



**COPPERTON COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 15, 2026**

Bingham Canyon Lions Club  
8725 Hillcrest St.  
Copperton, Utah 84006

**COPPERTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**Council Members Present:**

Tessa Stitzer, Mayor Pro Tempore  
Kathleen Bailey, Council Member  
Linda McCalmon, Council Member  
Jonathan Pratt, Council Member

**Council Members Excused:**

Sean Clayton, Mayor

**Staff Present:**

Diana Baun, Town Clerk  
Nathan Bracken, Town Attorney  
Chief Nathan Bogenschutz, UFA  
Lt. Christopher Benedict, UPD  
Daniele Benigni, Long Range Planner  
Ian Hartman, Traffic Engineer

**Others Present:**

**1. REGULAR MEETING**

Council Member Stitzer, presiding as Mayor Pro Tempore in the absence of Mayor Clayton, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. COMMUNITY INPUT**

**a. Recognize Visiting Officials – None**

**b. Unified Fire Authority (UFA)**

Chief Bogenschutz reported that Unified Fire Authority responded to eight calls for service in Copperton during the prior month, consisting of one fire call and seven medical calls. He announced an upcoming public pancake breakfast at the fire station scheduled for May 9 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. He also provided updates on personnel changes within the battalion, including the assignment of Captain Byington to the station and recent promotions, noting that Chief Ritchie Rich would assume the operational position previously held by Chief Bogenschutz as he transitions into the Safety Officer role. He stated that additional introductions would occur during future meetings.

**c. Unified Police Department (UPD) – Lt. Chris Benedict**

Lieutenant Benedict presented the March law-enforcement activity report for Copperton. He reported ten calls for service, noting that domestic-related calls continue to be the most frequent type of recurring incident. He invited Council Members to attend the upcoming shift-bid employee appreciation barbecue scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at Copperton Park, prior to the next Council meeting, and encouraged attendance to meet precinct personnel.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA (Discussion/Motion)**

**a. Approve Council Meeting Minutes**

- i) October 16, 2024
- ii) March 18, 2026

**Council Member Bailey moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Council Member Pratt seconded the motion. Council Member Stitzer called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Fiscal Items - Mayor Sean Clayton**

- i) Approval of expenditures
- ii) Acknowledgment of Monthly Financial Report

Council Member Stitzer then confirmed that there were no expenditures for approval under Fiscal Items. **Council Member Stitzer confirmed Council receipt on behalf of the council of the monthly financial report** and inquired whether there were any questions. No questions were raised.

**4. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION**

**a. Town Council Donation Request Policy Discussion**

Council Member Tessa Stitzer introduced the continued discussion regarding a donation request policy for community organizations. She explained that the purpose of the policy would be to streamline how donation requests are submitted and reviewed and to create consistency in how the Council evaluates funding requests. Council Member Stitzer stated that the discussion was continued from the prior month and should remain a workshop item until the full Council is present. She recommended tabling the item.

**Council Member Bailey moved to table the discussion about the town's donation request policy. Council Member Pratt seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor.**

Following the motion, Council Member Stitzer reiterated that the Council's intent is to establish a fair and transparent framework for donation requests and to avoid duplicative or uncoordinated funding requests from organizations. Town Attorney Nathan Bracken further explained challenges faced by member entities in addressing donation requests and emphasized the need for legal clarity, including ensuring that the Town provides funds only to legitimate entities capable of meeting state auditing and reporting requirements. He gave the example that informal resident groups are often not formal legal entities, which may prevent the Town from entering into agreements with them. He described how forming official Town committees can provide a compliant alternative.

Mr. Bracken also discussed the need for consistency to avoid equal-protection issues and explained that a formal process or agreement template could help prevent inappropriate or unlawful requests. He emphasized that a written policy would help the Council decline requests lacking a legitimate public purpose. Recorder Baun and Council Member Stitzer agreed that the goal is fairness, clarity, and proper stewardship of public funds.

#### **b. Discussion Regarding Appointing a Parks Master Plan Committee**

Daniele Benigni joined the meeting remotely to present information regarding the formation of a Parks Master Plan Committee. He stated that the committee would assist with public outreach, review of data, and recommendations related to the Copperton Park Master Plan. He explained that other MSD communities have implemented similar committees for project-specific planning and that staff believed a committee of five to seven members, including two Council Members, would be workable. He noted that staff would support the committee administratively but would not serve as members.

Mr. Benigni described preliminary staff work already underway to prepare for a committee, including early data collection and example structures from other communities. Council Member Stitzer asked for clarification regarding committee size, citizen participation, and realistic expectations given the Town's population. Council Member Stitzer expressed preference for including citizens where possible. Nathan Bracken addressed considerations surrounding committee authority, scope, Open and Public Meetings Act applicability, committee duration, and the importance of charters clearly defining membership, duties, and expectations. He explained that a temporary committee specific to the master plan may be more feasible than a permanent body.

Mr. Benigni confirmed that MSD staff have formed an internal working group of seven long-range planning staff who would provide technical support. Mr. Bracken reiterated that the committee should be structured in a way that ensures compliance with state requirements and that the Town's small population may limit available volunteers, but that a citizen-inclusive approach is preferred when practical.

Council Member Stitzer noted that clarity would be needed regarding the total number of seats, whether Council Members would be voting or non-voting liaisons, and whether a sunset date should be included. The council discussed the importance of balancing representation with practicality. Mr. Benigni confirmed that staff would return with a draft resolution establishing the committee for Council review at the next meeting.

### **5. PRESENTATION ITEMS**

#### **a. Project Updates**

Ian Hartman provided an update on current engineering and construction projects within Copperton. He reported that ADA improvements were recently completed at the northwest corner of Copperton Park, noting that older pedestrian ramps were removed and replaced with two ADA-compliant ramps. He explained that the prior concrete configuration made ADA-accessible entry into the park impossible unless residents traveled to the southern access on the west side, and that the completed modifications now align properly with existing crosswalks and improve accessibility for residents. He stated that the project is fully complete, with no remaining electrical or punch-list items.

Mr. Hartman also discussed progress on the preliminary design for a new Copperton Park centennial archway. He explained that MSD staff are working with Methods Consulting to prepare a structural design scope under MSD procurement, and that preliminary communications have occurred with a masonry contractor. The Town continues to seek a steel fabricator for the signage element of the archway. Council Member Stitzer and several members of the public discussed the possibility of incorporating bricks salvaged from Bingham High School into the project; staff agreed to inquire with former district contacts regarding availability of remaining materials. Discussion developed surrounding potential placement of the archway at the northeast corner of the park. Engineer Hartman confirmed that the revised location is feasible and that tree impacts can be avoided.

Mr. Hartman next reported on emergency egress and access planning for the Town. He presented maps illustrating an existing emergency egress route that travels behind Rio Tinto offices, gated at both ends, and which serves as the designated alternate route if the Bingham Canyon bridge is compromised during an emergency. He described the limitations caused by jersey barriers on certain Rio Tinto-owned segments but explained that they could be removed under emergency authority. He confirmed that Copperton's existing 2019 emergency access agreement remains in effect and that copies were being recirculated to Town officials.

Mr. Hartman then introduced information regarding a proposed Bingham Creek Trail extension coordinated by UDOT. He explained that UDOT has identified the trail segment on its statewide trail map and would fully fund construction without requiring a local match. He noted that the Town's only obligation would be future maintenance of the segment located within Copperton boundaries. Council expressed concern regarding long-term maintenance costs, policing responsibilities, and the need for clear cost estimates before authorizing a letter of support. He stated he would contact Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation for maintenance estimates and return with information for future discussion. He also reported that the MSD Transportation Master Plan project remains underway for all MSD communities and that Copperton will receive its own customized plan, with anticipated completion in late summer or early fall. He stated that Congressman Owens' office had verbally indicated that Copperton has been awarded three million dollars for the Copperton Storm Drain Phase Two project, although the formal written notice has not yet been received. Staff are attempting to confirm documentation previously overseen by a former MSD contact.

**6. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS - None**

**7. COUNCIL BUSINESS (Discussion/Motion)**

**a. Updates on Transfer of Copperton Park from the County to the Town**

Nathan Bracken reported on ongoing discussions regarding the transfer of Copperton Park from Salt Lake County to the Town. He stated that MSD leadership, including Marla Howard, has been working with the County and the District Attorney's Office to finalize the terms of the conveyance. He noted that County representatives have indicated a willingness to transfer the park without a reversionary clause and that additional coordination meetings are forthcoming. He also clarified that, in his legal opinion, the County Council does not need to reapprove the transfer because the Town's authority to receive the park was already established in the underlying master and local agreements signed at the time of incorporation. He noted that those agreements contain no reversionary clause and that no statutory requirements have been identified that would necessitate further County Council action. Council acknowledged the update with no further questions..

**8. COMMITTEE/BOARD UPDATES (Discussion/Motion)**

**a. Legal Updates**

Nathan Bracken provided legislative updates following the end of the Utah legislative session. He explained that **SB 284** includes several required changes to municipal land-use processes, but he noted that Copperton is largely ahead of compliance due to prior adoption of detached accessory dwelling units as permitted uses and due to the Town's established procedure of directing all land-use appeals to a law-trained Administrative Law Judge. He identified upcoming requirements for annual Planning Commission training on ethics, impartiality, and ex parte communications, and indicated that only minor code revisions would be required to align terminology with the updated statute. He stated that most legislative changes take effect in May and that draft amendments will be returned to the Council within the coming months.

**b. Bingham Cemetery Board – *Council Member Stitzer***

Council Member Stitzer reported that she did not have an update from the Cemetery Board.

**c. Copperton Community Council – *Council Member Stitzer***

Council Member Stitzer reported no update for the Copperton Community Council.

**d. Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission did not meet this month. A council member noted that the next scheduled meeting is the first Wednesday in May, subject to agenda availability. Council Member Stitzer requested that Diana Baun add Council Member McCalmon to the Planning Commission roster as previously discussed.

**9. COPPERTON COUNCIL REPORTS (Discussion/Motion)**

**a. Mayor Clayton**

Mayor Clayton was not present at the meeting; therefore, no report was provided under this item.

**b. Council Member McCalmon**

Council Member McCalmon reported that the SLVLESA Board set the Preliminary Budget Increase Maximum (PBIM) at 3.5 percent, with a directive to explore a reduction to 3 percent if feasible. She noted that the PBIM is established annually and may only be exceeded with a three-fourths vote at a later date. She reported attending a new-member training meeting hosted by SLVLESA staff, which provided an overview of district structure, budgeting principles, and member responsibilities. She also shared updates from UPD, including introduction of a new behavioral-health service dog and ongoing discussions about long-term financial needs for UPD operations.

**c. Council Member Bailey**

Council Member Bailey reported that UFSA is evaluating the construction of a new fire-training center to support firefighter instruction as they enter the academy. She noted that some UFSA members raised questions about the implications of certain communities forming their own departments in the future, which could influence long-range facility planning. Council Member Bailey also stated that the UFSA finance committee had discussed potential tax impacts but indicated that current projections do not resemble the significant increases seen in prior years. She added that UFA leadership has scheduled a follow-up finance discussion with her. She also briefly referenced commemorative challenge coins being designed for the 150th anniversary year. No update was available for the Mosquito Abatement District

**d. Deputy Mayor Stitzer**

Council Member Stitzer noted that WFWRD matters were aligned with information previously discussed by other Council Members whose WFWRD meetings had occurred earlier in the day. No additional updates were reported.

**e. Council Member Jonathan Pratt**

Council Member Pratt reported that he was never formally appointed to Salt Lake County Animal Services and that his only assigned board had been the Jordan Basin Improvement District. He stated that Jordan Basin staff recently informed the Town that Copperton does not fully lie within the district's service boundary, and that certain parcels would need to be annexed into the district before the Town could legally appoint a board representative. Council discussed updating board assignments and requested follow-up from staff.

**10. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (Discussion/Motion)**

**a. Public Comment**

Council Member Stitzer opened the public comment period and invited members of the public to come to the podium, state their name and address for the record, and limit remarks to three minutes. No public comments were offered.

**b. Announcements**

Council Member Stitzer invited announcements from the Council and attendees. A member of the public asked whether Granite is attempting to become a city. Nathan Bracken stated that he had heard that Granite is conducting a feasibility study and may be exploring incorporation rather than absorption into another jurisdiction. Diana Baun and Lt. Benedict added that discussions had occurred at an MSD open board meeting regarding Granite's intentions, including potential alignment with the MSD upon incorporation.

Council Member Stitzer described a proposal to improve the Council's agenda-development process by adding a "Future Agenda Items" section to each meeting. She explained that this would allow Diana Baun to gather Council direction earlier and provide packets sooner, allowing members adequate time to review materials and contact staff with procedural questions. Nathan Bracken

supported the concept and recommended adopting a formal policy that includes deadlines for public and staff submissions, similar to practices used in Moab. He stated that such a policy would allow the Town to avoid last-minute requests and permit more efficient packet preparation. Council directed staff to prepare draft language.

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

- a. Discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual (§ 52-4-205(1)(a))
- b. Discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation (§ 52-4-205(1)(c))
- c. Discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property (§ 52-4-205(1)(d))
- d. Discuss the deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems (§ 52-4-205(1)(f))

**12. ADJOURN**

**This is a true and correct copy of the April 15, 2026 Copperton Town Council Meeting Minutes, which were approved on May 20, 2026.**

Attest:

  
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Sean Clayton, Copperton Mayor

  
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Diana Baun, Copperton ~~Town~~ Clerk



# Engineering Update

## April 15, 2026

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**Ian Hartman, PE, PTOE;**  
Traffic Engineer

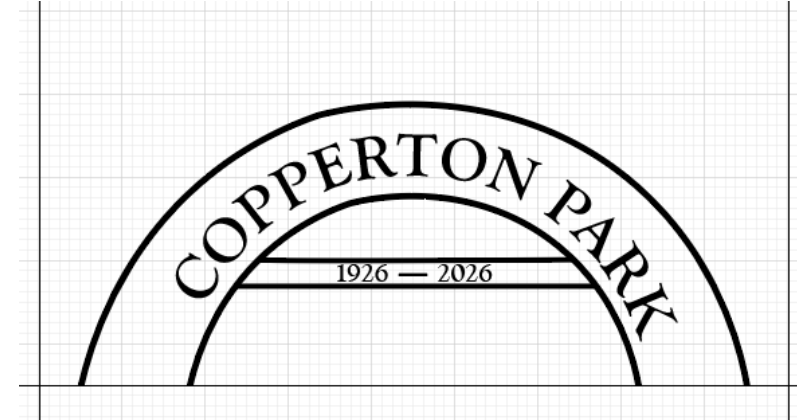
# Copperton Park Pedestrian Ramps

- Previous ramps did not meet ADA access standards
- Two new pedestrian ramps
- Removed the old pedestrian ramp
- Completed late last month



# New Copperton Park Arch

- Working on getting Methods Consulting under contract
- Can direct select a builder under MSD procurement code
- We have spoken to one builder who can do the masonry work portion
- Still need to find a steel fabricator



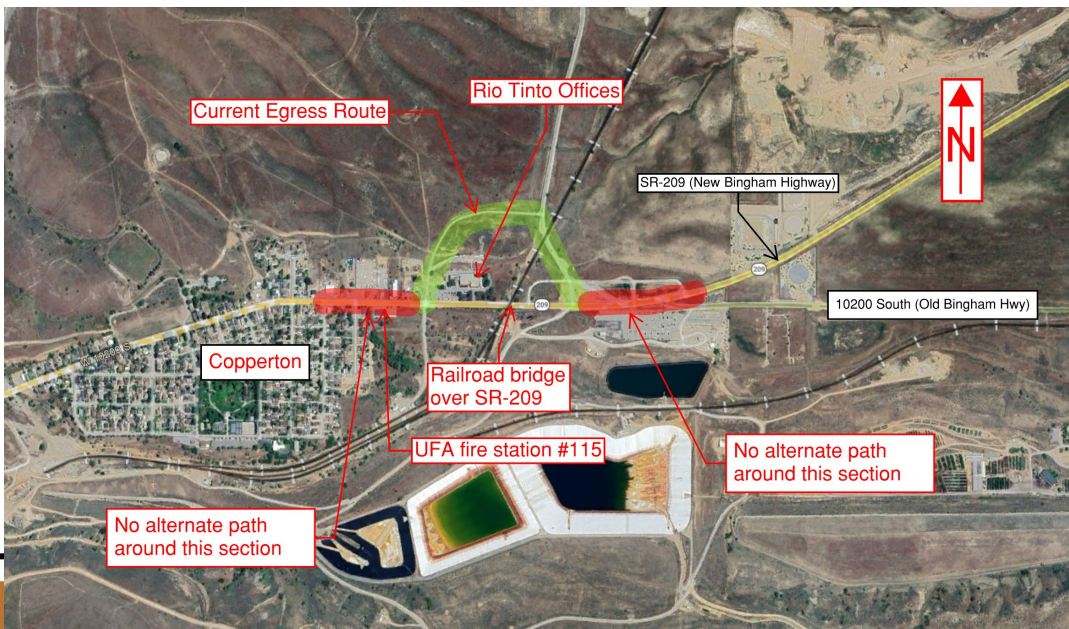
# New Copperton Park Arch (Cont.)

- Where do you want it?



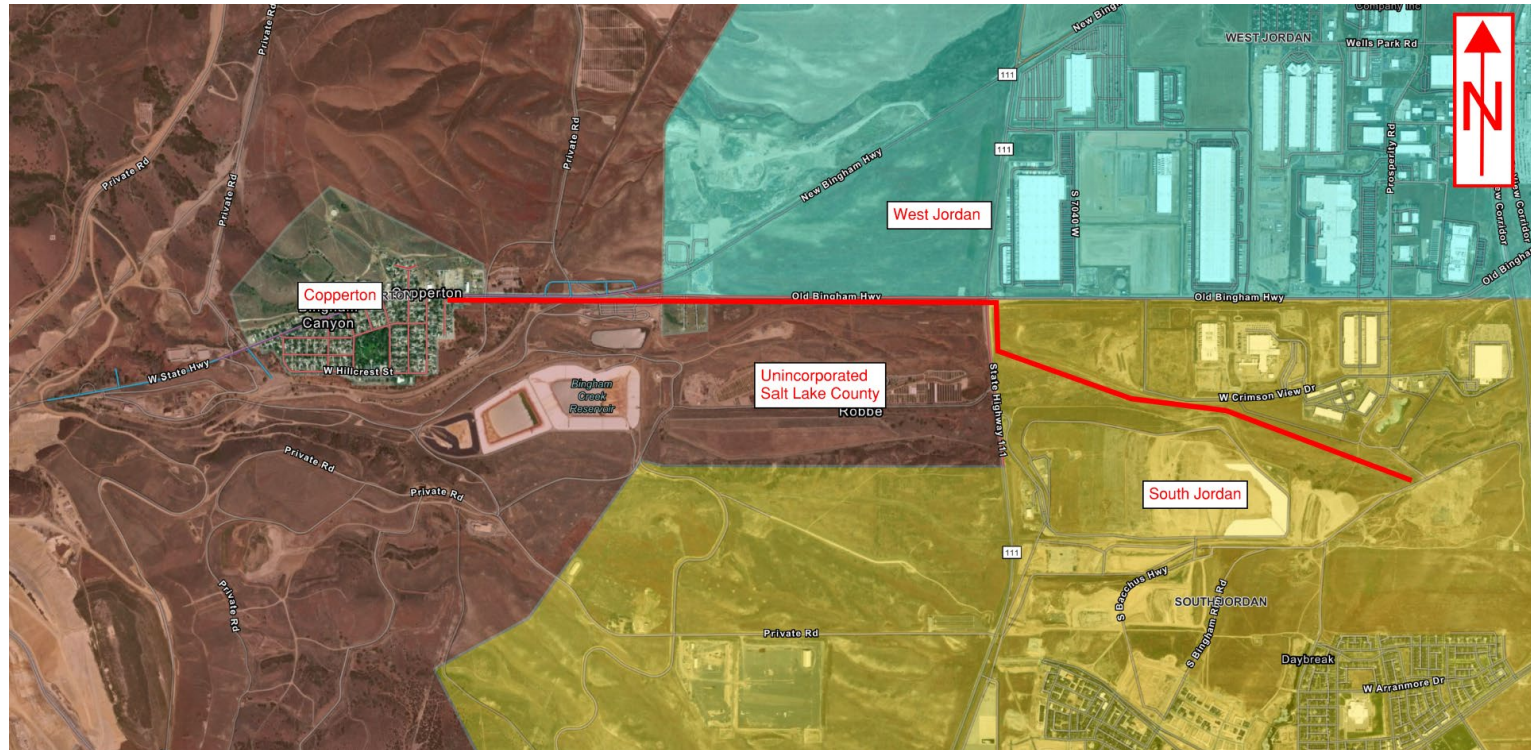
# Emergency Egress Route

- One way in and one way out of Copperton
- Bridge bypass route behind Rio Tinto office
- Setting up a meeting with Rio Tinto to discuss an additional route out of town.



# Bingham Creek Trail

- UDOT wants to design and construct the Bingham Creek Trail
- They only broadly identified an alignment in the UTN maps
- Requires a commitment from Copperton to maintain the trail
- UDOT wants a letter of support by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Need to discuss possible routes with Rio Tinto



# Copperton Storm Drain Phase 2

- We have verbal confirmation from Burgess Owens office that Copperton is awarded \$3 million for the project
- We have not received formal written notice of this award





Discussion/Comments