

BRIGHTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12th, 2026, at 6:30 pm

**Approved at the June 9th, 2026, Brighton Town Council Meeting*

ATTENDANCE

Council: Scotty John (Mayor and meeting chair)

Council Members: Keith Zuspan, Lise Brunhart, Jeff Bossard, Carolyn Keigley

Staff: Polly McLean, Nate Rockwood, Jane Martain, Kara John, Heinrich Deters, MSD- Richard Stephens

Partners: UPD- Anna Walker and Justin Hoyal, UFA- Craig Ellingson, Brighton Resort- Mike Doyle, Solitude Resort- Amber Broadaway, BCCA- Barbara Cameron

Public: Don Despain, Angela Bovo, Rotary Club of Ames, Mark Brinton

Call to Order

Scotty John called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at Fire Station 108.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chipper Days will be from July 20th to 30th. Scotty urged residents to sign up by July 19.

[Chipper Days Sign-Up Form](#) | [Brighton UT](#)

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MINUTES. RECORDING 0:01:37

Jeff Bossard moved to approve the minutes for the Town Council Meeting on April 14th, 2026, and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Unified Police Department (UPD). RECORDING 0:02:01

Dispatch 801-840-4000

Detective Anna Walker presented the Unified Police Department report for April 2026. Officers responded to 152 calls for service within the Town of Brighton during the month. Due to the shoulder season, April was described as one of the slowest periods of the year for patrol operations. During this time, officers focused on proactive neighborhood patrols, traffic enforcement, and public education regarding watershed protection within the canyon.

Detective Walker reported that notable incidents during the month included: two loud party complaints, three suicide threats, and one custodial issue. Additional activity included: 15 citizen or motorist assists, 4 reckless driving investigations, 7 traffic accidents, 8 parking complaints, and 48 traffic stops. Most citations issued during traffic stops were related to speeding and reckless driving.

Detective Walker reminded residents that they may request property checks through the Unified Police Department: 385-468-9920.

Residents were encouraged to enroll in the Salt Lake County reverse 911 notification system through VEC [Smart911](#) . Detective Walker explained that the system allows dispatchers to send emergency text messages or phone calls for events like wildfire, evacuations, active incidents, or other emergencies. It's a more efficient response to notify the public than going door to door.

Unified Fire Authority (UFA). RECORDING 0:04:10

Chief Craig Ellingson referenced the quarterly report included in the meeting packet. He noted that the year has been typical compared to recent years, despite varying weather conditions. The winter ski season remains the busiest time of year for emergency response activity in Brighton, with many calls involving traumatic injuries associated with ski resort operations. As the community transitions into the slower "mud season," emergency personnel have already begun responding to hiking-related incidents, including a hiker rescue last week. Chief Ellingson highlighted river safety, particularly with high spring runoff.

UFA is shifting toward wildfire preparedness as fire season approaches. He appreciated being included in the wildfire and WUI code discussion meeting the previous evening. The discussion was informative and valuable. UFA remains hopeful for a mild wildfire season and conditions have been manageable thus far. Brighton generally adopts the State of Utah fire restrictions, which are often more restrictive than U.S. Forest Service regulations. As a result, campfires may still be permitted within designated Forest Service campgrounds even when broader restrictions are in place in the surrounding area. This results in 911 calls as cars on the highway pass by the campgrounds. Fire crews will always investigate all reported smoke concerns as a precaution.

SKI RESORTS

Solitude. RECORDING 0:07:32

Amber Broadway congratulated Brighton Resort on their impressive final few weeks of the ski season. They wrapped up last weekend, which is well done for the canyon.

Solitude is preparing for an early start to summer operations to follow this endless spring. Summer operations are scheduled to begin on May 22, 2026, approximately four weeks earlier than usual. The resort will initially operate on weekends before transitioning to daily operations

around June 11. Residents and visitors were encouraged to check the resort website for updated operating schedules.

Amber highlighted Solitude's continued partnership with Deer Valley Resort through the Wasatch Gravity Pass, which provides access to both resorts' bike parks. She noted that the combined terrain offers premier mountain biking opportunities within the greater Salt Lake area.

Upcoming summer improvements and programming at Solitude include:

- Completion of a new mountain bike trail connecting Moonbeam to the Apex terrain
- Relocation of the Adventure Park from Moonbeam to the base of Easy Street, accompanied by landscaping improvements
- Launch of the resort's first youth mountain bike team program for ages 8–16, with training sessions hosted at both Solitude and Deer Valley
- Big Cottonwood Canyon Brew Fest – June 12–14
- Saturday morning yoga sessions
- Thursday evenings, Coca Cola Cinema, for outdoor movies
- Sunday evening live music performances
- Wildflower Festival – July 12
- Outdoor wine pairing and harvest dinners at St. Bernard's

Solitude will host competition events:

- Mountain States Cup mountain biking event – July 2–5
- Solitude Disc Golf Open – July 10–11
- Second annual Monster Pro Downhill event – mid-July

Regarding capital projects, summer construction impacts will be significantly reduced compared to the previous year. Major disruptions associated with the Twin Lakes pipeline project have concluded. Planned work this summer will primarily involve completion of the mountain bike trail project, ongoing maintenance activities, continued engineering and planning for snowmaking system improvements, and pipe upgrades near Easy Street.

Amber stated that wildfire readiness remains a focus. She explained that Solitude cannot independently activate its snowmaking system during the summer to help with fire without authorization from public utilities to open the Twin Lakes dam. They are discussing contingency plans to ensure quick access to water from Twin Lakes.

Summer staff will be onboarding next week in preparation for the resort's early opening.

Amber appreciates the ongoing partnership and support from the Brighton community. She noted the helicopters flying today were to remove the boxes from the 8 Wissen towers on Fantasy Ridge. They remove the shots and place the boxes in locked storage for the summer.

Brighton Resort. RECORDING 0:12:49

Mike Doyle reported that the resort successfully concluded its ski season on Sunday following a strong Meltdown season. He noted that Brighton continued to receive significant visitation from Ikon Pass holders seeking late-season skiing opportunities, contributing to a successful spring.

Mike described the season overall as highly successful despite some challenges throughout the year. He stated that the resort gained valuable experience and developed new ways to improve future operations.

Preparations are now underway for the summer season. Brighton anticipates opening summer mountain biking operations around June 19, pending snowmelt conditions. Planned summer activities include:

- Mountain Biking
- Disc golf
- Music series events
- Campfire cookouts
- Summer camps

Mike announced that Brighton Resort will host the U.S. Women's National Championship Disc Golf Tournament in July, which is expected to draw significant attendance and visitors.

The resort also plans to continue expanding its mountain biking infrastructure, including completion of two additional advanced mountain bike trails this summer.

Brighton is awaiting permit approval for an addition to the vehicle maintenance shop. The project will support future development associated with the UDOT mobility hub that is part of the transportation plan. The current lift maintenance facility will eventually be removed to make a place for the mobility hub.

Mike noted this summer is expected to be more mellow than previous years.

BUSINESS

a. Appoint Lise Brunhart to the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District Board of Directors. For discussion and possible action. RECORDING 0:14:44.

Keith Zuspan explained that as things have progressed, he has less time for the WFWRD board. He recommended appointing Lise Brunhart with her skills to fill the position. Keith brought Lise to the WFWRD retreat this month so she could get a feel for the individuals, the new general manager and the future plans. No other discussion was needed.

Keith Zuspan moved to appoint Lise Brunhart to the WFWRD Board of Directors and Jeff Bossard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn noted that Forest Glenn is doing a major green waste cleanup and removing big stumps and other large branches that are too big for Chipper Days. Previously, WFWRD made efforts to reduce the number of things taken to the dump, and they wouldn't allow green waste. Now, they're instructing people to use bulk trailers to combine garbage, household items, and green waste. It was mentioned this is the most efficient way to get everything collected. Lise and Keith are meeting with Evan, the director at WFWRD and will ask for an alternative for green waste to be recycled. Carolyn will give Lise the name of the lead person on the project in Forest Glenn.

b. Community Trail Project and UORG Planning Grant. Presented by Heinrich Deters. For discussion. RECORDING 0:18:29.

Heinrich Deters presented an update and facilitated discussion on the proposed Brighton community trail project. He began by thanking several individuals who have assisted with research and field discussions related to the project, including Jeff and Laura Bossard, Anders and the Carlson family, Zinni from the U.S. Forest Service, Matt from the MSD, Barbara Cameron, and others who have participated in site walks and project conversations.

Heinrich referenced the Town's Strategic Plan and Neighborhood Nodes Study, noting that both identified community priorities for a multiuse trail creating a better network for connectivity that implements the nodes concept. The town council confirmed the project remains a priority for the town, and council members indicated continued support for further exploration of the concept.

Concerns identified with the original nodes study, including:

- Private property impacts
- Environmental and wetland concerns
- Snow storage considerations
- Trail practicality and costs
- Privacy concerns from residents

Heinrich explained that conversations with consultants confirmed that the Nodes Study represented a conceptual planning effort only and did not include detailed legal, environmental, or land ownership analysis. He stated that the next phase should focus on determining feasibility and gathering more detailed community input before any formal design or permitting work proceeds.

Heinrich also noted that the community trail concept is referenced within the recently adopted Tri-Canyon Trails Plan developed with the U.S. Forest Service. He emphasized the importance of coordinating any future trail planning with the upcoming UDOT transportation and infrastructure improvements occurring throughout Big Cottonwood Canyon.

To support the next phase of evaluation, Heinrich proposed applying for a Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant (UORG) to assist planning. The proposed grant would fund:

- Feasibility analysis
- Preliminary trail alignment studies
- Community outreach and engagement
- Mapping and field data collection
- Stakeholder coordination

The proposed public engagement process would include meetings with residents, agencies, landowners, and stakeholder groups to determine if the project is sufficiently supported and feasibly practical. Heinrich stated that the process would focus heavily on resident participation and transparency before any formal development decisions are considered. These initial meetings could be followed by an open house in September or October to ensure community support.

The preliminary concept would divide the trail into three general segments for evaluation. Council members will volunteer to assist with outreach and stakeholder coordination for the various trail segments. He will see if there are willing planning commissioners to support each section. Heinrich clarified that council participation would primarily involve helping identify community contacts and residents with relevant interests or concerns while he continues coordinating the broader outreach process.

1. Cardiff to Spruces - Scotty supported by Carolyn
2. Spruces to Solitude - Lise supported by Scotty
3. Solitude to Brighton - Jeff

Council discussion emphasized the importance of clearly communicating that the proposed trail would be a public trail potentially used by both residents and visitors. Council members noted the need to proactively engage residents who may have concerns or opposition to the concept, in addition to supporters.

Carolyn gave the example of a successful regional trail system, the Legacy Trail, in Truckee, California, as a model for balancing recreation access, neighborhood impacts, and trail design considerations.

Additional discussion addressed:

- Avoiding impacts to Nordic ski trails
- Routing alternatives to prevent residential conflicts
- Forest Service coordination
- Land ownership considerations
- Grades that aren't too steep and allow connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods and communities

Heinrich estimated the proposed planning grant request would total approximately \$25,000 and stated that the initial phase would not include formal NEPA or environmental review processes.

The Council expressed support for moving forward with the grant application and thanked Heinrich for his efforts organizing the project research and outreach process.

PUBLIC INPUT

Angela Bovo commented regarding the proposed community trail discussion and stated that she had been working with Heinrich related to the project. She expressed appreciation for the direction of the trail planning process and stated that the approach aligned with her hopes for the property she owns in the area.

Angela discussed personal experiences and concerns involving prior rental and neighborhood conflicts. Sharing land doesn't seem to be a community value. She asked for the town's help with the difficulties she has encountered seeking assistance from multiple law enforcement jurisdictions regarding allegations involving labor exploitation, human trafficking concerns, unpaid work, and related personal matters. She stated that she has experienced frustration navigating different agencies and reporting systems and expressed concern regarding a lack of coordinated response and support resources.

Angela urged the town council and law enforcement agencies to improve interagency coordination, reporting procedures, and victim assistance resources related to human trafficking and labor exploitation concerns. She emphasized that she believes these issues should be treated seriously and professionally.

She also stated that she plans to work on wilderness fire crews during the upcoming summer season and indicated her continued interest in supporting the community trail project and potentially contributing property to future planning discussions.

REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Scotty John reported that the upcoming Rocky Mountain Power conduit burial and roadway repaving project is scheduled to begin next week. The project involves repaving sections of Brighton that were previously disturbed during underground conduit installation work. Efforts are underway to improve communication with residents regarding construction schedules, traffic impacts, and affected areas so the community can better plan around temporary disruptions.

An update was also provided regarding a recent meeting with Salt Lake County Deputy Mayor Catherine Kanter. The purpose of the meeting was to continue strengthening the Town's working relationship with Salt Lake County and maintain ongoing intergovernmental coordination.

Scotty has had ongoing conversations with Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) commissioners regarding long-term transportation planning in Big Cottonwood Canyon. It was noted that transportation solutions for the canyon will likely require a broader regional approach and coordination among multiple stakeholders.

Additional discussions are planned with UDOT in early June regarding future transportation and mobility hub planning efforts following announcements anticipated from the Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Assessment. Scotty is seeking additional clarity regarding project timelines and next steps to keep residents informed.

Scotty received positive feedback regarding the Firewise and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) meeting held last night. He previously reviewed the WUI guidelines, and he expects portions of

Brighton will require significant work to comply with wildfire mitigation, particularly within the identified high-risk areas.

The mayor plans to hold a future public working session involving the full council to review priorities and ongoing projects. Topics for the meeting could include transportation, wildfire preparedness, fiber infrastructure improvements, community trails, and broader long-range planning efforts. Scotty read the General Plan prior to taking office, and he's currently reviewing the document. He encouraged council members to revisit the town's General Plan to prepare for discussions in the work session.

Council Members' Reports. RECORDING 0:51:57

Carolyn Keigley reported that UPD is working on the budget process with the financial Committee meeting. It's going well thanks to the regional command staff.

UPD had an award ceremony last week. They also had a more somber ceremony to honor the fallen officers.

Carolyn attended the Firewise meeting and had conflict with empty lots being exempt from the lot assessment and fuel reduction requirements. Her concern isn't about all empty lots but is directed to the empty lots that are adjacent to the lots that have homes.

Per Carolyn's comment about the communications that went out weekly or daily over the past summers regarding the work plan for the RMP project, Scotty mentioned that he has a distribution list to share with the project manager at B. Jackson so that residents can be updated when their road will be impacted. It was noted that two years ago showed better communications, but last year was infrequent and not always accurate.

Jeff Bossard reported on the Mosquito Abatement meeting yesterday. The mosquito season began early this year, and it was encouraged to take precautions against mosquitoes. The dry season breeds more mosquitoes because they become highly concentrated in smaller areas, and West Nile is the biggest risk.

Jeff was unable to attend the quarterly Animal Services meeting.

Lise Brunhart attended the Association of Municipal Councils (AMC) meeting on the 14th. They discussed House Bill 411 from 2019, the Utah Renewable Energy Resolution, and 23 towns in the greater Salt Lake area expressed interest. It resulted in 19 towns taking action to join the Utah Renewable Communities where all residents pay an additional \$4 per month on their bill to help fund renewable energy. It's too late for us to join, but perhaps in the future. The meeting also covered county parks and rec projects.

Lise attended the Strategic Planning Seminar with Scotty, Keith, Polly, and the MSD led by Jay Barney at the University of Utah. By the end they had a strategic plan with three areas to focus on. It was highly conceptual, and they learned to build strategy by playing blackjack.

Lise attended the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District WFWRD retreat to learn how to become a trash czar. Lise's friend was there, councilmember Emily Gray, from Holladay. She's honored to be on the board because they are a dedicated group with high expectations to be the best at waste management.

At the UPD PIO meeting Lise learned about the outreach and safety education they are doing on E-bikes.

Lise noted the Firewise symposium from last night was vigorous and included 36 in person attendees, besides staff, and 33 online attendees. We've learned a lot about H.B. 48 already and how it will be implemented, but it was informative to see how all the different agencies (UPD, UFA, and Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands) approach a fire situation and how they bring different things to the table. The thing that stuck with her were the 4 P's if you must evacuate: people, pets, prescriptions, photos. The fifth P could be a passport. She thanked Kara, Barbara and Jane for putting it together. It was well organized.

Lise spoke with a community member who would like to see our trash bins enclosed to comply with the law and he would like two of the bins to be removed. This could be discussed more at the working session.

She is continuing to manage social media on Facebook, Instagram (townofbrighton2), and BlueSky. She also added a page on Reddit. She's updated all the pages with the town logo.

Jeff added he was impressed by Firewise last night and admired the FFSL representative who commented not to shoot the messenger. It was apparent there is still so much unknown about how it will roll out, and it seems like they got ahead of themselves by passing the legislation without a plan for implementation.

Keith Zuspan reported the town received \$346,420 in Resort Community Tax and Transient Room Tax revenues for the reporting period, representing an increase of approximately 7% compared to the same period last year. It was noted that the revenue reflects February activity and continued strong visitation during the ski season. Additional funds were transferred into the PTIF investment account, which currently holds an approximate balance of \$8,039,000. Interest earnings totaled \$24,297, reflecting an annualized return rate of approximately 3.8%. The Town also maintained approximately \$60,839 in its Zions Bank operating account to ensure adequate liquidity for outstanding bills and ongoing operational expenses.

Regarding the Municipal Services District (MSD) budget. Through the end of March, the town had completed approximately 75% of the fiscal year. Revenues were reported at approximately 74–75% of projected annual totals, tracking on target with the adopted budget. Expenditures were reported to be approximately 79% of the annual MSD budget. However, it was noted that reduced spending levels are

expected during the remaining months that typically have less activity, so we should be on target with what was budgeted.

BCCA Report. RECORDING 1:06:22

Barbara Cameron reported that the Firewise meeting was wonderful, partly because of the wonderful speakers: Justin Roach & Mike Swinsick (UFFSL), Adam Shaw (USFS), and our own stars-Chief Ellingson, Anthony Widdison (UFA), and Ed Twohill (UPD). Their passion showed because they care about us and have for many years. Despite the unknown, it was clear that homeowners are responsible only for their parcel fees and ratings will not be based on adjacent property that's not been treated. WUI maps will be updated yearly as assessments are submitted.

Assessments are voluntary. Homeowners must request an appointment, and if not done, then the fee and rating will default to the highest fee and rating level. None of these fees will be assessed until January 2027. UFFSL will be hiring and training WUI assessors. Several people in the audience wanted to be trained. They're also promising to publish guidelines for home hardening, which includes defensible space, and it goes beyond to include home construction recommendations that are more fire safe. Barbara highlighted some of the landscapers in Brighton who can help with the requirements: Andonis Pavlantos, Inacio Lopez, Brandon Jesewitz - along with Carolyn, they taught us about tree health. The people with equipment to help are Anders Carlson, Brody Nell, and Daniel Schlehuber. She will create a handout for residents.

Barbara reminded everyone that Chipper Days begins July 20th and to sign up with Jane.

Campfires are not allowed in short-term rentals. We'll continue to get the word out about that. Campfires are allowed at homes with running water present, as long as we're not in stage 2 restrictions.

Upcoming Community Events:

-May 19 is an Invasive Weed Seminar hosted by Cottonwood Canyons Foundation and the Brighton Institute.

-May 23 is the Beaver Dam Analog cleanup event, coordinated by Lise Brunhart. It is dry, so boots aren't needed, but bring lunch and tools.

-June 3 is the Human Outreach Program by Dean Cardinale. He will tell us about his projects in Nepal, Tanzania, Peru and now Big Cottonwood Canyon. Both resorts have graciously offered free lift tickets for the kids to come up.

-June 18, we will hear the Travel Log to Nepal

CLOSED SESSION

Scotty John stated there's a need for a closed session to discuss the sale or acquisition of real property. The location of this meeting will take place here, in Fire Station 108. Carolyn Keigley

moved to go into closed session, and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Carolyn Keigley: Aye

Jeff Bossard: Aye

Lise Brunhart: Aye

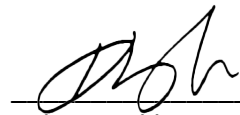
Scotty John: Aye

Keith Zuspan: Aye

Keith Zuspan moved to exit the closed session, and Lise Brunhart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 8:59 PM.

ADJOURN

Lise Brunhart moved to adjourn the meeting, and Jeff Bossard seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:59 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kara John', is written over a horizontal line.

Submitted by Kara John, Town Clerk