

**Rockville Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
Rockville Town Hall  
April 15, 2026 – 6:00 pm**

1. **CALL TO ORDER-ROLL CALL:** Mayor Leach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following Town Council members were present: Andy Efstratis, Robin Smith, Jeff Ballard and Mayor Pam Leach. Council member Megan Honer-Orton was excused. Clerk Cox was recording the meeting.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Leach led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Robin Smith **SECONDED** the motion.

**VOTE on Motion:**

Andy Efstratis: Aye  
Robin Smith: Aye  
Mayor Leach: Aye  
Jeff Ballard: Aye

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

4. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH AN AGENDA ITEM.** No conflicts were declared.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Leach asked if there were any public comments. None were made.

**DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/NON-ACTION ITEMS**

5. **REPORT ON HURRICANE VALLEY FIRE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT – MAYOR LEACH:** Captain Robert Hooper, representing Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District, was in attendance in the absence of Chief Tyler Ames. Captain Hooper reported the call numbers for March with Rockville having six (6) calls, Springdale had (30) calls, and Zion National Park had (12) calls. He said with the warm weather, activity is increasing along with the number of calls.  
Captain Hooper said the District is trying to staff the Springdale Station with 4 people in order to have in station coverage when calls are received. Currently when a call is received a crew is dispatched from the LaVerkin Station to cover the area while the Springdale crew responds.  
Captain Hooper said burn season is now closed due to the extremely dry conditions in the area. It may reopen in the Fall, but conditions would need to change to allow it to reopen. Mayor Leach said the Council has a Resolution on tonight's agenda to close all open burning as per State Code. This will close for the remainder of 2026 but could be amended if the State opens up burning at a later date. She thanked Chief Hooper for his report.
6. **REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORT- TIM ARNOLD:** Chair Arnold was unable to attend tonight. Clerk Cox reported the Commission meeting from last night had a conceptual request for an accessory building being lived in at 115 East Main, Sophia Opmanis, which is currently in Code violation. No decisions were made on whether a pre-existing, nonconforming status existed. Chair Arnold then asked the Commission to review the first three (3) Chapters of the Land Use Code for next month's meeting to ensure the Town Code references the correct State Code and to make notes of things in the Code that need to be clarified or reworded to make it easier to understand.

**Administrative Action Items**

7. **PRESENTATION-DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL WITH UDOT EXTENDING FIBER OPTIC ALONG SR 9-AVA PECORA- (connecting with Zoom)** Mayor Leach welcomed Ava Pecora and her team and invited her to make her presentation. She introduced herself and her associate Nancy Evans. Nancy Evans explained they are part of the engagement team hired by UDOT for the design fiber project. This project will extend fiber optic service from the I-15 exit in Hurricane following State Route 9 through Hurricane, LaVerkin, up to Virgin, to Rockville, Springdale and through Zion Park extending to Mount Carmel. They have been working on this project for more than a year now, as we have gone through the environmental process and design process, both with UDOT and working closely with the National Park. The actual bid has been put out for bid, and a contractor should be selected shortly. Ava Pecora presented an overview map of the project area. She said this is a hyper-installation project. This will fill in pieces of fiber optic

infrastructure that are missing in this area along SR9 and the Mount Carmel Highway. New conduit fiber will be installed along SR9 and Mount Carmel Highway. The gaps shown on the map are highlighted where currently there is no fiber. They are working with park officials and staff around the design of this project to enable the staff to have better and more reliable internet/phone service. The project will enter through the south entrance, connect into the Oak Creek and Watchman residential areas, and also hook up the Zion Lodge. The project will exit the Park and then focus on an existing maintenance facility that is just along the Mount Carmel Junction on Highway 89.

Ava Pecora said once the contractor gets into Rockville, many times there will be one lane traffic for approximately 1500 feet. The project may have many crews working in various places along the route using global equipment. This will allow the crews to work in many places at once instead of being parked outside of businesses or residences for days at a time and will likely only be there four hours at a time. The work will be moving relatively quickly, also utilizing some nighttime closures as they follow just outside of the Mount Carmel Tunnel. She said areas shown in blue already had fiber optic installed in partnership with South Central Communications. Mayor Leach said on the map there are still small areas that are not being covered or addressed. Ava Pecora said the area from I-15 to Mount Carmel will all have fiber optic and the area of concern may already have fiber optic there.

Ava Pecora said this project was created in direct collaboration with UDOT's Simple Communications Team and the Zion National Park to create something that captured the type of project preferred to the area. She said the maps and other information are also available on the UDOT website. She said to meet growing connectivity needs and prepare for future demand, UDOT, in partnership with the National Park Service and South-Central Communications, is installing over 50 miles of high-speed fiber optic cable along State Route 9 and the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway. This project strengthens overall quality of life in the region by bringing service to unserved areas. It will help strengthen communication capabilities and expand UDOT's intelligent transportation system to enhance safety and deliver real-time traffic updates. A shared single trench construction method will minimize impacts to the natural landscape while providing long-term infrastructure benefits. Fiber optic technology provides the potential for fast, reliable internet, secure, weather-resilient connections. Enhanced, real-time traffic information and management. Stronger support for emergency services and incident response. It will expand access to traveler information and business growth opportunities along this corridor. It will help with community access to telehealth and remote learning. By investing in fiber, UDOT is helping providers expand last minute service affordably with minimal environmental disruption.

Ava Pecora said the project will have a dedicated website with an e-mail hotline that will be utilized during the construction. They will be sending out weekly status updates and construction updates on the project to communicate upcoming work and what work and milestones have been accomplished to date. Residents, businesses, travelers, along with anyone in the area will also be able to reach them through our dedicated project hotline. She said once construction is slated to start, they will be sending a mailer to all residents within Rockville to provide the exact start date of construction and what they can expect in terms of impacts, both traffic and otherwise. They decided the best way to get the information out would be to do a large-scale mailer which will go to all residents within those towns leading to Zion National Park, and to try and make sure any resident that is in within the park will also be aware. They are also partnering with many different entities to help share information with people, along with sharing on social media. Hopefully it will reach as many travelers as they can through the area. Tourism outlets will also be used to get the information out. They do not want travelers and vacationers, along with residents, to be blindsided. They realize there's no way to capture everyone, but they are doing everything they can think of to get the word out broadly that this area will be under construction. One good thing it is a moving operation, the impact on any given location will be relatively short and the contract limits the contractor to only work on about 1,500 feet per time. It will not be a huge work zone, and they will continually be working to improve the work zones. She said there are places where they will need to use flaggers or temporary signals that will also impact drivers. She said as of, yet the contractor has not been named. As soon as the contractor is named, they will be able to get their schedule and let the Towns know the time frame of when they are going to start. Ava Pecora said that in order to capitalize on the federal funding the project must be completed by December 31st of 2026. She said likely the contractor will be working in multiple locations at the same time in order to work in this really tight window and get the work done. Nancy Evans said as soon as the contractor is

under contract and has their schedule, they will be in full operation to share the information with all of the communities along this corridor. Nancy Evans said that all the current information is available, but they wanted to get in front of the Council early and make connections as they will be a liaison between the Community and the project team. If you have questions or concerns, they want to make sure they are trying to address them.

Ava Pecora had been contacted by our Office to request information to finish up the hotspot in the Town Park so we can resurface the parking lot behind the Community Center. She had reviewed the project and did get the hotspot issue back in front of personnel to approve it and finish the process.

Mayor Leach said people from other meetings she has attended have expressed concern that with fiber service in the Park, visitors will be busy on their phones and not enjoying the Park and the beauty. Mayor Leach said it's her understanding the service in the park is going to be primarily for the park employees and the park staff and emergency personnel, but there will be hot spots for visitors. Nancy Evans said the Park remains a sanctuary, a place where people can disconnect from cell phones. There will be designated hotspots within the park to benefit the bus systems, the park personnel, which is a benefit the fiber will provide to the park. But the park still wants to maintain the sanctuary feel. There will also be some hot spots in the park for public use, but they are not going to be advertised or ensure that access goes everywhere. The project being installed at this time is the backbone and it won't be a broad-based internet for the entire park. Mayor Leach said that is what she heard and wanted to make sure the rest of the Council understood that too. Mayor Leach asked if there were any questions or comments?

Mayor Leach thanked the team for their presentation and said it would be interesting to see how this impacts travel in the canyon. Mayor Leach indicated she will pass on any additional information she receives regarding this project to the Council.

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 26-0415-01-AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING OPEN FIRES AND THE USE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN THE TOWN OF ROCKVILLE DURING THE REMAINDER OF 2026 DUE TO HIGH FIRE RISK.**

Mayor Leach said the Office had residents asked what types of fires, if any, are still allowed. Clerk Cox reached out to the Fire District and had provided the State Law on what is still allowed. The other question that was asked is if the State opens fire season back up in the Fall, what is done then as this Ordinance is for the remainder of 2026. Mayor Leach said if the State does open burn season back up in the Fall the Town can address it then but may need to be extremely wet as compared to the current conditions. Mayor Leach asked if there were any questions or comments. Andy Efstratis asked if this would not limit the Council from making an amendment should the fire season be reopened in the Fall. Mayor Leach said this can always be reviewed depending on what the State does.

Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve Ordinance #26-0415-01 to prohibit open fires and the use of fireworks within the town of Rockville during the remainder of 2026 due to high fire risk. Andy Efstratis **SECONDED** the motion.

**VOTE on Motion:**

**Andy Efstratis: Aye**  
**Robin Smith: Aye**  
**Mayor Leach: Aye**  
**Jeff Ballard: Aye**

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

**9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-0415-01 -A RESOLUTION OF THE ROCKVILLE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS AND ROCKVILLE TOWN:**

Mayor Leach explained this agreement was previously approved in 2017 and was a five (5) year agreement. That agreement has expired. She said Clerk Cox checked on this agreement as it mentions the Town would need to track any costs involved with fires. However, since the Town is served by the Fire District they keep track of the costs. In speaking with the Fire District, they will track

costs and coordinate directly with the State Agencies. Although the Fire District covers the Town for services the Town must be the entity to enter into and sign this agreement. In reviewing the proposed agreement, it lists 2025 as being drafted, this should have been done last year but is now being addressed by the State Agencies. Mayor Leach said it is essentially the same agreement the Town had entered into previously.

Robin Smith **MOVED** to approve Resolution #26-0415-01 authorizing a cooperative agreement between the Town of Rockville and the Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands be entered into. Andy Efstratis **SECONDED** the motion.

**VOTE on Motion:**

**Andy Efstratis: Aye**  
**Robin Smith: Aye**  
**Mayor Leach: Aye**  
**Jeff Ballard: Aye**

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

- 10. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR MARCH 11, 2026, REGULAR MEETING:** Mayor Leach asked if the Council had the opportunity to review the minutes from last month's meeting. She asked if there were any changes or corrections. None were made.

Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026, regular Town Council meeting. Robin Smith **SECONDED** the motion.

**VOTE on Motion:**

**Andy Efstratis: Aye**  
**Robin Smith: Aye**  
**Mayor Leach: Aye**  
**Jeff Ballard: Aye**

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

- 11. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026:** Mayor Leach asked if there were any questions. Clerk Cox reported that Andy Efstratis had asked some questions regarding the expenditures and she wanted to inform the Council about them. Clerk Cox said the large payment to the Utah Local Government Trust is for property insurance, liability insurance, other insurance coverage that are needed including covering personnel. This is usually due in October but they were unable to send any paperwork to a PO Box, as per new State Law. The other question Andy Efstratis asked concerned the high cost of the power bill. Andy Efstratis said in reviewing the bills the maintenance building was only \$10, but the Community Center is \$100 and he asked why it was so high. He said he is aware Zion Arts uses it a lot, but they don't share in the cost. Mayor Leach said we had informed Z Arts that they will need to pay some type of fee for using the building when doing an event or class where it's benefiting the canyon communities. Currently we've allowed them to use the facility at no cost. She said now because the power bills are climbing and they're in there longer than normal, they will now be required to pay an energy fee of \$20 per day. She said they have one board meeting a month that they hold in the Community Center which is usually a couple of hours long and she is still deciding whether or not they should be paying for that too. Mayor Leach said the Town of Virgin will be moving into their new Town Hall and have offered Z Arts a permanent room. We do not know when they will move there. Mayor Leach said she is aware the electric bills are high and is looking to resolve some of the issues.

Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve the expenditures for the month of March 2026. Robin Smith **SECONDED** the motion.

**VOTE on Motion:**

**Andy Efstratis: Aye**

**Robin Smith: Aye**

**Mayor Leach: Aye**

**Jeff Ballard: Aye**

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

- 12. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT.** Mayor Leach asked if anyone had any questions in regard to the Financial Statements from March 2026. She reminded the Council next month the preliminary budget will need to be reviewed and approved along with opening and amending the current budget. Clerk Cox has provided a large account statement and explained the large account statement is still done monthly but reflects all the exact numbers on the small balance sheet provided to the Council in their packets monthly. She wanted to ensure the Council understood both sheets are still done monthly to ensure they correspond and are accurate.

Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve the Financial Statement for March 2026. Robin Smith **SECONDED** the motion.

**VOTE on Motion:**

**Andy Efstratis: Aye**

**Robin Smith: Aye**

**Mayor Leach: Aye**

**Jeff Ballard: Aye**

**Motion PASSED unanimously.**

**Administrative Non-Action Items**

**Reports of Mayor and Council Members**

**Mayor Pam Leach** reported the Town display was put up for the County Fair and looked nice. She thanked the crew that helped. It will be removed on Monday of next week. She said there were only three (3) other communities that had displays. She also reported some of the local veterans were honored at the County Fair with banners showing their division of service, Army, Navy, etc.

Mayor Leach reported there was a ribbon cutting for the Zion Park and Ride located at White Bison in Virgin. There is parking there for oversized vehicles, and Park Visitors and White Bison will provide a shuttle on Sunday's when the St. George Shuttle is not operating. She said SunTran indicated they have received numerous calls from people here in Rockville asking about bus service in town. The Zion White Bison bus driver said if people need to be picked up, to give them a call and they might pick them up on the way up or on the way down, as there is no stop here in Town. Mayor Leach said there is currently no location in Town that allows enough room for the Shuttle to pull off the road and to stop and park going both up canyon and down.

Mayor Leach reminded the Council that the Zion Regional Collaborative is not a government entity. It's just an opportunity for different municipalities, entities, BLM, the Park, businesses and County representatives who get together and share information about projects that are going on. This group will now be providing a monthly update of things that are being discussed and that they are assisting with. This will allow the Council to have a better idea of what we participate in regard to the joint agreement along with what the funds we pay go to, and how it funds the coordinator for that group.

Mayor Leach reported at the last DTEC meeting they provided the service transportation reauthorization paperwork, which is just an update of where funds are going. It shows what they are currently doing and where.

Mayor Leach reminded the Council of the upcoming Historic District meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:00 pm. Letters were sent out to all the property owners within that boundary line area, notifying them that we are looking at the process of nominating part of Rockville as a historic district. It is just a public information meeting, and no action will be taken. Any action that needs to be taken will be done at the May Council meeting. She said if 51% of the property owners within that area actually object to this proposal, then it's dismissed and over. Objections must be

submitted in writing. If there is no comment from the owner, it is viewed as support of the project. Mayor Leach reiterated that this designation does not limit what property owners can do on their property. And she wanted to make sure everybody knew it's more of an honorary title. It does give a property owner with a historic structure the possibility of applying for grant funds to do rehabilitation if desired. She said currently there are 4 historic structures or properties within Rockville. There is the Grafton Historic District, the Bridge, the Telegraph Office, and the Old Schoolhouse. This proposal would include the rock irrigation ditches and provide the historic designation. They have never actually been designated as historic, but as part of the historic district, they will be covered. Jeff Ballard said that it may help with funding to repair areas of the ditch that need repair. Mayor Leach said there are not a lot of funds available, but it is a way to try, and it may help in other areas. Everyone is welcome to attend, but it is not a Town Council meeting. Corey Jensen from Utah State Preservation Office will be there along with Kirk Huffaker who has gathered the needed information for the application. Work on this actually started in 2021 but has taken a lot of time and effort.

**Andy Efstratis** reported the dump in St. George is going to start letting people drop off rechargeable batteries for free. There is a company from Carson City, Nevada that will ship them for repurpose. He had asked if that service could be offered at the transfer center in Virgin also. Solid Waste said no, because they are considered hazardous materials and there is no way to ship them. He said he also learned the transfer center in Virgin is not to be used by people who have a garbage pickup. He said the Virgin station is primarily for property owners on Kolob, as they do not have garbage pickup on Kolob.

Andy Efstratis said both the Solid Waste Board and the Mosquito Board require annual training. Board Members must pass with 100% on the test associated with the training or retake the test. He said both trainings were addressing the open meeting law and public meetings. He has now completed both training courses and is certified to serve. Mayor Leach said no other Council member has ever mentioned the training. Mayor Leach said it sounds like the annual officials training and should count on all of the required training.

**Robin Smith** said she is talking with Justin Bell with Zion Arborist, about Arbor Day, which will likely end up in the Fall, not Spring. Zion Arborist also provided a quote to trim the trees on Center Street and the corner of Silver Tip Lane and Main Street, which they will be doing soon.

**Jeff Ballard** reported the Cemetery has been sprayed for weeds and cleaned up thoroughly. Green Monkey not only sprayed this year but cleaned it up and it is money well spent. He encouraged the Council to visit and look at the Cemetery. The contractor is willing to review it monthly and remove any weeds and spray again as needed for \$80 an hour. He thinks in reviewing it monthly for anything that comes up should just take an hour or two. The contractor even cleaned along the fence line outside the Cemetery on the approach.

Jeff Ballard said the construction cones in front of the office are there as there has been trouble with people driving up on the rock. The cones were placed there to hopefully alleviate that problem. The contractor who did the stone will be grinding off the edges soon also. Now the residents are aware of the problem of driving on the rocks the cones may be removed to see how it goes. Mayor Leach said a possibility could be to stripe that area. Although white stripes allow people to cross the line a yellow strip would allow parking but not driving over them. Jeff Ballard said although the rocks may not break, the tires will leave marks on the rock.

**Staff Report as needed.** Clerk Cox reported that a Variance Hearing was held Monday, April 13, 2026, for the Nielsens, at 175 East DeMille Road, who were requesting a variance to allow an accessory building in front of their home. It was granted and the minutes were provided to the Council. Clerk Cox said funding for the Wreaths Across America Program will be needed this year. The cost is \$17.00 per wreath and last year we had 43 veterans buried in the Cemetery. Donations can be dropped off at the Office with any checks made out to Wreaths Across America.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Andy Efstratis **SECONDED** the motion.

**VOTE on Motion:**

**Andy Efstratis: Aye**

**Robin Smith: Aye**

**Mayor Leach: Aye**

**Jeff Ballard: Aye**


Motion PASSED unanimously.

Minutes prepared by

Shelley D. Cox

Town Clerk

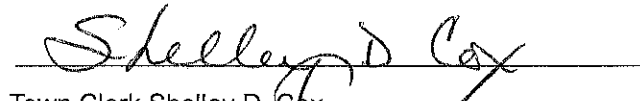
APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pam Leach

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley D. Cox Town Clerk

The foregoing notice was posted in the cabinet of the Rockville Town Office by Shelley D. Cox at approximately 12:00 AM/PM on 5-14-26, on the Rockville website and the Utah Public Notice website. Emailed to The Spectrum 5-14-26.

  
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Town Clerk Shelley D. Cox

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