MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Poplar Meeting Room, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1 – Excused
Pam Cotter	District #2
Clark Bullen	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4 – Council Vice Chair
Adam Hock	District #5 – Council Chair

Others**:**

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administrator
GL Critchfield	City Attorney	Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief
Jeff Martin	Parks Director	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Emily Barton	Accounting - Controller	Elvon Farrell	Eco. Development Specialist
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Zachary Smallwood	Planning Manager
Brooke Smith	City Recorder	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Cory Holdaway	Lobbyist	Ryan Madsen	IT Supervisor
Dave Stewart	Lobbyist	Ben Gray	IT Support
Citizens & Guests			

Conducting: Council Chair Hock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Discussion Items:

- **2026 Legislative Wrap-up.** City Attorney G.L. Critchfield introduced City lobbyists Cory Holdaway and Dave Stewart to share about bills that would affect the City, stating that they do an excellent job for the City every year, being seasoned veterans in understanding the tone and tenor of the legislature. Mr. Holdaway stressed the value of belonging to the ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns) organization that closely followed all proposed bills and provided the wrap up information to the LPC (Legislative Policy Committee), post legislative session. Mr. Holdaway stated that a record 1,016 bills were introduced, and just over 500 passed into law, which was less than last year. Mr. Holdaway and Mr. Stewart discussed bills related to economic development, transportation infrastructure, city library tax amendments, property tax adjustments and water rates, water fees and water conservation that were of all interest to the Council and important to all ULCT cities. There was consensus that Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holdaway should return to a future Committee of the Whole meeting to analyze the expiration of the 0.2% sales tax option in 2030 and discuss possible ways to strategically approach the loss of revenue or determine the possibility of keeping it, since the ULCT would not be involved.

- **An ordinance amending Section 2.51.010 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to Appointment of Representatives to Governing Boards of Interlocal Entities and to the Utah League of Cities and Towns Legislative Policy Committee**. Mr. Critchfield explained the change in who would appoint representatives to boards, local entities, and committees. It was proposed that NeighborWorks be removed from the ordinance since it was a non-profit organization, as well as the Community Action Program because the City no longer had a representative on that board. The Association of Municipal Councils and the LPC would both be added to the ordinance, since Council Members nominate and approve those representatives by conducting a voice vote. For many years the mayor selected an individual to represent the City on the WFWRD (Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District) board. However under WFWRD bylaws, board appointments must be made by the legislative body. The proposed ordinance would authorize the Council to select a council member to the WFWRD board, instead of the mayor. Mr. Hock requested the date for the Council to select qualified representatives be moved to the second meeting in January, instead of the first, to allow new Council members to be sworn in and have an opportunity to be nominated.

- **Economic Development Priorities Discussion.** CED (Community and Economic Development) Director Chad Wilkinson explained that CED would implement new economic development priorities related to the GP (General Plan), current activities, and strategic planning. Mr. Wilkinson outlined economic development objectives and strategies within the 2107 GP, stating the hope was to develop new and improved objectives and strategies to help with developing the old city hall property, which would provide a better process this time for the developer, for the Council and for the community.

  He reported that weekly communication occurs with Rockworth Companies, the Tea Rose Diner, and Jenn Kikel-Lynn, which falls under the first priority and Objective #1, that is to revitalize the downtown area. Staff continues to work on neighborhood Nodes, and a grant was just received from the Wasatch Front Regional Council to improve the Oakwoods Plaza area. Mr. Wilkinson stated that constant changes are required to the strategic plan to stay in line with market changes. Economic Development Specialist Elvon Farrell agreed staff would be reevaluating Nodes near Ivy Place and Fashion Place areas to create more of a neighborhood environment.

  Mr. Wilkinson discussed economic development priorities, including business retention and expansion, protection of areas for job creation, fair and consistent regulation, landscaping and other aesthetic standards, and recruitment of new businesses based on attraction. He emphasized that it was critical to protect areas where the City has strong job creation. He stated that, due to Murray's robust and well diversified economy, job creation in the industrial zone was also critical for development. He mentioned areas where the City needs to improve, such as the south end of State Street, where landscaping standards need to be better addressed.

  Mr. Farrell discussed current efforts and their relation to the existing priorities and objectives involving business retention and engagement, business attraction and development, and key actions and potential projects. Mr. Wilkinson confirmed that a monthly report given to the Mayor outlines current research and data, guiding principles and goals, and the actions taken for new economic development. Mr. Farrell stated that, as a national best practice for municipalities, staff would prepare to take a more formal economic development strategic plan effort by utilizing an Economic Development Strategic Plan. The hope was to drill down further into the long-term planning objectives of the existing plan and create an implementation plan with actionable items. He noted that bids have been reviewed from consultants who would be working with staff along the effort to meet market needs in a shorter time frame. Mr. Wilkinson confirmed funding was already approved for the Economic Strategic Plan, and the Council would be involved in the approval of it, which uses the objectives and goals of the GP and places them into a more manageable plan for daily use.

- **A resolution approving and authorizing execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Murray City and Salt Lake County for contribution of TRCC funds for updates and improvements to Woodstock Meadows Park**. Parks Director Jeff Martin stated that the Parks Department was awarded a $250,000 TRCC grant to fund improvements to Woodstock Meadows Park, which was acquired from Salt Lake County. He noted that updates to the park are already underway and that the funding will support completion of upgrades, including pavilions, soffits, painting, lighting, and restroom fixtures.

Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III