

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 12, 2026

Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at www.utah.gov/pmn and video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL5pEGwZzH4. Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Councilmembers Jason Taylor, Tawny Knutson-Boyd, Kaitlin Myers, Colin Topper and Miles Loftin attended. Also in attendance were City Manager Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Associate Planner Johanna Blanco, Community Development Director Cory Shurtleff, Police Chief Lex Bell, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton, Jr., Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin and 38 members of the public. Councilmember Topper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Xander Wycoff spoke on behalf of the Southern Utah Coalition of Concrete Athletes (SUCCA). He congratulated the successful Mayoral and Council candidates who prevailed in the 2025 City election and stated his group will not be endorsing candidates in the upcoming election. He humorously described the history of skateboarders in Moab and advocated for skate park improvements.

Presentations:

Moab Charter School kindergartners and first graders presented results of their science projects involving Mill Creek. They presented information about water depth, sediment, pH of the creek water and changes to the creek bed.

Moab Area Housing Task Force Update: Associate Planner Blanco, who serves as Chair of the Task Force, along with Ben Riley, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Southeast Utah (HASU), updated Council on the work of the Task Force, including the purpose of the task force, the existing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) involving the City, County, and HASU, the local housing supply pipeline and goals of the group. Increasing the ILA to include the local community land trust, organization of the group and its subcommittees, and educational outreach of the group, were presented. Riley presented the group's budget and explained funding needs for task force priorities. Blanco presented the housing pipeline update and noted there were 178 active employment household (AEH) units available or in the planning and construction process, along with 232 income-tied affordable housing units.

Consent Agenda—Approved

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: approval of minutes for the April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$705,280.27. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

General Business:

Vehicle Sponsorship—Presentation and Discussion:

City Manager Black explained Stellantis Corporation and the Jeep brand submitted the only response to a recent vehicle sponsorship request for proposal (RFP). Black touched on the history of the Jeep Safari and the direct financial investment and marketing exposure to be gained from the sponsorship. He reported on the offer of a \$125,000 unrestricted gift to the City, five loaned Jeep vehicles to the City, along with extensive advertising exposure for Moab with tourism promotion and stewardship as priorities, totaling a contribution of \$11.3 million in media buys and other contributions.

Councilmembers spoke about their support for the project and Councilmember Myers asked if there were similar sponsorships in other communities and Jeep representatives indicated this was the first of its kind. Mayor Langianese mentioned the history of the formation of Canyonlands National Park and the role of Jeeps in the Park's establishment.

Two-Year City of Moab Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)—Discussion

City Manager Black presented a proposed two-year CIP listing projects. He stated his interest in preparing a “shovel ready” list of projects to be funded through grants, property tax, bonds, Recreation, Arts and Parks (RAP) funds and enterprise funds. Projects on the list included road improvement projects such as 100 West, 100 North, 400 East, and the 300 South bridge. Infrastructure projects were listed, such as the public works facility, Center Street gym, City Hall bicycle structure, ballfield improvements, aquatic center repairs, Swanny Park restrooms, and Lions Park river access. Other projects such as public art, playground improvements, and Parks department vehicles and equipment were also mentioned. Revenue sources were discussed including bonding. Councilmembers Taylor and Loftin asked for clarification regarding proposed expenditure of property tax revenues for golf course improvements.

Public Hearing for Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027:

Mayor Langianese opened a public hearing at 7:34 p.m. regarding **Resolution 04-2026**: a resolution to adopt the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. City Manager Black made a brief presentation and answered questions from Council. Councilmember Loftin asked about the police department housing stipend which was renamed to reflect line-of-duty pay. Councilmember Topper expressed appreciation for the workshops throughout the Spring to prepare the budget and for the smooth process, and thanked Councilmember Myers for her diligent work on the budget. There were no public comments, and the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027—Approved

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Knutson-Boyd moved to adopt **Resolution 04-2026**, approving the final budget and setting the certified tax rate for the City of Moab for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper and Loftin voting aye and Councilmember Myers voting nay.

Golf Course Lease—Tabled

Presentation and Discussion: City Manager Black presented a brief history of the golf course, which he said is situated on land owned by the City and has been operated by the Moab Golf Club since its inception in the 1960s. He added the property constitutes a watershed protection area for the City. Mayor Langianese noted the lease under consideration is an active lease so there is no urgency to alter or renew it. Representatives of the golf course presented information about a master plan being developed for the course, funds needed to repair the irrigation system, the golf course as an economic driver for the community, and a prospective reduction in Ken’s Lake water by 50 percent due to the drought. Increasing amenities at the course including a snack bar, cabins and pickleball courts were mentioned. Discussion ensued regarding the history of the golf club’s financial status, reducing the proposed length of the 15-year lease, concerns with the club’s financial status quo, and greens fees as compared to other small municipal courses, with a discussion about increasing greens fees to fund operations of the course. Councilmember Topper noted the success of the course would fall to taxpayers, which he said he did not support. He expressed a need for the board of the golf club to build confidence regarding financial stability. Mayor Langianese stated more conversation is needed and noted the proposed contract enables the City to raise greens fees. Councilmember Loftin stated that the course could become a viable asset for the community but the Council needed confidence regarding financial conditions. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd expressed a need for the course to support itself. Councilmember Myers concurred and noted fee amounts at other rural Utah courses, which were all higher than Moab. She said she wanted to have a Council member on the golf course board. Councilmember Taylor said he wants the course to be successful and he wants the City to be a good partner. He said it is appropriate for the City to be involved. **Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Loftin moved to table consideration of an updated commercial lease agreement between the City of Moab and the Moab Golf Club. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Updates: City Manager Black reported on the Arts & Ag market and City staff outreach

at the event. He said business license renewals would be sent to local businesses via email on May 18. He reported on a meeting of the local watershed council and noted the onboarding of a new police officer.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Loftin reported he met with City Manager Black, attended the Arts & Ag event, and attended a meeting of the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Myers said she attended Arts & Ag and a meeting of the housing task force.

Councilmember Topper reported he visited with the Charter School science students, and attended meetings with the solid waste district, downtown business owners, and stakeholders interested in bicycle access at Arches National Park.

Councilmember Taylor stated he attended a meeting with the travel council.

Mayor Langianese stated she attended meetings regarding a proposed shuttle service to Arches National Park, the tailings pile, and with the County Commission Chair.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder