

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF UTAH  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES  
HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026  
MULTI-AGENCY STATE OFFICE BUILDING**

**Commissioners present:**

Commission Chair, Jacquelyn Orton  
Christopher Conabee  
Tara Thue  
Juliette Tennert  
Fayln Owens

**Commissioners absent:**

Stephen Handy  
Jennifer Tarazon

**Staff present:**

Department Commissioner, Ericka Evans  
Deputy Director of Finance and Administration,  
Todd Darrington  
Deputy Director, Legal and Regulatory Affairs,  
Brian Swan  
Managing Director of Operations, Jeremy  
Sommerlath  
Alcohol Education Director, Doug Murakami

**Also present:**

Assistant Attorney General, Samuel McHenry

Note: A copy of related material and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.abs.utah.gov](http://www.abs.utah.gov)

Chair Orton called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Jorge Corona-Leyva, program manager, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chair Orton introduced the commissioners and staff that assist with the commission meetings. She noted Commissioners Stephen Handy and Jennifer Tarazon were excused, and then made the following announcements.

- a. Proposed Future Meeting Schedule (*subject to change*)
  - Thursday, May 28, 2026 - Garfield County Courthouse
  - Thursday, June 25, 2026 - MASOB
  
- b. Upcoming Holiday Closures
  - Monday, May 25, 2026 (*Memorial Day*)
  - Monday, June 15, 2026 (*Juneteenth National Freedom Day*)
  
- c. Public Comments
  - Those participating virtually, please email your name, city, topic, and affiliation (if applicable) to [hotline@utah.gov](mailto:hotline@utah.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.
  - Time for Public Comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

## **PARENTS EMPOWERED UPDATE:**

Alcohol Education Director Doug Murakami presented an update on the Parents Empowered campaign. He announced the launch of the Every Step Counts campaign in Park City. He also shared a KSL news clip highlighting the Summit County Prevention Trail, which aims to keep children alcohol-free until they reach the age of 21. He concluded the presentation by thanking Commissioner Conabee for his support with attending the event.

Chair Orton, Commissioner Conabee, and Commissioner Tennert expressed appreciation for the Summit County community's support, which made the campaign effective. Commissioner Conabee noted that data shows a higher percentage of underage drinking in the county, and the community is working to fund a larger budget to grow the program.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Todd Darrington provided a financial update for period 9 of fiscal year 2026 through March 2026. He noted overall revenues were down about 3%, while period 9 expenses were up because of system improvements. Todd Darrington added the department is on track to return approximately \$70 million to the general fund, and customers have contributed \$160,189 to the Pamela Atkinson homeless fund during this period.

## **OPERATIONS UPDATE:**

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans provided an operations update regarding the recent legislative changes that took effect on May 6, 2026. She noted that a newsletter detailing these changes will be sent out to licensees. She advised those with questions to contact the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services licensing and compliance staff.

Managing Director of Operations Jeremy Sommerlath shared a quick update on operations improvement goals.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RULE:**

- (1) Administrative Code, R82-2, Administration
- (2) Administrative Code, R82-9, Event Permits
- (3) Administrative Code, R82-14, Liquor Transport Licensees

Deputy Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs Brian Swan presented 3 administrative rules. He explained that Administrative Code R82-2, Administration, completed the public comment period without receiving comments. He stated revisions to Administrative Code R82-9, Event Permits were necessary because of legislative changes to the permit approval process and a change in the deadline window to 15 days. Finally, Brian Swan presented Administrative Code R82-14, Liquor Transport Licensees.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tennert moved to grant final approval for Administrative Code R82-2, Administration, with an effective date of April 30, 2026. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
Commissioner Thue  
Commissioner Owens  
Commissioner Conabee  
Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
Commissioner Tarazon

Chair Orton asked for a motion on the remaining administrative rule revisions.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tennert moved to file Administrative Code R82-9, Event Permits, and Administrative Code R82-14, Liquor Transport Licensees, for publication with the Office of Administrative Rules. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
Commissioner Thue  
Commissioner Owens  
Commissioner Conabee  
Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
Commissioner Tarazon

**VIOLATIONS:**

\*Referral Sources – Clearfield Police Department (CPD), Hurricane Police Department (HPD), Rich County Sheriff’s Office (RSO), State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), West Valley Police Department (WPD).

[The following Consent Calendar items include uncontested letters of admonishment (written warnings) and settlement agreements that have been agreed to and accepted by the licensees. They are considered as a block with one vote unless one of the commissioners requests that any item be removed for individual discussion.]

a. Consent Calendar

- (1) The Mercantile on 25th, Salt Lake City \*SBI (RL)
- (2) Taverna, Salt Lake City \*SBI (RF)
- (3) Kesari Indian Kitchen, Ogden \*SBI (RL)
- (4) Parcerito Parrilla Colombiana, South Jordan \*SBI (RF)
- (5) Maverik, Inc. #581, Clearfield \*CPD (OP)
- (6) Stellas American & Italian Bistro, Ogden \*SBI (RL)
- (7) Club 90, Sandy \*SBI (BAR)
- (8) Felt Bar & Eatery, Salt Lake City \*SBI (BAR)
- (9) The Revival Pub, Milford \*SBI (BAR)
- (10) Casa De Nena, Ogden \*SBI (RL)
- (11) The Med, South Salt Lake \*SBI (RL)
- (12) Woodruff Corner Store, Woodruff \*RSO (OP)
- (13) Tejedas Market, West Valley City and Geraldine Quiroz \*WPD (OP)  
Perez (*employee*)
- (14) Buffalo Wild Wings, Sandy \*SBI (RF)
- (15) Ichiban Sushi and Asian Cuisine, Sandy and Diana \*SBI (RF)  
Cega-Hernandez (*employee*)
- (16) The Social Provo, Provo \*SBI (RF)

- |      |  |            |
|------|--|------------|
| (17) | Tin Roof Grill, Sandy  | *SBI (RF)  |
| (18) | Chili's, Sandy and Thierat Volarat ( <i>employee</i> )                           | *SBI (RF)  |
| (19) | Gas Stop Hurricane, Hurricane  | *HPD (OP)  |
| (20) | Quarters Arcade Bar, Salt Lake City  | *SBI (BAR) |
| (21) | Tokai Sushi Restaurant, West Jordan and Keissy Payan<br>Lara ( <i>employee</i> ) | *SBI (RL)  |
| (22) | O'Shucks Bar & Grill, Summit County  | *SBI (RF)  |

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry gave an overview of the items on the consent calendar noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tennert moved to approve the consent calendar as written in the agenda. Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
 Commissioner Thue  
 Commissioner Owens  
 Commissioner Conabee  
 Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
 Commissioner Tarazon

Chair Orton expressed appreciation to law enforcement including Clearfield Police Department, Hurricane Police Department, Rich County Sheriff's Office, State Bureau of Investigations, and West Valley Police Department, for their work in keeping alcoholic products safe.

b. Order to Show Cause

- (1) American Legion 71, South Salt Lake (BAR)

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry presented item b. Order to Show Cause, item 1 American Legion 71 in South Salt Lake. He noted they do not hold the minimum qualifications to hold a license, and the commission has the authority to suspend, revoke, or deem forfeit.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Thue moved to deem the license forfeit for American Legion 71. Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion. Chair Orton called for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Thue noted another organization may reapply through the department. Commissioner Tennert clarified that revocation prevents reapplying for 3 years. Commissioner Conabee recommended a stricter stance during license shortages, and Chair Orton concluded poor communication prevents the commission from considering alternatives to revocation.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
 Commissioner Thue  
 Commissioner Owens  
 Commissioner Conabee  
 Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
 Commissioner Tarazon

**LICENSEE RECOGNITIONS:**

- a. Passed Utah Dept. of Public Safety, SBI Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) Inspections

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans reported since the March commission meeting, 81 licenses passed the Public Safety SBI Underage Buyer inspections. She congratulated those who passed and thanked them for following the alcohol safety laws.

**TYPE 2 PACKAGE AGENCY APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- a. Discussion with Package Agency Applicant  
(1) Southern Spirits & Wine, St. George

Package Agency Program Manager Jessica Atencio presented the Type 2 package agency applicant for Southern Spirits and Wine in St. George.

The commission interviewed Constantine Davis, who provided an overview of retail operations for Southern Spirits & Wine and answered the commissioners questions regarding package agency management and alcohol safety policies.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Thue moved to approve a package agency applicant contract agreement for the Southern Spirits and Wine and direct the department to enter into a Type 2 package agency contract. Commissioner Conabee second the motion. Chair Orton called for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
Commissioner Thue  
Commissioner Owens  
Commissioner Conabee  
Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
Commissioner Tarazon

**APRIL 2026 LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER:**

- a. Renewal Period April 1 to April 30, 2026  
- Liquor Transport (*LT*)
- b. Renewal Period May 1 to May 31, 2026  
- Bar Establishment (*BAR*)

Craig Warr announced that the April renewal period for liquor transport licenses ends on April 30, 2026. He also noted the bar establishment license renewal period is open from May 1-31, 2026.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Approval of the Minutes
  - (1) March 26, 2026 Commission Meeting
  - (2) April 17, 2026 Special Commission Meeting
- b. Off-Premise Beer Retailer State License

*License Changes of Ownership:*

- (1) Gas Hole, Eureka (*purchase agreement March 15, 2026*)
- (2) Walgreens #06961, Taylorsville (*purchase agreement February 25, 2026*)

*New Applicants:*

- (1) 7-Eleven Store #42123A, Riverton (*conditional*)
- (2) Costco Wholesale #1796, Syracuse (*conditional*)
- (3) Curriculum, Salt Lake City
- (4) Gas Me Up Convenience LLC, Salt Lake City (*conditional*)
- (5) North Fork Base Camp, Liberty (*conditional*)
- (6) Pioneer Chevron, Salt Lake City
- (7) Riverside Corner, Riverside
- (8) Smith's #210, Lehi (*conditional*)
- (9) Tru/Home2 Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Grove (*conditional*)

c. Hotel

*New Applicant:*

- (1) The Stelle, Wasatch County (*conditional*)

d. On-Premise Banquet - Restaurant Venue

*New Applicant:*

- (1) Kimi's Chop & Oyster House, Holladay (*conditional*)

e. Local Industry Representative

*New Applicants:*

- (1) David Milligan Selections, Park City
- (2) K. Kortnick Wines LLC, South Jordan

f. Restaurant Beer-Only

*New Applicants:*

- (1) Granny's Drive In, Heber City (*conditional*)
- (2) La Resaca LLC, West Valley City

g. Restaurant Limited-Service

*New Applicants:*

- (1) Tha Siam Bistro LLC, Sandy (*violation history*)
- (2) La Ferrovia Italian Ristorante, Ogden
- (3) Spark by Hilton SLC Airport, Salt Lake City (*conditional*) (*violation history*)

h. On-Premise Beer Retailer - Recreational Amenity

*New Applicants:*

- (1) Par 5 Grill, Bountiful
- (2) Soldier Hollow Lounge, Midway (*conditional*)
- (3) Wasatch Mountain Grill, Midway (*conditional*)
- (4) Another Round Disc Golf Salt Lake City, Murray (Benjamin Marolf)

i. Restaurant Full-Service

*License Change of Ownership:*

- (1) Porter's Smokehouse & Grill, Springdale (*purchase agreement January 29, 2026*)

*New Applicants:*

- (1) Rock Reef Cafe, Torrey (*conditional*) (*will surrender their Restaurant - Limited Service license upon approval*)
- (2) Wasatch Roasting Company-Riverwalk, Ogden (*conditional*)
- (3) Outback Steakhouse & Bonefish Grill, Murray (*conditional*)
- (4) Nacho House, West Jordan (*conditional*)
- (5) Puente Viejo Mexican Steak House LLC, Ogden (*conditional*)
- (6) Crush Golf & Grill, Clearfield (*conditional*)
- (7) Toscano, Herriman (*conditional*)
- (8) Bout Time Pub & Grub, Bluffdale (*violation history*)
- (9) Fancy Burger, Orem
- (10) Smokin' Joe's BBQ, Parowan (*conditional*)
- (11) Bawarchi, South Jordan (*conditional*) (*will surrender their Restaurant - Limited Service license upon approval*)
- (12) The Outlaw Saloon, Hatch (*conditional*) (*will surrender their summer seasonal Bar license upon approval*)

Deputy Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs Brian Swan presented the consent agenda and noted the items are ready for commission action.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tennert moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item h 4. Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
 Commissioner Thue  
 Commissioner Owens  
 Commissioner Conabee  
 Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
 Commissioner Tarazon

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tennert moved to approve item h, 4: Another Round Disk Golf in Salt Lake City for an on-premise beer retailer recreational amenity license. Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Tennert noted that statute and rule allow for a commission-approved weaponless leisure activity for this license, and the commission approved disc golf and virtual versions in this motion.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
 Commissioner Thue  
 Commissioner Owens  
 Commissioner Conabee  
 Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
 Commissioner Tarazon

**LICENSE APPLICATIONS CONSIDERATION ITEMS:**

- a. Bar Establishment (Rob Hansen) [*action items*]  
Extended Closure:  
 (1) Whiskey Street, Salt Lake City (*requesting until December 15, 2026*)

Training Program Manager Rob Hansen presented the extended closure request for Whiskey Street in Salt Lake City to extend its closure through December 2026.

Jason LeCates, owner of Whiskey Street, updated the commission on the building's reconstruction following an August 2025 fire and thanked the city of Salt Lake for its support.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tennert moved to approve extended closures for the bar establishment Whiskey Street in Salt Lake City through the December 2026 commission meeting. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
 Commissioner Thue  
 Commissioner Owens  
 Commissioner Conabee  
 Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
 Commissioner Tarazon

*License Changes of Ownership:*

- (1) Premiere Park City, Park City (*conditional*) (*purchase agreement December 2, 2025*)
- (2) Star Saloon Tavern, Pleasant Grove (*purchase agreement April 7, 2026*)

Training Program Manager Rob Hansen presented the license changes of ownership applicants.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Thue moved to approve the license changes of ownership for Premiere Park City, and Star Saloon Tavern. Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
 Commissioner Thue  
 Commissioner Owens  
 Commissioner Conabee  
 Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
 Commissioner Tarazon

*New Applicants:*

- (1) The Break Sports Bar and Grill, Taylorsville (*conditional*) (*violation history*)
- (2) Desert Edge Brewery at The Pub, Salt Lake City (*conditional*) (*violation history*)

Training Program Manager Rob Hansen presented the new bar establishment applicants. He noted there are 27 year-round licenses available.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Thue moved to approve a bar establishment conditional license for The Break Sports Bar and Grill in Taylorsville and a bar establishment license for Desert Edge Brewery at The

Pub in Salt Lake City. Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 2.

**DISCUSSION:** Rob Hansen answered questions about the violation history listed on the agenda.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
Commissioner Thue  
Commissioner Owens  
Commissioner Conabee  
Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
Commissioner Tarazon

**COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC**

Chair Orton opened the floor for public comment. Anthony Steward, Smokin' Joe's BBQ, asked a question about violation information. Commissioner Tennert expressed appreciation for Chair Orton, noting her commission services are coming to an end.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tennert moved to adjourn the April 30, 2026 commission meeting. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Orton asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

**Yea - 5**

Commissioner Tennert  
Commissioner Thue  
Commissioner Owens  
Commissioner Conabee  
Chair Orton

**Nay - 0**

**Absent - 2**

Commissioner Handy  
Commissioner Tarazon

The commission adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.