

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, 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	Craig Burnett	Police Chief
Jeff Martin	Parks Director	LeAnn Powell	Utah Parks and Recreation Association
Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief	Kevin Schmidt	Utah Parks and Recreation Association
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Elvon Farrell	Eco. Development Specialist
Eric Bracewell	Power Operations Manager	Zachary Smallwood	Planning Manager
Brooke Smith	City Recorder	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Clyde Daines	Murray Rotary	Ryan Madsen	IT Supervisor
Citizens & Guests		Ben Gray	IT Support

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. – Council Member Hock

Special Recognition:

1. **Utah Parks and Recreation Association 2026 Department of the Year Award recognition.** Parks Director Jeff Martin and URPA (Utah Parks and Recreation Association) representatives presented the 2026 Department of the Year Award. Kevin Schmidt thanked the Council and Mayor Hales for supporting parks and recreation programs that improve quality of life. LeAnn Powell reported on the March 2026 URPA conference, where the City was recognized for its achievement, and noted that former Chief Administrative Officer Doug Hill received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Special Presentations:

1. **Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Address.** Mayor Hales presented the tentative budget, noting that the General Fund was projected to generate \$66 million in revenue. He highlighted proposals including a 2% cost-of-living adjustment, the addition of one new police officer position, and increases in health insurance costs, as well as a proposed property tax increase of 9.8%. Mayor Hales pointed out that the increase would be equal to about \$3.80 per month for an average \$600,000 home.
2. **Consider a resolution acknowledging receipt of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 tentative budget from the Mayor and the Budget Officer and referring the Mayor’s tentative budget for review and consideration to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Murray City Municipal Council.**

MOTION: Ms. Cotter moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye

Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

- 3. Statement that the Mayor's Tentative Budget includes a proposed property tax rate increase.** Finance Director Brenda Moore stated that the Murray City Mayor's tentative budget just given to the City Council for consideration contains a property tax levy increase above the certified tax rate, which will be released in June.

The City needs more revenue than what is anticipated to be collected by other revenue sources and the current property tax levy with anticipated growth. The proposed budget requires \$1,224,110 of new property tax revenue including growth. The proposed amount is a 9.8% increase in the Cities certified tax levy from calendar 2025. This is just an increase of the City's portion of the property tax paid, not the entire amount paid. It is anticipated the amount of revenue required will change as the City Council reviews the budget and when the growth figure from the County auditor is known. The Certified tax rate for the Murray city Library will remain the same as the County Auditor will provide in June.

The revenue increase would be used for an additional police officer, additional overtime for police and fire department, pay range increases for the City's police officers and firefighters, along with a portion of the required health insurance premium increases for all employees in the General Fund. The City intends to hold a public hearing in August concerning this certified property tax rate increase. Notice will be given once the exact date is known.

- 4. Presentation of the property tax impact schedule.** Ms. Moore reviewed the Property Tax Increase Impact Statement stating that it was a new requirement under State Code 59-2-191, as amended in the 2026 Legislative Session. She stated that the Property Tax Increase Impact Statement was designed to make the public aware that the City is proposing a Tax Levy increase and provide details about the increase and what the effect would be if the increase was not passed. Ms. Moore confirmed that the Murray City Mayor's budget proposed an increase to its property tax rate from .001403 to .001541 based on the certified rate for calendar 2025. The current property tax rate produces approximately \$12.4 million in revenue, however the City requires approximately \$13.7 million for the 2026-2027 budget. The increase is estimated to generate an additional \$1,224,110 to make up for the shortfall.

Ms. Moore stated that the estimated proposed increase to Murray City's Property Tax Rate is 9.8% and if residents live in the Murray School District the estimated increase is 1.71% and if residents live in the Granite School District the estimated increase is 1.38%. On a primary residence valuing \$602,900 the estimated increase would be \$45.60 annually or \$3.80 per month. For a business valued at the same amount of \$602,900 the increase would be \$82.91 annually. Ms. Moore outlined what would happen to specific department budgets if the increase did not occur, explaining that the Police Department would need \$628,888 to meet its 2026-2027 proposed budget of \$19,015,853. The Fire Department would need \$523,512 to meet a \$13,417,783 budget, and \$71,710 would be allocated to the General Fund to cover health insurance premium increases. Ms. Moore stated that she was able to budget an additional amount of sales tax revenue and other tax revenue; however, it was not enough to cover the increase in operational costs.

City Attorney G.L. Critchfield requested that text in the proposed resolution be updated, explaining that all text written as finance director or director of finance should be changed to the words budget officer.

Mr. Hock called for a motion to amend language in the proposed resolution, as requested by Mr. Critchfield.

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to amend the resolution language as discussed. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

Voice Vote: All responded Aye. None opposed. Motion Passed: 4-0

5. **Consider a resolution acknowledging receipt of the required statement that the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Mayor's Tentative Budget includes a proposed property tax rate increase and acknowledging receipt of the presentation of a Property Tax Impact Schedule, as amended.**

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

Consent Agenda: Mayor Hales presenting.

1. **Consider confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Jared DeMann to the History Advisory Board for a term from April 2026 through April 2029.** Mayor Hales introduced Mr. DeMann and requested his appointment to the History Advisory Board.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

Public Hearings:

1. **Consider a resolution waiving fees for the use of the Murray Armory by the Murray Rotary Club on May 18, 2026 for a banquet honoring Murray High School outstanding scholars.** City Council Executive Director Jennifer Kennedy confirmed that the non-monetary donation was equal to \$500.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Cotter moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

2. **Consider an ordinance amending sections 17.48.140 and 17.48.180 of the Murray City Municipal Code related to awning and canopy signs.** Planning Manager Zac Smallwood stated that Evergreen Company made the request to amend City Code related to signage being placed above canopies and awnings, in the Transit Orient District, Central Mixed Use zones and in the City Center Form Based Code. Mr. Smallwood explained that the current Code allows the installation of signage on canopies and awnings. He shared example photos depicting signage above canopies and awnings, reviewed the proposed amendments to the

existing Code, and discussed the findings supporting the change. He noted that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Council and that staff also recommended approval.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to approve the ordinance. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

Business Item:

1. **Consider a resolution approving and authorizing execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Murray City and Salt Lake County for contribution of TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Culture and Convention) funds for updates and improvements to Woodstock Meadows Park.** Mr. Martin requested approval of the resolution and agreement, explaining 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.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

2. **Consider a resolution adopting the Salt Lake County Multi-Jurisdictional HMP (Hazard Mitigation Plan), Volume 1 and Volume 2 (2025).** Chief Joey Mittelman expressed gratitude to the Council for considering the HMP update, noting that the plan addresses hazards affecting power, water, fire, and police, and includes risks such as pandemics, earthquakes, and landslides. He added that, with the additional volumes since the 2018 plan, improvements have already been made to power backups, water systems, fire suppression, coordinated police and fire responses and rail line integration.

MOTION: Ms. Cotter moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

3. **Consider a resolution of the Murray City Municipal Council Finding that a detention basin to be constructed at 4580 South Cherry Street in Murray, Utah benefits the Cherry Street neighborhood development project area.** CED (Community and Economic Development) Director Chad Wilkinson requested approval of a resolution to use remaining funds from the Cherry Street RDA (Redevelopment Agency) project area for the construction of a stormwater detention basin. Mr. Wilkinson explained that,

although the basin was located just outside the project area, it would serve all properties within the RDA area, noting that it would be the final project in the Cherry Street RDA zone since the collection period ended in 2023. The remaining funds would be used to reimburse the City's Stormwater Division for design and construction costs that had already begun.

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to adopt the resolution. Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

- 4. Consider an ordinance dissolving the Cherry Street Neighborhood Development Project Area.** Mr. Wilkinson confirmed that the Cherry Street RDA area, originating in 1991, had accomplished all that it was designed to do by improving sewer, stormwater and streets to facilitate development. He confirmed that the collection period for the project area had ended in 2023, and once the last project is funded, the RDA area must be dissolved according to State Code.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

- 5. Consider an ordinance establishing a Temporary Land Use Regulation pursuant to Utah Code Ann. Section 10-20-504 relating to multi-family developments within the city.** Mr. Wilkinson stated that CED was working to draft an ordinance related to the interface between multi-family zones and single-family zones. The proposed ordinance would affect new developments going forward applying to new developments specifically located in the RM (Residential Multi-Family) density designation. Because more time was needed to complete the draft ordinance, a temporary pause on the acceptance of new applications was requested. Mr. Wilkinson confirmed that the moratorium on RM projects would be for a period of no longer than six months and that the temporary Land Use Regulation was permitted by State Code.

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to adopt the ordinance. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion Passed: 4-0

Mayors Report and Questions: Mayor Hales announced All Access Week at the Murray Theater (May 4–9, 2026) and reported completion of cleanup and sidewalk improvements on 5300 South between 700 West and 1300 West.

Adjournment: 7:24 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III