

**NEPHI CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
May 19, 2026**

The Nephi City Council met in regular session in the council chambers of city hall located at 21 East 100 North at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Those present and representing the city were:

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mayor .....                        | Justin D. Seely  |
| Council Member .....               | Jeramie Callaway |
| Council Member .....               | Shari Cowan      |
| Council Member .....               | Tate Douglas     |
| Council Member .....               | Travis Worwood   |
| City Administrator.....            | Seth Atkinson    |
| City Recorder .....                | Leslee Anderson  |
| City Assistant Administrator ..... | Sara Samuelson   |
| Planning and Zoning.....           | Shauna Talbot    |

Absent: Council Member JD Parady, Attorney Brittany Tellez

Guests: Donald W. Ball, Cory Thomson (Planning Commission Chair), Terri McCoy, Joel Cowan, Drake Underwood, David Fletcher, Chelsie Wilkey, Matthew Lenhart (Jones and DeMille), MaKenzie Memmott, Dana Hoyt, Nate Wengreen, Gavin Howard, Mike Rasmussen

Mayor Justin Seely welcomed everyone present and convened into regular meeting. 7:00 pm

PRAYER: Leslee Anderson, City Recorder

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE: Chelsie Wilkey, coordinator for the Juab Prevention Coalition

Ms. Wilkey addressed the council and announced the upcoming Community Family Night Out on Monday, June 1 from 6 to 8 pm at the Nephi City Park. The event will feature booths, food trucks, and free swimming at the Nephi Swimming Pool.

Mayor Seely mentioned the event's growth over the past five years and the community's involvement.

Ms. Wilkey mentioned that their work has been recognized at the state level, paving the way for new prevention methods.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Shari Cowan made a motion to approve the consent agenda including Council Meeting Minutes from 5-5-2026; Work Session Minutes from 5-12-2026; and approval of claims dated 5-18-2026.

Councilor Jeramie Callaway seconded the motion.

The motion passed on unanimous vote of those present (4-0). Councilor JD Parady was absent from the vote.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- Drake Underwood, candidate for Juab County Sheriff, spoke about his background working for the Sheriff's Department which began in 2005. He emphasized professionalism, transparency, and accountability, and his commitment to public safety and community engagement as his goals if elected.
- David Fletcher, candidate for Juab County Commissioner, provided updates on his initiatives including creating pathways for high school students to work with local businesses to gain experience. He wants to encourage businesses to come in that are willing to help with the program. He expressed his support for law enforcement. He would like to promote better coordination between the cities and the county to produce favorable outcomes for citizens of Juab county.

#### PLANNING ITEMS

##### TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION

Seth Atkinson, City Administrator, introduced the Transportation Master Plan prepared by Jones and DeMille highlighting its scope and purpose. He then introduced Matthew Lenhart, who has been working on the project, to present the plan to the council.

Mr. Lenhart displayed the interactive website ([LINK](#)) and detailed what was on it. He explained the different road classifications and the proposed roadway network. The plan includes future roadways, traffic counts, and crash data to guide future development and funding. The grid system was extended out past the airport and south to Four Mile Road. During planning, they prioritized roads that already have existing railroad crossings. Including this in a framework that is beneficial to the city will be helpful when planning future developments. Having the plan will be beneficial in securing funding for projects.

Mr. Atkinson described the \$1.5 million grant received for upgrade and upkeep of roads. The council discussed specific roads needing repair including 400 E. The 400 E project will be phased beginning in 2028.

Once adopted, the Transportation Master Plan will be available on the Nephi City Website ([nephi.utah.gov](http://nephi.utah.gov)). The council was impressed with the extensiveness of the plan and the detailed information available on the transportation plan website. The council will explore the transportation plan and make any recommendations before the plan is adopted.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND COUNCIL UPDATES

- Mr. Atkinson discussed the property tax impact schedule which shows the current rate and the proposed rate. He stated it is required to be presented at every meeting that the budget is on the agenda. He explained the purpose of the proposed tax increase this year is to construct a police facility and add additional officers.
- Mr. Atkinson announced there will be a public hearing regarding the amended budget for Fiscal year 2026 on June 2. The hearing about the proposed tax increase will be August 11.

- Mr. Atkinson talked about the noise ordinance public hearing, pertaining to the data center, held May 13 at the planning commission meeting. It will be reviewed again at the June 10 meeting before being brought to the council.
- Mr. Atkinson discussed the land requested to be annexed for the data center. He stated a public hearing would be held in the future before anything is approved. He encouraged anyone with questions to ask, and he would be happy to address them.
- Ms. Cowan announced the Just Serve community service project to plant flowers on Main Street Saturday, May 23 from 9-11 am.
- Mr. Worwood wondered whether studies have been done on industrial businesses concerning their water usage. Working with city billing in the past, he recalled some industrial customers using more water than the proposed data center usage. Mr. Atkinson confirmed the first phase of data center would use less water than some established businesses are already using.
- Mayor Seely reported, after talking with different mayors, the reason work sessions will not be recorded. It would create confusion. Not all work session discussion items make it to a regular meeting for action—they are just discussion items.
- Mayor Seely addressed the armory base near the airport after hearing misinformation that it was there for data center security. He stated the military wanted to move away from the fault line on the Wasatch front. Initially the armory was going to be an air wing, but with administrative changes, plans changed. He declared that this armory is bringing back something that used to be a proud part of our community. He reminisced about NRP coming to during World War II to build hoses and different things. Those workers had to have routine lead tests because they worked in a toxic environment. Technology has improved since the 1950s. The same is true for data centers. Technology has improved and the problems that some studies show are no longer issues because of those enhancements. He encouraged citizens to contact him with questions or concerns. He emphasized the importance of community engagement and the council's commitment to making informed decisions.
- Mayor would like the tractor show at the fairgrounds in July to celebrate America 250 to be amazing and would like the community's help for any contact information.

#### MOTION TO CONVENE TO CLOSED MEETING 9:00 pm

Councilor Jeramie Callaway made a motion to convene to closed meeting for discussion of character and competence of an individual.

Councilor Tate Douglas seconded the motion.

The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Jeramie Callaway | Yes    |
| Shari Cowan      | Yes    |
| Tate Douglas     | Yes    |
| JD Parady        | Absent |
| Travis Worwood   | Yes    |

#### Work Session 8:59 pm

1. City Attorney Contract

- a. Last year the city agreed with the Juab School District and the Central Valley Medical Center to continue jointly using attorney services. The tentative arrangement has been to contract with the Juab School District for 40% of their attorney's time and that the attorney would be a school district employee.
  - b. Mr. Atkinson explained the challenges faced due to state legislation not covering city attorneys under governmental immunity. Brittany is employed by the school district and thus is covered.
  - c. The council reviewed the drafted agreement between the three entities and Brittany Tellez for attorney services. The agreement outlines scope of duties, cost sharing, dispute resolution, wages, benefits, termination, and other standard legal subjects.
  - d. Maternity leave was discussed. Brittany is currently taking 12 weeks and has that in the draft agreement. The school district currently offers 5 weeks. The council said that as a district employee, the contract should follow the 5 weeks. The city currently does not have a maternity leave policy, and Sara Samuelson discussed the need to adopt its own policy.
2. Capstone program
  - a. The school district applied for a \$20 million grant to build a catalyst center.
  - b. Capstone students have been involved in various community projects and have seen success in different competitions.
  - c. The school district has requested from the city a letter of support and participation on the advisory board for the grant.
3. Groundbreaking for Nephi Western Credit Union will be held May 20 at noon.
4. Seth will be giving the State of the City address at the Nephi Chamber Luncheon on June 4.
5. Accessibility Concerns at Gun Range
  - a. The mayor brings up the need to make the gun range wheelchair accessible.
  - b. Discussion ensued about how to make this happen and the potential involvement of the National Guard.
  - c. The accessibility would include bathroom upgrades and getting road mill for smoother, firmer ground.

ADJOURN 9:24 pm

I, Leslee Anderson, Nephi City Recorder, hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true, accurate, and complete record of the meeting held on May 5, 2026. This document constitutes the official minutes of the Nephi City Council Meeting.

