



PAROWAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.
PAROWAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
35 E. 100 N., PAROWAN, UT 84761

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Mollie Halterman, Councilmembers Lyle Barton, David Burton, John Dean, David Harris, and Rochell Topham

City Staff Present: Dan Jessen, City Manager; Scott Burns, City Attorney; Keith Naylor, Building Inspector/Assistant Zoning Administrator; Chief Addison Adams, Parowan PD; Chief Alan Cavalieri, Parowan Volunteer Fire Dept.; Aldo Biasi, Public Works Superintendent; Callie Bassett, City Recorder.

Public Present: See Sign-in sheet.

Welcome and Call to Order

Mayor Halterman called the Parowan City Council meeting to order for April 16th, 2026. She reminded everyone to speak into their microphones as people have been having difficulty hearing.

Opening Ceremonies

Before proceeding with the opening ceremonies, Mayor Halterman read a tribute to Sam Halterman (who passed away March 31, 2026), expressing gratitude for the community's love and support during their family's difficult time. She noted that Sam loved Parowan deeply, considering it synonymous with home, and would often say "thank you forever."

Council Member Lyle Barton requested a moment of silence in honor of Sam before the opening ceremonies. Council Member John Dean then led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided an opening thought about perseverance and moving forward despite life's tests.

Declaration of Conflicts With or Personal Interest In any Agenda Items

No conflicts of interest were declared by any council members.

Public Comments

Larry Zajac spoke regarding agenda item 10, the proposed zone change from A-1 to R-1A. He expressed concerns that rezoning a single lot within an agricultural neighborhood would be a disservice to citizens. He explained that the agricultural zone follows R-1 density rules with 75-foot lot widths, while R-1A allows 65-foot widths, potentially increasing density from 2 residences (1 home plus 1 ADU) to 4 residences (2 homes plus 2 ADUs). He warned this could set a precedent and complicate future zoning decisions.

Spike Ress also spoke against the zone change request for parcel A-0482-0000-0000. He presented a petition with signatures from Parowan residents objecting to the spot zone change, arguing it would degrade the rural quality of their neighborhood and create an unwanted precedent. He urged the council to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation and vote no.

Fire, Police

Fire Chief Alan Cavalieri provided a comprehensive report on the fire department's improving status. The department has 2 structural fire engines, 1 50-foot ladder truck, and five 5 rush trucks, though

equipment maintenance revealed numerous leaks requiring attention. Of 26 firefighters, 15 have proper turnout equipment within the 10-year age requirement.

Chief Cavalieri highlighted successful acquisitions including light turnouts for wildland fires and 40 pairs of fire suppression boots from a larger department. Training Officer Brad Benson has maintained consistent bi-weekly training sessions covering ventilation, protective equipment, hazmat refresher, first aid/CPR, OSHA classes, and wildland training.

The chief emphasized their ISO rating improvement goals and noted 6 recruits attending Firefighter 1 school at personal sacrifice. He expressed gratitude for Royce Barton's mentorship and the Paragonah Fire Department's continued support, noting response times are improving and the department atmosphere is positive.

Police Chief Addison Adams reported on 2025 statistics, noting improved efficiency with 6 officers handling 2,741 calls for service. This represented 237 reports per officer compared to 285 the previous year. He detailed various call categories: 316 property crimes, 178 crimes against people, 33 drug/alcohol crimes, 477 medical emergencies, 286 agency assists, and 718 neighborhood preservation calls. The department completed 311 training hours, exceeding the state-mandated 240 hours.

UDOT Speed Study

UDOT Traffic Operations Engineer Cody Marchant presented the speed study results for SR 143, covering the area from exit 75, through the town, and past the cemetery. This study was conducted in coordination with the city to gain an updated understanding of traffic behaviors and existing speed conditions. Initially, the study suggested a change, raising the speed limit from 35 to 40 on the east end of town to combine speed zones. However, upon closer inspection, the decision was made to retain the current speed limits, as the transition zone seemed appropriate, particularly for vehicles coming down the canyon.

Mr. Marchant noted that the speeds demonstrated good compliance in most areas. The 85th percentile of drivers was found to be traveling 2-4 mph over the posted speed limits near the interchange and 5-6 mph over in the 40 mph zones entering town. In certain sections, such as within town where the speed limit is posted as 30 mph, compliance was notably high, showcasing the driving behaviors aligning with the designated limits.

He highlighted that UDOT partners with communities to implement speed management measures, emphasizing a comprehensive approach that extends beyond adjusting speed limits. A key initiative in this regard is the cost-sharing program for driver feedback signs, which can cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000. UDOT offers to cover 50% of these costs, making these effective tools more accessible to local governments. These signs serve as real-time reminders to drivers, potentially improving compliance, especially in rural communities where they might have a stronger impact.

Mr. Marchant underscored that effective speed management involves multiple strategies, including enforcement, community education, and infrastructure enhancements. These strategies are critical in managing speeds effectively. In particular, the presence of signage and clear communication of speed limits can significantly influence driver behavior. He also discussed future speed management strategies in anticipation of further development, such as improvements for potential pedestrian crossing areas and enhancing gateway signage to provide a better indication of entering a populated area.

The presentation concluded with a discussion on the broader implications of the study and potential improvements in the traffic management system. Council members expressed interest in the proposed strategies, and how they might be implemented locally, particularly the introduction of pedestrian crossing alerts, and other measures as development continues in the area.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Council Member Lyle Barton moved to approve the consent agenda items including City Council meeting minutes from March 26, 2026, warrant register for April 16, 2026, and financial statement from March 2026. Council Member John Dean seconded. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consider Proposed Zone Change from A-1 to R-1A to the Parcel of Property Located at Approximately 320 S & 400 W, owned by Joseph Scott Edwards

Dan Jessen noted the item had been thoroughly discussed at Planning Commission and work meetings, and public comments had been received. No further presentation was needed.

Motion: Council Member Lyle Barton moved that the zoning remain the same on parcel number A-0482-0000-0000. Council Member David Harris seconded. Motion carried with all voting in favor. Mayor Halterman thanked those who attended meetings and brought their voices to the council.

Consider Proclamation to Designate May 2nd, 2026 as Arbor Day in Parowan City

Council Member Lyle Barton read the official Arbor Day proclamation, which detailed the history of Arbor Day beginning in 1872 Nebraska and emphasized the benefits of trees for climate, property values, economic vitality, and spiritual renewal. The proclamation specifically noted the connection to America's 250th anniversary.

Motion: Council Member Lyle Barton moved to accept the proclamation. Council Member John Dean seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote with all members voting aye.

Mayor Halterman announced planned activities for May 2nd including tree planting at Meeks with commemorative plaques and various celebration activities to continue Parowan's participation in Tree City USA.

Consider Awarding RFP for Pool Concessionaire

Dan Jessen explained this was the first year putting out an RFP for pool concessions after operating city-run snack service. Two proposals were received, with only Nick's Smokehouse and Cafe providing a complete proposal.

Council Member John Dean expressed several concerns about transitioning from simple snack items to prepared foods, citing pricing increases, staffing challenges with food handler permits, and potential impacts on private parties. He calculated significant price increases (otter pops from 2 for 25 cents to \$2 each, representing a 1566% increase) and questioned the financial viability.

Nick Boucher addressed concerns, explaining he would prepare food off-site at his restaurant and transport to warmers at the pool. His staff already have food handler permits, and the concession would operate as a satellite location. He expressed openness to price negotiations and discussed plans to work with local school clubs and sports teams as volunteers, donating portions of sales back to those organizations.

Discussion included debates about allowing outside food during private parties, with suggestions for custom catering options. Council members weighed the benefits of having a local business operator versus continuing city operations.

Motion: Council Member David Burton moved to accept Nick's Smokehouse and Cafe's proposal with negotiations on pricing, removing free employee pool entry, allowing outside food for private parties, operating on a one-year trial basis, and subject to a completed agreement. Council Member Lyle Barton seconded. The vote was 3-2 in favor of the motion:

Councilmember Rochell Topham - Aye

Councilmember David Harris - Nay

Councilmember Lyle Barton - Aye

Councilmember John Dean - Nay

Councilmember David Burton – Aye

The motion carried.

Consider Resolution to Adopt New Culinary Water Rates – Resolution 2026-06

Aaron from Bowen Collins was available by phone for questions. Dan Jessen noted the item had been discussed extensively in work meetings and was ready for council decision. Council Member David Harris proposed coupling the water rate adoption with suspending the next electrical rate increase to avoid hitting residents with two rate increases in one year. He argued the electrical department was performing well financially and could absorb the temporary loss.

Discussion clarified that the automatic electrical increase had occurred in January, and the proposal would reverse that increase for the remainder of the fiscal year while implementing the new water rates. Council Member Harris expressed the need to balance the financial impact on residents and suggested that suspending the electrical rate increments would provide some relief while allowing the necessary adjustments to the culinary water rates. Council Members deliberated over the fiscal implications and community impact, discussing whether to temporarily reverse the recent electrical rate increase or to suspend an upcoming one.

Council members discussed the implications of the motion, weighing the benefit of new water rate structures against concern over dual financial pressures from utilities. Dan Jessen explained that any changes to the electrical rate would not affect the Price Cost Adjustment (PCA) and clarified the budgetary impact, noting that it would affect the revenue forecast but not necessarily disrupt budget stability due to existing projections.

Council Member David Burton voiced concerns about intertwining decisions across departments, emphasizing that while supportive of the water rate change, he found it problematic to condition it on separate utility adjustments without individual deliberation. Despite initial concerns, following further discussion, he acknowledged the community benefit in increasing the water rates, but remained opposed to decreasing the power rates. Ultimately, Council Member David Burton altered his initial vote from nay to aye, agreeing to the strategy of balancing utility rate adjustments to maximize community benefit.

Motion: Council Member David Harris moved to approve the culinary water rate schedule resolution 2026-06 contingent upon suspending the electrical rate increase. Council Member John Dean seconded. After Council Member David Burton changed his vote from nay to aye, the motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consider 2026 America 250 Fireworks Budget

Fire Chief Cavalieri explained that inflation had raised fireworks costs significantly due to tariffs. To maintain the same show as last year would cost \$16,775 instead of the budgeted \$15,000. Mayor Halterman reported securing an additional \$1,200 from America 250 and discussing potential sponsorships from the Prevention Coalition and Parowan Brian Head Chamber of Commerce.

The discussion focused on three options: maintaining the current budget for a smaller show, slightly increasing to maintain last year's show, or significantly increasing for a better show in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Council members debated fundraising possibilities and timeline constraints for ordering fireworks.

Council Member Lyle Barton suggested maintaining current funding levels while inviting public donations. Council Member David Burton initially proposed a higher budget (\$23,000) with fundraising to offset costs, but the discussion ultimately focused on the more modest increase to cover inflation.

Motion: Council Member Lyle Barton moved to maintain the current budget level (\$16,200 including the \$1,200 additional funding) and conduct a fundraising campaign for any additional funds. Council Member John Dean seconded. The vote was 3-2 in favor of the motion:

Councilmember Rochell Topham - Nay
Councilmember David Harris - Aye
Councilmember Lyle Barton - Aye
Councilmember John Dean - Aye
Councilmember David Burton – Nay
The motion carried.

Consider Airport Fuel Agreement Termination and Budget Ratifications

Dan Jessen explained that Parowan Aviation, operated by Dave Houston, wished to terminate their agreement to provide fuel services at the airport. The arrangement had been successful but required improvements and daily testing that Houston found uneconomical given low fuel sales and his distance from Hurricane.

The city would need to reimburse Houston approximately \$11,600 for improvements and purchase remaining fuel inventory (3,407 gallons) for approximately \$24,000, totaling \$35,600. Houston offered to sell fuel at wholesale rates, allowing the city to recover costs when selling at current rates.

Dan emphasized that fuel service is legally required for airports and represents significant liability. The city now has an on-site airport employee (Megan Trudeau) who can handle daily requirements, and insurance costs would not increase as coverage was already included in the city's umbrella policy.

Council Member David Harris noted the fuel business margins are impressive and considered this a "no-brainer" decision.

Motion: Council Member David Harris moved to approve the airport fuel agreement termination and budget ratification. Mayor Halterman seconded. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

2026 Pressurized Irrigation Plan Presentation & Discussion

Dan Jessen outlined a red, yellow, green system for managing pressurized irrigation based on water levels. Green allows two days per week with conservation messaging, yellow signals approaching

shortages requiring extra conservation before moving to red (one day per week). Communications will use Yopify, social media, and physical signage at locations like the library and post office.

The plan includes educational messaging on water-wise tips, training videos featuring public works staff, and enforcement procedures progressing from friendly calls to citations. Dan emphasized cross-contamination risks if residents install their own systems without proper backflow prevention.

Policy discussions included potential well pumping costs that aren't factored into current rates, and whether to extend watering restrictions (currently 6 PM to 10 AM for pressurized irrigation only) to all watering including culinary. Council consensus supported bringing back an ordinance for no watering from 10 AM to 6 PM regardless of water source.

Public Works Director Aldo Biasi reported on system status, noting several mainline leaks discovered during startup that required repairs before resuming service, likely Tuesday or Wednesday morning. He emphasized data collection efforts to better understand usage patterns and pond recovery times.

Council members discussed the serious water situation, with Yankee Reservoir still six feet from full and diminishing stream flows expected. The discussion emphasized the need for community cooperation and responsible water use.

Discussion on City Spring Clean Up Day

Council Member Rochell Topham requested discussion of reinstating a spring cleanup day, noting resident interest. Aldo Biasi explained the significant manpower requirements, noting previous cleanups took weeks to complete as residents continuously added materials after initial collection.

Aldo emphasized current staffing limitations with ongoing projects like chip sealing, grant work, and infrastructure improvements that weren't previously undertaken. He estimated cleanup could take a month given current workload and staffing levels.

Alternative suggestions included allowing residents to drop materials at the gravel pit or coordinating with existing disposal options at the county landfill. Council consensus was to revisit the program for 2027 with better planning and potential budget adjustments.

Reports, Updates, Old Business Follow Up: Elected Officials and Staff

Council Member Topham reported on theater board activities involving cleaning and organizing the upstairs area, and announced Helaman Haney's selection as the new Iron County School Board representative for the Parowan area.

Council Member Barton discussed the UDOT bridge project kickoff meeting, emphasizing the need for community patience and cooperation during construction. He also reported on Meeks Garden project progress, with fencing planned as the final installation step.

Council Member Dean provided updates on the community garden, thanking contributors including Larry for tree removal, Aldo's crew for stump grinding, and various donors of raised beds, topsoil, cow manure, and wood chips. He also attended the Prevention Coalition meeting, noting their continued focus on youth and community involvement.

Council Member Burton reported on water recharge project discussions, indicating the city has fulfilled its obligations and future funding gaps must be resolved between pumpers and the reservoir company. He also updated on Rock Church interior painting progress and potential public tours.

Dan Jessen provided updates on the UDOT bridge project delays due to high-pressure gas line relocation issues, pushing the start date from April 20th to an undetermined date. He outlined the budget process timeline with departmental hearings completed and a work meeting needed by the end of April before the tentative budget filing deadline in May.

Dan announced Anna Carlson's hiring as the new pool manager, replacing Shelby Bartlett who relocated. He emphasized the continued need for lifeguards and the pool's Memorial Day weekend opening target. Mayor Halterman detailed May 2nd Arbor Day activities at Meeks Farmstead, including presentations, tree planting demonstrations, and commemorative plaques. She emphasized the event's connection to America 250 and building patriotism in future generations.

A brief discussion included Spike Ress's proposal for water lilies in the Meeks pond and outdoor painting classes, which the mayor indicated would require further consideration.

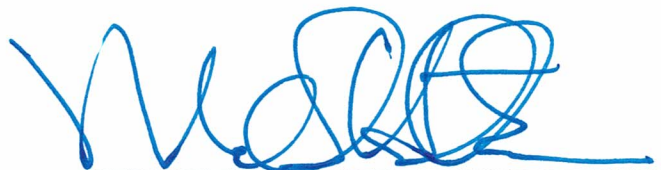
Closed Session

The Council may consider a motion to move into a closed session for specific purposes allowed under the Open and Public Meetings Act (Utah Code § 52-4-205), including discussions of the character, professional competence, or physical/mental health of an individual; strategy sessions to discuss collective bargaining; strategy sessions to discuss pending or imminent litigation; strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease, or sale of real property, including any form of a water right or water share; discussions regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and for attorney-client communications (Utah Code section 78B-1-137); or any other lawful purpose.

Motion: Council Member David Burton moved to go into closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical mental health of an individual and pending or imminent litigation. Council Member Lyle Barton seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote with all members voting aye.

Present in the closed session: Mollie Halterman, Dan Jessen, Rochell Topham, David Harris, David Burton, John Dean, Lyle Barton, Scott Burns, Addison Adams, and Callie Bassett.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



Mollie Halterman, Mayor



Callie Bassett, CMC, City Recorder

Date Approved: May 14, 2026