

**Kearns City Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2026**

Element Event Center  
5658 Cougar Lane  
Kearns, UT 84118

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Jesse Valdez, Mayor  
Chrystal Butterfield  
Lyndsay Longtin  
Lorrin Colby Jr.  
Patrick Schaeffer**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**Matt Starley, Long Range Planner  
Nathan Bracken, City Attorney  
Daniel Hoffman, Accounting Manager  
Diana Baun, City Recorder  
Joel Grant, HR Director  
Richard Stephens, Assistant City Engineer  
Lt. Nick Nelson, UPD  
Kory Holdaway, Lobbyist**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jesse Valdez called the Kearns City Council meeting to order on **May 11, 2026**, immediately following the adjournment of the Kearns Community Reinvestment Agency meeting at 6:13 PM.

**2. DETERMINE QUORUM**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a member of the audience following the mayor's invitation.

**4. VISITING OFFICIALS**

Mayor Valdez recognized County Council Member Carlos Moreno, Salt Lake County Council, District 2, and welcomed him to the meeting.

**5. CITIZEN PUBLIC INPUT (*Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person*)**

Mayor Valdez opened the public comment period and reiterated the three-minute limit per speaker and the requirement to complete a comment card.

Numerous members of the public offered comments on various topics, with the majority of speakers addressing the Community Clean Energy Program scheduled later in the agenda.

**Miranda Giles**, resident and Kearns Improvement District Trustee, who expressed concern regarding Rocky Mountain Power’s role in the Community Clean Energy Program.

**Frankie Saxton**, who urged the Council to vote against adopting the program due to cost-of-living impacts and the opt-out structure.

**Darren Nerden**, resident, commented on drought-impacted tree care, trail connectivity, and ongoing neighborhood parking issues.

**Larry Maloney**, resident, voiced concerns about the proposed city administrator position and associated costs.

**Cassandra Hodgins**, who shared detailed objections to the program’s automatic-enrollment design and fees.

**Mike Francis**, resident and trades professional, who also opposed the program based on personal experience with Rocky Mountain Power.

**Jenny Williams**, resident, presented extensive research on renewable-energy markets and questioned program costs and transparency.

Additional speakers provided comments related to safety, energy policy, neighborhood issues, and transparency. The mayor thanked all who spoke and noted that many comments related to an item scheduled later under Council Business.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes
  - a. April 13, 2026, City Council Meeting

Mayor Valdez asked the Council whether they had reviewed the draft minutes of the April 13, 2026, meeting and were prepared to move forward with approval.

**Council Member Schaeffer moved to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2026, City Council Meeting. Council Member Butterfield seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.**

**7. WORKSHOP (Discussion only) - None**

**8. PRESENTATION ITEMS**

- A. Council Presentation – *Carlos Moreno, County Council*

Council Member Carlos Moreno of the Salt Lake County Council (District 2) was recognized as the visiting official earlier in the meeting and later delivered his formal presentation to the Council. Due to a delay in receiving the digital presentation file from County staff, the Council briefly moved to the next presenter and returned to Mr. Moreno once materials were made available.

Mr. Moreno's presentation (Attachment A) included:

- An overview of his work representing District 2, which includes Kearns, Magna, West Valley, and parts of South Jordan and West Jordan
  - Updates on county operations, including public safety funding, elections administration, health services, senior programs, parks and trails, convention center projects, and infrastructure initiatives
  - Highlights of recent county accomplishments, resolutions, and community engagement activities
  - Remarks regarding tax policy discussions, including his vote against a recent tax increase based on resident concerns
  - An emphasis on representing Kearns residents directly and maintaining active community presence
- Mr. Moreno answered Council questions and received comments of appreciation from the Council and public.

#### B. Lobbying Updates – *Kory Holdaway, KMH Consulting*

Lobbyist Kory Holdaway provided a legislative update to the Council (Attachment B).

His presentation included:

- A summary of recent legislative session outcomes significant to Kearns
  - Updates on charter school legislation, noting that a halted bill left Kearns in a favorable position
  - Discussion of a special service district bill that could have impacted public safety costs but was amended to remove those provisions
  - Information on the Utah League of Cities and Towns' legislative support and advocacy resources available to member cities, including Kearns
  - Highlights of economic development and transportation bills (HB 507 and HB 492) that may provide future funding opportunities for the City
  - Recommendations for council engagement during election cycles to maximize influence
- The Council asked brief clarifying questions, and Mr. Holdaway concluded his update.

#### C. City Code Restatement Project Updates – *Nathan Bracken, City Attorney*

City Attorney Nathan Bracken presented an update on the ongoing Code Restatement Project (Attachment C).

He reported:

- Several completed code restatements had been submitted to the Council for review
  - MSD staff returned comments on portions of the project, including Title 14 (Engineering Standards)
  - Engineering standards have been removed from the main code and placed into a separate manual, requiring Planning Commission review prior to Council action
  - Additional updates will follow upon completion of MSD review
- Following his presentation, the Council proceeded to Council Business.

### 9. **COUNCIL BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS** (Discussion/Motion)

#### A. Presentation of the Kearns Quarterly Financial Reports – *Daniel Hoffman, Accounting Manager*

Accounting Manager Daniel Hoffman presented the Quarter 3 Financial Report for the City of Kearns, covering the period January through March 2026.

Mr. Hoffman also reviewed the MSD Allocation Report, which details how sales-tax and road-fund allocations are spent on public works, capital projects, administration, animal services, prosecution, indigent defense, court services, parks, code enforcement, and land-use functions. Council members were invited to request follow-up meetings or clarification on any financial details.

B. Discussion and Potential Approval of **Resolution R2026-13**, Adopting the City of Kearns 2026-2027 Tentative Budget – ***Daniel Hoffman, Accounting Manager***

Accounting Manager Daniel Hoffman presented (Attachment C) the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget, noting that the city operates on a July 1 – June 30 fiscal cycle and is approaching year-end. Mr. Hoffman explained that he had met previously with the mayor and members of the Council to review departmental needs and develop the recommended budget. He highlighted one modification made after consultation with MSD staff: Health Insurance costs were projected higher than originally estimated, prompting him to recommend increasing the line item from \$48,000 to \$100,000. He emphasized this was the Council’s budget to direct and could be adjusted if desired.

Council Member Colby asked for clarification on whether the increased health-insurance amount reflected the addition of a new employee to the plan; Mr. Hoffman confirmed it did and reiterated that unused funds remain in the City’s account.

Mr. Hoffman reviewed the proposed budget for all four funds, noting that budget notes were included to explain how each figure was derived. He invited questions from the Council.

City Attorney Nathan Bracken outlined the statutory requirements for the annual budget process, confirming that the Council must adopt a tentative budget in May, make it available for public inspection for at least seven days, and then hold a public hearing in June before adoption of the final budget. He recommended that the city hold two separate public hearings at the June meeting:

1. one for the compensation package for elected officials and any administrator position, and
2. one for the final budget, as required by state law.

He also clarified that any adjustments after receiving public comment can be incorporated prior to final adoption.

**Council Member Schaeffer moved to approve the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 and to adopt Resolution R2026-13, approving the tentative budget for public release. Council Member Butterfield seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor**

Mr. Hoffman thanked the Council and invited additional questions as they review the documents before the June hearing.

C. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding a Facility Use Agreement, Allowing the Use of Local Facilities by the City of Kearns During an Emergency - ***Nathan Bracken, City Attorney***

City Attorney Nathan Bracken presented the proposed Facility Use Agreement, which would authorize the City of Kearns to utilize certain local facilities during declared emergencies when municipal operations may require temporary relocation. Mr. Bracken summarized the purpose and key components of the draft agreement, explaining that it was intended to establish pre-arranged access to facilities located within Kearns in the event the City needs to activate emergency management protocols. He noted the importance of securing these agreements in advance, rather than waiting until an emergency occurs.

After reviewing the agreement, several Council Members expressed interest in having the document reviewed by the City's Emergency Manager, Madison (Emergency Planner), to ensure that the operational and logistical requirements were fully addressed. Mr. Bracken agreed that such a review would be appropriate.

Following discussion, the Council reached consensus not to take action at this meeting. The item will return at a later date after the Emergency Manager has completed her review and provided recommendations.

D. Discussion Regarding Use of \$125,000 from UPD Kearns Fund Balance and Applying it towards their 2026-2027 Budget – ***Lt. Nick Nelson, Unified Police Department***

Lieutenant Nick Nelson of the Unified Police Department presented information regarding the proposal to allocate \$125,000 from the UPD Kearns Precinct Fund Balance and apply it toward the precinct's FY 2026–2027 budget.

Lt. Nelson provided an overview of how the funds would support precinct operations and referenced statistical and operational data supplied in Attachment D, a handout prepared by Sergeant Faith. He explained that the allocation would assist in stabilizing operational needs, personnel deployment, and projected precinct activities for the coming fiscal year. Questions were raised regarding how the Kearns Precinct's fund balance is accumulated and the long-term impacts of applying reserves toward operational expenses. Lt. Nelson noted that the fund balance is built over time through unexpended allocations and that UPD monitors precinct fund health closely to avoid structural imbalances. He stated that applying \$125,000 toward next year's budget would not jeopardize the precinct's ability to respond to future needs.

After discussion, the Council expressed general support for UPD's recommendation and agreed that the item would be revisited as part of the broader interlocal and budget discussions scheduled for future meetings. No formal motion was taken at this time.

E. Discussion Regarding Addition of a New Traffic Car to Kearns Precinct Using the MET Tax, and Commitment to Funding that Traffic Car for the Foreseeable Future, Beginning July 1, 2026 – ***Lt. Nick Nelson, Unified Police Department***

Lieutenant Nick Nelson presented a proposal to add one additional traffic-enforcement vehicle to the Kearns Precinct, funded through the MET (Municipal Energy Tax) Fund, beginning July 1, 2026. Lt. Nelson explained that the precinct's current traffic-enforcement capacity is limited and that an additional dedicated traffic car would significantly improve responsiveness and roadway safety. He stated that UPD has the operational capacity to staff and deploy the vehicle immediately upon funding approval. He noted that the MET Fund has historically been used to support public safety-related infrastructure and that the current fund balance is sufficient to sustain both the upfront and ongoing costs of a new traffic car. Lt. Nelson confirmed that the proposal would be implemented through an interlocal agreement, requiring further coordination between UPD legal staff and the Kearns City Attorney.

Council Members expressed interest in understanding the long-term financial implications of committing MET Tax funds to recurring public safety expenses. Lt. Nelson and City Attorney Nathan

Bracken advised that the funding mechanism is legally appropriate and that interlocal drafting would address the long-term terms of the commitment.

No formal action was taken. The Council directed staff to continue working with UPD and return with the required interlocal documents for consideration.

F. Discussion Regarding the Allotment of the City’s “Beer Tax” Funds to the My Kearns Coalition, and Support from the City Through a Letter of Support to Help the My Kearns Coalition Obtain the Healthy Kearns Designation – *Lt. Nick Nelson, Unified Police Department*

Lieutenant Nick Nelson presented an update regarding the proposed allocation of the City’s Beer Tax Funds to support programming conducted by the My Kearns Coalition. He noted that the coalition is working toward achieving the Healthy Kearns Designation, a community-health initiative requiring documented support from local government.

Lt. Nelson explained that the City’s Beer Tax Fund currently holds approximately \$30,643, as outlined earlier during the quarterly financial report, and that the My Kearns Coalition is seeking financial partnership for its prevention and outreach initiatives. He stated that an interlocal agreement between the City of Kearns and the My Kearns Coalition will be required to administer the funding, and City Attorney Mr. Nathan Bracken indicated he could prepare a draft agreement for Council consideration the following month.

Council Members expressed support for the My Kearns Coalition’s efforts and agreed that the interlocal agreement should be developed and returned to the Council for review and possible action. No formal vote was taken.

G. Discussion and Potential Approval of **Ordinance 2026-O-04**, Enacting the Community Clean Energy Program – *Council Member Chrystal Butterfield*

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield introduced Ordinance 2026-O-04, which would have enrolled the City of Kearns in the Community Clean Energy Program (CCEP). She noted that the Council had previously received multiple presentations about the program and that the matter had been scheduled for action at the present meeting. Because the program had become a significant community topic, the mayor acknowledged that a large portion of earlier public comments focused on concerns regarding cost, automatic enrollment, and the program’s structure under Rocky Mountain Power (RMP). He stated that although public comments occurred during the general comment period, the Council would consider all statements as part of the record for this agenda item.

**Council Member Butterfield motioned to not approve Ordinance 2026-O-04. Council Member Colby seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor to NOT approve the ordinance.**

H. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Assignment of a Council Member to the Kearns Community Committee – *Mayor Jesse Valdez*

Mayor Jesse Valdez opened discussion on assigning a City Council Member to serve as the Council’s liaison to the Kearns Community Committee (KCC). He explained this role would ensure consistent communication and representation between the Committee and the Council.

Council members discussed potential assignments. The Council reached consensus recommending Council Member Lyndsay Longtin serve as the liaison.

**Council Member Schaeffer moved, and Council Member Butterfield seconded, to appoint Council Member Longtin as the liaison. Vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.**

- I. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding **Resolution R2026-12**, Appointing Members to the Kearns Community Committee – *Mayor Jesse Valdez*

Mayor Valdez presented Resolution R2026-12, recommending the appointment of three community members to the Kearns Community Committee. The nominees and proposed term expiration dates were:

- Mr. Jose Cuenca, term ending 2027
- Ms. Joanna Sandoval, term ending 2027
- Mr. Jerry Wellman, term ending 2029

**Council Member Schaeffer moved to approve Resolution R2026-12. Council Member Butterfield seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Colby abstaining from the vote.**

- J. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Description of a Contract Community Impact Coordinator – *Mayor Jesse Valdez*

Mayor Valdez introduced the proposed job description for a Contract Community Impact Coordinator, intended to provide project coordination, outreach, and community-impact support for City initiatives. The mayor requested Council feedback on the draft description.

- K. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Description of a Contract Freelance Visual Storyteller – *Mayor Jesse Valdez*
- L. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Description of a Contract IT Services Provider - *Mayor Jesse Valdez*

**Council Member Butterfield moved to table Items J, K and L to another meeting, and moved Items D, E and F to the end of the Council Business Section to allow the discussion to then flow into updates from UPD first and then UFA. Council Member Schaeffer seconded; the council voted 5-0, unanimous in favor.**

## **10. STAKEHOLDER REPORTS**

- A. Unified Fire Authority – *Chief Tyler Lintz*

Chief Tyler Lintz reported updates from the Unified Fire Authority. He reminded the Council that fireworks restriction maps can be updated upon request and that residents often contact UFA as the summer season approaches. He noted that UFA has received an increase in calls relating to recreational fires after dark and clarified regulations on acceptable firepit usage on private property. He also introduced an additional UFA representative, who provided brief information on the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training program, offering to return with a more detailed report at a later meeting.

B. Unified Police Department – *Chief Levi Hughes*

Chief Levi Hughes introduced Lt. Nick Nelson to review precinct activity reports and respond to earlier Council questions from Section 4. Lt. Nelson summarized enforcement trends, community-safety activities, and ongoing police initiatives within Kearns.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Valdez and the Council identified the following items for upcoming agendas:

- UPD Interlocal agreements, including those relating to MET funds and fund-balance application
- Interlocal agreement with My Kearns Coalition
- Kearns Community Committee bylaws update
- Public hearing for the City’s FY 2026–2027 Budget and compensation schedule
- Contracted position descriptions (CIC, Visual Storyteller, IT Provider) — items tabled earlier and scheduled to return

**Council Member Schaeffer motioned to recess the City Council Meeting and move to a closed session. Council Member Colby seconded the motion; vote was 5-0 unanimous in favor.**

**12. CLOSED SESSIONS IF NEEDED AS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE §52-4-205**

- A. **Discussion of the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual**
- B. Strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation
- C. **Strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property**
- D. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and/or
- E. Other lawful purposes as listed in Utah Code §52-4-205

**13. ADJOURN**

**Council Member Butterfield moved to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Schaeffer; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.**

**The May 11, 2026 Kearns City Council Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.**

**This is a true and correct copy of the May 11, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes, which were approved on June 7, 2026.**

**Attest:**

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**Diana Baun, City Recorder**

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**Jesse Valdez, Mayor**