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000. This projection is estimated from actual collection trends. It was discussed that parking enforcement is intended primarily to influence behavior and improve compliance, not generate revenue. We continue to evaluate citation volumes and enforcement strategy to determine whether it is changing behavior. Consistent enforcement presence may influence both compliance and case reporting trends. Carolyn and Lieutenant Ackerman noted that 70% of the charges in our SLVLESA budget for shared services are based on cases. One case can contain a batch of parking tickets that occur together, which reduces the number of cases, but the reason our overall cases have gone up is because we have constant staffing now with UPD. The town will continue to evaluate the efficacy of tickets for changing behavior since we have so many visitors, the citation is often a first-time offense.

The expenditures in the administrative budget are funded from sales tax revenues and fees that come through the MSD. The Memberships and Subscriptions line item went up substantially from \$25,000 to \$43,000 to account for increased dues and to correct the misclassification of the CWC membership that was previously under Consulting. Prior budgets were set at preliminary amounts that were higher, so the numbers were tightened this year to better align with actual expenditures.

Memberships include:

- Central Wasatch Commission, substantial increase
- Utah League of Cities and Towns, reasonable increase
- Wasatch Front Regional Council, reasonable increase

Council discussed the value of participation in these organizations for grant access, policy coordination, regional advocacy, transportation planning, lobbying, and training.

Lobbyist services were added to the Contract Services line item this year.

The town grants are allocated under the Contributions/Special Events section. These include grants to our local nonprofit partner entities. The grant requests are included in the packet. Approval of the budget will initiate the approval of those contracts. If a grant request comes during a different time of year, then we must go through the budget adjustment process with proper noticing and perform a study to evaluate the benefit to the town.

The nonprofit organizations and programing being considered are:

- The Brighton Institute at \$4,000 for Brighton Days and the Human Outreach Project
- The BCCA at \$8,000 for Adopt a Trail- Butler Fork, administrative costs, and insurance for the 4th of July parade
- Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has several pieces: Adopt-a-trail funding covers a variety of trails at \$22,500, weed mitigation at \$20,000, the Silver Lake Naturalist at \$50,000, and money for the Mill D trail specifically.
- There is a separate line item for contributions to Ranger Services at \$60,000 because it's funded from the resort sales tax money rather than the MSD budget.
- Fire mitigation has \$30,000 budgeted, although UFA hasn't collected the full amount in the past because they are limited on the amount of fuels reduction they can accomplish.

Other expenses:

- The water meter grant program was budgeted at \$80,000, but the line item will need to be adjusted to reflect the amount that has been spent on the reimbursement program.
- Public Safety. As a special service district, UPD has historically been funded by SLVLESA taxes; however, they've reached the cap that the state allows them to charge and UPD costs continue to go up. To cover the difference, municipalities will start paying a portion of services to supplement the tax funding. Next year, Brighton will pay \$150,000. Town funding may come

from resort/community revenue sources rather than property tax increases. Carolyn and Lieutenant Ackerman noted that rate is expected to be temporary. Many of the increased costs were associated with the separation from the Sheriff's office such as purchasing a facility for relocating offices, storage, forensics, etc. There are also upcoming changes to membership that will impact funding. The unincorporated county population has decreased from 10,000 to 6,000 and may drop below 1,000 after annexations. That money can be redistributed to other areas. New memberships are being considered, such as the LDS hospital, which will also contribute to future funding. Canyon patrol is paid by the county's general funds, not SLVLESA. UPD members are all being charged different amounts based on their needs and will use different methods of funding. For example, Kearns will use their franchise tax and White City has an energy tax. The MSD entities are not using MSD funding for public safety. This additional funding is a big change so cities and towns may need to scrutinize the level of service they will pay for. In future years, the legislature may increase the tax cap.

- \$7,000 was budgeted for art wraps around utility boxes. It costs \$2,000 per box for a wrap, so the idea is to select a few boxes in visible locations. Art wraps tend to draw attention to the box rather than camouflage so it would be distracting to apply wraps to every box. Nate can increase the public art budget per council recommendation.

Nate explained the Fund Balance. A town is allowed to hold 100% of annual revenue. The town's policy has been to keep the fund balance at that threshold, so this year it is approximately \$2.6M. The town could operate for 4 years on this amount with no revenue coming in. Once the 100% threshold is met, excess resort-related revenue is transferred into a capital fund. In the past, money from this fund was contributed toward the Forest Service Trails Masterplan and the Silver Lake boardwalk and trail. The current amount is around \$1.5M. The capital funds are currently allocated toward the following categories:

- Trail improvements and planning
- Infrastructure and utility improvements (this could include the fiber project if additional funding is needed beyond the MSD amount)
- Land acquisition opportunities
- General facility and infrastructure improvements

He emphasized that capital allocations are flexible and can be adjusted by Council action within fund constraints. Amounts don't need to be estimated for the categories at this time.

Nate concluded that the tentative budget provides a structured framework for continued refinement leading into final adoption in June. He reiterated that adjustments can be made throughout the process as updated financial and operational data becomes available.

Lise moved to approve Resolution 2026-R-4-1, adopting the Tentative Budget for the Town of Brighton, Utah for the Fiscal Year 2027 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and set a time and place for a public hearing on May 12th, 2026, at 6:30 PM at Fire Station 108, 6788 S. Big Cottonwood Canyon Rd, and electronically via Zoom. Jeff Bossard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lise Brunhart: Aye

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Scotty John: Aye

Keith Zuspan: Aye

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

b. Authorize the mayor to execute a contract with B. Jackson to install conduit in an amount not to exceed \$312,400. For discussion and possible action. RECORDING 1:17:12.

Scotty John corrected the agenda title noting that some conduit has been installed, and council may consider approving payment for work that has already been completed. The contractor provided as-built drawings, but physical verification of installation is still being clarified. Fiber installation will follow the documentation and once the fiber is pulled (“blown”) through the conduit we’ll have confirmation that pathways were correctly installed. Field inspectors can confirm surface-level access points and conduit emergence locations, but full validation occurs during fiber deployment. The initial payment represents approximately 80% of the total amount of work completed. Final payment will be reconciled after fiber installation confirms conduit integrity

The remaining balance would effectively serve as leverage until project validation is complete.

Keith moved authorize the mayor to move forward with the contract and Jeff Bossard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Keith Zuspan: Aye

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Scotty John: Aye

Lise Brunhart: Aye

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

c. Approve Resolution 2026-R-4-2, Providing Paid Bereavement Leave for Employees Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 10-3-1103. For discussion and adoption. PACKET pages 31-33. RECORDING 1:21:09.

Polly McLean presented a proposed resolution to comply with state requirements for municipalities to adopt a policy for bereavement leave provisions related to miscarriage-related circumstances.

Jeff Bossard moved to approve Resolution 2026-R-4-2, Providing Paid Bereavement Leave for Employees Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 10-3-1103, and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Lise Brunhart: Aye

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

Scotty John: Aye

Keith Zuspan: Aye

d. Approve Resolution 2026-R-4-1 [*1 Corrected to 3], Finding Hazardous Environmental Conditions and Restriction of Fireworks Within All Portions of the Town of Brighton. For discussion and possible action.

PACKET pages 34-36. RECORDING 1:22:22.

Polly McLean clarified that state code limits municipal authority to prohibit fireworks sales during certain designated holiday periods such as July 4 and July 24. However, municipalities may adopt restrictions if action is taken prior to May 1. The resolution allows the Town to

restrict fireworks use during periods of elevated fire risk in accordance with this timing requirement. Professional fireworks displays remain exempt under state law. The town adopts this resolution annually due to elevated risk of wildfire conditions in the forest and this year's conditions are expected to present particularly high risk.

Lise Brunhart moved to approve Resolution 2026-R-4-3, Finding Hazardous Environmental Conditions and Restriction of Fireworks Within All Portions of the Town of Brighton. Keith Zuspan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lise Brunhart: Aye

Keith Zuspan: Aye

Scotty John: Aye

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

PUBLIC INPUT

None initially, but two people spoke after the mayor's report. See below.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Scotty John reported its budget season as both UFA and CWC have included budget discussions in their meetings.

He's had several ad hoc meetings with RMP, Sturgeon Electric, B. Jackson, and the MSD to coordinate the Fiber Conduit Infrastructure Project. He's had phone calls with various people from every neighborhood to develop informal liaisons to support successful implementation for the construction season work plan.

Scotty proposed a Work Session with the council to better align on priorities and strategic objectives. The intent would be to review and clarify priorities, address items not fully covered during regular monthly meetings, and improve coordination and planning for upcoming initiatives. This could potentially be scheduled prior to a future council meeting with a lighter agenda.

Public Input

Scotty John reopened the public comment and reminded speakers to try and keep comments to three minutes or less.

1. **Laura Bossard** put a plug in for our talented canyon artists who may like to do the artwork for the utility box wraps. She would like to see locals considered for the project.
2. **Angela Bovo** expressed appreciation and welcomed the new mayor. She indicated that she had submitted a proposal to Kara for review, though it was submitted too late to be included on the meeting agenda. The proposal relates to the Utley community and includes a request to consider condemning a private road and converting it to a public road. She'd like to discuss the maintenance by the town because of the loss of the cabin that was related to EMS service limitations due to access challenges. There have been consistent safety issues. Her proposal includes conceptual planning for improved land use that could include a possible trailhead with

designated parking spaces and an easement of necessity. She has general ideas for improving functionality while preserving community character and she's interested in working with the planning commission and town staff to further develop and refine the proposal.

Council Members' Reports

Carolyn Keigley presented comparative case data across all UPD service areas showing quarterly law enforcement case volume by street. Big Cottonwood Canyon Rd. recorded the highest number of cases across all jurisdictions with 140 cases. The Brighton Loop ranked third with approximately 120 cases. The remaining jurisdictions showed comparatively lower volumes of cases. She noted "cases" differ from "calls" because multiple calls for service can result in one case. The total number of Brighton cases increased from 793 in 2024 to 1,035 in 2025. Other service areas didn't see as much of a change.

Carolyn called the Alta Town Marshall for comparison. They had 969 calls in 2025. Brighton had 2,614 calls. The Alta budget for that year was \$1,508,795 and Brighton's budget for the same year was \$1,970,813. SLVLESA collected 1,349,607 in property taxes that year. The difference was \$231,000. Comparing coverage, Alta has 4.1 square miles, and Brighton has 27 square miles spread along the highway. Alta has one marshal and five deputies and a 24/7 dispatch, which is a large cost. Brighton's shared service provides us with .2 chief, .2 lieutenant, .2 office coordinator, .2 victims advocate and 8 dedicated patrol officers. As needed, we also have 24/7 Dispatch, Investigations and crime analysis, specialized units (SWAT, K-9, crime unit, and forensic services), and administrative support functions (HR, finance, legal, records, fleet, training, etc.)

Lise Brunhart reported on her continued work with social media. She posts regularly on Instagram, Facebook, Blue Sky and X. The presence on Facebook continues to grow as new followers join every week.

She's continued to support the website redesign efforts. There's been significant collaboration, coordinated by Kara, during multiple planning sessions. Additional meetings are upcoming. The design is by Civic Plus and the transition will standardize the platform used by multiple MSD jurisdictions with a goal of improving accessibility, functionality, and public usability.

Lise attended the Association of Municipal Councils meeting where two ULCT reps provided a summary of Utah legislative session highlights. This year, 1,016 bills were introduced and only 542 passed. There was a shift toward more restrictive legislative passage compared to the prior year. Some of the notable topics were:

- Changes to the impact fee structure that you see when building a house (Senate Bill 245)
- Housing and transit funding adjustments suggesting the state is becoming more introspective about driving growth (House Bill 507)
- Land use appeal process modifications (Senate Bill 284), land use hearing officers will be designated as the appeal authority instead of the governing body. There are new limitations on who may participate in appeal proceedings
- Potential election-related cost increases affecting municipalities

At the AMC meeting, Lise was able to network with Mackey who facilitated our strategic plan through the council's visioning meeting. He is now serving on the council of Bluffdale.

Jeff Bossard reported on yesterday's Mosquito Abatement meeting. Mosquito season is beginning earlier than normal. Due to reduced water levels, mosquito activity may increase in areas where water is concentrated, potentially increasing the mosquito population despite lower overall water availability.

The program is currently experiencing staffing challenges, as personnel are still being brought on ahead of the accelerated season.

The quarterly Animal Services meeting is scheduled for the end of the month.

Keith Zuspan reported that state proceeds for the prior month totaled \$285,882, representing approximately a 7% decrease compared to the previous year, but only about a 2.3% decrease compared to two years prior. These amounts are reflected in the PTIF balance, which currently stands at \$7.725 million. Included in this balance is \$24,133 in earned interest, which has gone down and currently, it is approximately 3.87% APR. Approximately \$6,530 is held in Zion's Bank account for small transactions and checks, with larger expenditures typically funded through transfers from PTIF as needed.

The Municipal Services District (MSD) Standard Financial Report revenues and expenditures are tracking as expected. Revenues are approximately 68% of the annual budget, while expenses are approximately 69%. This is on schedule relative to budget projections.

The MSD is working on creating Microsoft accounts using our .gov addresses. They'll help to transfer everything over and they can issue computers for use with town business. This will allow greater compliance and security. The Trust recently sent our Cyber Security Report, and we didn't have any attacks. The MSD's IT department is in line with DHS and will help protect our work.

BCCA Report

In this budget centric meeting, Barbara Cameron expressed gratitude for the continued funding support of the BCCA and Brighton Institute (BI). Town resources support their purpose to inform and unify residents and foster community pride.

An update was provided on the Brighton Institute website, which has recently been expanded to include additional events and historical content. Residents are encouraged to visit thebrightoninstitute.org. Appreciation was expressed to Allie Chai and Kara John for their coordination and improvements to the website.

Upcoming community events include:

- **May 11 – Community Fire Wise Meeting:** Residents will receive information and have questions answered regarding the new state mandate that requires properties to be inspected for wildfire safety. Presenters will include Forest Service District Ranger Adam Shaw, Utah Fire Authority Chief Craig Ellingson, and Utah foresters Mike Swinsick and Jason Roach.
- **May 19 – Invasive Weed Seminar:** Hosted by the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, with discussion on invasive species management and potential wildflower restoration in areas impacted by the RMP project. Invasive plants will grow quickly where soil was disturbed.
- **May 23 – BDA Cleanup Event:** Coordinated by Lise Brunhart, volunteers will participate in a BDA cleanup effort. Beavers have been observed in the area, though the number is uncertain. Volunteers are encouraged to bring mud boots, water, and lunch.
- **June 4 – Butterflies of the Wasatch Presentation:** back by popular demand. Many don't realize that our canyon is one of the best places for butterflies to be born because of the water and moisture along the creeks and lakes and many of them over winter here, which may be why they've been seen already.
- **June 18 – Nepal Travel Log:** A community presentation offering a cultural and travel experience focused on Nepal.

- **July Events:** Preparations are underway for the Fourth of July celebrations and Brighton Days, which are significant volunteer-driven community events.

BCCA has coordinated the 36th annual Adopt-A-Highway roadside cleanup effort under the direction of Tom Loken. Volunteers will be scouting the road for trash and treasures. There will be orange bags blooming along the roadway for UDOT to pick up.

Carolyn asked Barbara to articulate her fuels reduction proposal. UFA stated they don't have the manpower to run the fuels reduction project to the extent that is needed. Last year, for instance, they only got to 12 properties, and the ticket for that was about \$20,000 so we discussed ways that might be more efficient to get things done. One idea was for individual owners to hire private contractors and then the town could consider reimbursing them for the two hours that the fuels reduction project allowed, but it didn't pencil out. Scotty recommended discussing this further in the work session so alternatives and program details can be elaborated on.

CLOSED SESSION

- a. Discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property (Possible closed meeting pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §52-4-205(1)(d))
- b. Discuss the deployment of security personnel, devices or systems (Possible closed meeting pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §52-4-205(1)(f))
- c. Discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual (Possible closed meeting pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 52-4-205(1)(a))
- d. Discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation (Possible closed meeting pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 52-4-205(1)(c))

Lise Brunhart moved enter a closes session for one of the reasons above. Jeff Bossard seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Lise Brunhart: Aye

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Scotty John: Aye

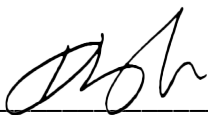
Keith Zuspan: Aye

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

ADJOURN

Keith Zuspan moved to close the closed session and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Keith moved to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Bossard seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.



Submitted by Kara John, Town Clerk