

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2026
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
WORK MEETING - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR MEETING
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 65 NORTH CENTER STREET**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe, Chad Lyman, Ryan Cottam, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.

Also present were Trever McEntire, Quinn Griffin, Richard Crawford, Harriet Priska, Evelyn Corning, Lee Minchey, Victory Crawford, Julie Brugger and Chad Cottam.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Orme moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Cottam voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2026 MEETING

Council member Stowe moved to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2026 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, Stowe and Cottam voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HARRIET PRISKA

Ms. Priska said there are community concerns about not having a place to drop off used items due to the closed thrift store and announced the establishment of a community market at the Catholic Church starting Saturday, which would provide a free venue for people to sell items. Ms. Priska also mentioned her ongoing efforts to help Lynn Tontlewicz raise funds. Ms. Priska requested that the council consider putting information about the community market on the marquee.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

Council member Stowe said during the last Planning and Zoning meeting the Planning Commission worked on ordinances and denied two different projects due to lack of information and incomplete applications.

**LEE AND LORRI MINCHEY - LOT LINE ADJUSTMENTS 135 N 300 W / 100 N 375 W
RR-1-20**

Council member Stowe explained this Lot Line Adjustment. Council member Stowe said this

project meets all requirements and Planning and Zoning has recommended it for approval. **Council member Stowe moved to approve the lot line adjustment for Mr. and Mrs. Minchey. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Cottam, Wilson, Lyman and Orme voting aye.**

SCHEDULED ITEMS

QUINN GRIFFIN - LAND ADJACENT TO THE OLD AIRPORT

Council members Stowe and Lyman stated a conflict of interest.

Mr. Griffin gave a map of his property and information about a land transfer related to the original airport property, explaining that in 1971, Neil Liston who owned the property north of his petitioned the city to transfer back a 100-foot strip that wasn't being used. Mr. Griffin explained at the time his land was owned by Cecil Griffin but he did not apply to get the 100-foot strip back. Mr. Griffin said he is asking the Council to consider deeding the property that should have been given back in 1971. **Council member Orme moved to deed Mr. Griffin the 100-foot strip of land in front of his property as presented, provided that he covers all related fees. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Cottam, Orme and Wilson voting aye. Council members Lyman and Stowe abstained.**

EVELYN CORNING - 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Ms. Corning presented plans for a 4th of July celebration, including a community freedom parade with themed floats representing First Amendment freedoms, followed by a patriotic program, family picnic lunch, and evening movie showing Sandlot. Ms. Corning said the celebration will also include activities, and potentially fireworks if weather permits. Ms. Corning said Sunday July 5 after the potluck there will be a performance by church youth. **Council member Wilson moved to have the city sponsor this event with funds approved by the Mayor. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe, Cottam, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

TREVOR MCENTIRE - EVERETT RUESS STATUE

Mr. McEntier from Fremont Bronze presented a proposal to create and gift a bronze statue of Everett Ruess to the city, estimated at \$175,000.00. Council member Wilson said right now he feels the statue would be better in another community. Council member Wilson said he cannot support putting it in Escalante. Council member Wilson said Mr. Ruess was in Escalante for a few days and did not do anything for our community that made it a better place. Mr. Wilson said people claimed Mr. Ruess was killed in the desert and he takes offence to that because his grandfather was in the desert at that time. Council member Lyman said he appreciates Mr. McEntires gesture but a life size bronze statue of other men and women who did a lot of work here would be a better fit than one of Mr. Ruess. Council member Stowe said she appreciates what Mr. McEntire is doing but also agrees with Council members Wilson and Lyman. Council member Orme said she does not hate the idea but this is a long term statue and there needs to be a formal selection process. **Council member Orme moved to deny the bronze statue to be placed in Escalante. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, Cottam, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

WAFFLES & WILDFLOWERS LLC - LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSENT FOR A SINGLE EVENT PERMIT - MAY 30, 2026

City Recorder Steed explained this permit. **Council member Wilson moved to approve the Local Authority Consent for Waffles and Wildflowers LLC. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Cottam, Stowe, Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed said the budget and financial reports are available for review.

City Recorder Steed reported on the Recorders Institute and Academy and thanked the Council for sending her.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Chad Cottam gave an update on the progress on pickleball court preparations, sewer lagoon inspections, well water testing for manganese and iron levels, and SCADA system implementation. Mr. Cottam reported that while most systems on the SCADA system were progressing well, there were some issues with flow meters and cellular connectivity that needed addressing.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman expressed his appreciation for the information Chad Cottam provided regarding the filtration system. Council member Lyman said Brent Pickering shared a photo of the filters following their cleaning. Council member Wilson said the filtration system at Ofland is making a substantial difference in their water quality. Council member Lyman said he feels the city could put a filtration system at the old water tanks.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson said he has talked with the City Engineers at Lochner and he is concerned about the campground at the Airport. Council member Wilson said the campground violates FAA requirements. Council member Wilson said he is suggesting moving it to avoid potential compliance issues and funding threats

COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM

Council member Cottam reported on his discussions with the Garfield County Road Department regarding their plans to chip seal the remaining city roads. Mayor Torgersen requested that the road by Ryan Crosier's residence be included in the project. Council member Cottam confirmed that both the road near Mr. Crosier's home and the water tank road are scheduled for completion.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Wilson moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Lyman, Wilson and Cottam voting aye.

CLOSED MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to go into a closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual at 6:50 p.m.

Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe, Wilson, Cottam and Lyman voting aye. Present at the closed meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Stowe, Orme, Cottam, Wilson, Lyman, City Attorney Huntington and City Recorder Steed. Council member Wilson stepped out of the closed meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Council member Lyman moved to go out of executive session back into regular session at 7:30 p.m. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Cottam, Stowe, and Orme voting aye.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor Torgersen called the work meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Lyman, Stowe, Cottam, Orme and City Recorder Steed. Council member Wilson arrived at 7:43 p.m. City Attorney Huntington was excused.

There was no one else present.

The work meeting was to work on the 2026-2027 Budget, Surplus Items And Ordinances.

The work meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

/s/ Stephanie Steed
Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 05/19/2026