



EMIGRATION
CANYON

EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

MARCH 17, 2026, 7:00 PM

UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY STATION 119

5025 E. EMIGRATION CANYON ROAD, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84108

EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES March 17, 2026

Council Members Present:

David Brems, Mayor
Nicholas Griffith, Council Member
Catherine Harris, Council Member
Jennifer Hawkes, Council Member
Robert Pinon, Council Member

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Diana Baun, City Recorder
Sarah Leavitt, Deputy Recorder
Tamaran Woodland, Assistant City Engineer
Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel
Claire Gillmor, Legal Counsel
Det. Dawn Larsen, Unified Police Department
Officer Luis Lovato, Unified Police Department

Others Present:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Brems, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and determined a quorum was present.

2. COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS

- A.** Council Member Appointments to Board Positions and Other Responsibilities Within the City (in preparation for Possible Action on Resolution R2026-03A on the City Council Meeting Agenda)

City Recorder Baun clarified that appointments approved in prior meetings carry forward unless the council chooses to change them, and only need to be re-approved following a re-election. She confirmed that two appointments had already been made: Council Member Pinon to the UPD Board, and Council Member Harris to UFA (Unified Fire Authority). It was also clarified that a separate appointment of Council Member Pinon to UFSA was not required, though he would serve as the city's representative.

EMIGRATION CANYON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR DAVID BREMS, COUNCIL MEMBER NICK GRIFFITH, COUNCIL MEMBER JENNIFER HAWKES,
COUNCIL MEMBER CATHERINE HARRIS, COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT PINON

A brief discussion occurred regarding the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD). Council Member Griffith noted that recent legislation passed allowing cities to exit special service districts without a feasibility study, which enabled Herriman's withdrawal from WFWRD. Council Member Pinon clarified that UFSA attempted to attach itself to the same bill but was removed due to pushback, as UFSA is not a special district.

B. Soliciting Volunteers for Firewise and Other upcoming City Events

Mayor Brems introduced a discussion regarding the formation of a stakeholder working group in connection with the Road Safety Improvement Project, facilitated by the consulting firm Avenue (lead consultant H.G. Kunzler). The working group's purpose, as described by Council Member Harris, is to convene a representative group of stakeholders to identify issues and concerns along the corridor — not to serve as a steering committee or produce formal recommendations. H.G. Kunzler has described the group's goals as identifying corridor needs and concerns, establishing a consensus on the decision-making process, reviewing decisions, providing input, and ensuring consistent public messaging.

The council discussed at length the composition of the working group, targeting a membership of six to twelve individuals. The following names were discussed:

Confirmed or strongly supported:

- **Dale Barrett** — Planning Commission member; lives along the impacted road section
- **Detective Dawn Larsen** — UPD public safety representative
- **Jessica Steed** — Canyon resident with property directly affected by road improvements. Mayor Brems expressed support for her inclusion. Council Member Hawkes raised concerns about accuracy of prior statements made at MSD meetings but ultimately supported her inclusion.
- **Council Member Catherine Harris** — Council representative with institutional knowledge; confirmed by Mayor Brems
- **Council Member Nicholas Griffith** — Council representative; lives in Pinecrest/Killians area, representing residents who regularly travel the corridor
- **Brian Johansson** — Canyon resident, Community Council member, avid cyclist, and attorney; recommended to represent the lower canyon
- **Mike Sanguinetti** — Retired researcher, cyclist (both commuter and recreational), resident of the Oaks; recommended by Councilmember Harris as someone who could represent the Oaks neighborhood and the cycling community
- **Corinne Sherig** — Resident and bike commuter; already invited by the consultant

- **UDOT representative** — To be coordinated

Discussed but deferred or declined:

- **Former Mayor Joe Smolka** — Supported for his historical knowledge and canyon familiarity. Concerns raised about scheduling conflicts and his potential to be heavy-handed in group settings. Mayor Brems ultimately expressed support for his inclusion.
- **Michelle Henrie** — Described as thorough, level-headed, attentive, and well-researched; supported by Council Member Hawkes as a strong community representative.
- **Paul Brown** — Head of the Oaks HOA; suggested by Councilmember Harris as a possible representative or source of a recommendation. May be supplanted by Mike Sanguinetti.
- **Megan Palazzo** — Oak's resident who has attended council meetings; mentioned as a possibility.
- **Andy McNeil** — Active community member; raised as a possible Pinecrest representative.
- **Oliver Wood** — Environmental attorney living at the top of the canyon; described as an avid outdoorsman and knowledgeable about legislative matters. Raised by Council Member Griffith.
- **Steve Hook** — Pinecrest resident who spoke at an MSD meeting.
- **Lyska Emerson** — Lives near the road.

The council agreed the final working group composition (nine members) would be: Dale Barrett, Detective Dawn Larsen, Jessica Steed, Council Member Harris, Council Member Griffith, Brian Johansson, Mike Sanguinetti, Corinne Shurig, and a UDOT representative.

City Attorney Cameron Platt noted that the council cannot compel participation and recommended that all prospective members be asked to confirm willingness to serve before being formally appointed. He suggested the council make a motion at the next regular meeting to contact the proposed members, with formal appointments to follow once confirmations are received.

Council Member Pinon noted that Bike Utah was identified as a potential resource for connecting with the broader cycling community. Council Member Harris mentioned that her son, Ian Bird — an avid cyclist with professional experience in the cycling industry — might be a candidate to represent the under-30 demographic, as the consultant had expressed interest in having a younger cyclist involved. Given his relationship with a council member, Mayor

Brems indicated he could not be formally appointed but encouraged Council Member Harris to ask him for a referral.

Mayor Brems asked Council Member Harris to lead the discussion on the upcoming Firewise Day event, planned for May 16, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Council Member Harris reported that two community volunteers have agreed to assist with organizing and communications. Council Member Pinon noted that the Healthy Utah designation effort he is leading presents an opportunity for the Salt Lake County Health Department to participate in Firewise Day with educational tables.

Key elements being planned for Firewise Day include:

- Participation and presentations by UFA wildland crews
- A pancake breakfast
- Educational programming on defensible space and individual preparedness
- Discussion of the WUI (Wildland-Urban Interface) mapping and new legislative requirements

Council Member Harris briefed the council on a significant and fast-moving development regarding House Bill 48 (or possibly House Bill 41): language was reportedly inserted into another bill in the final days of the legislative session that would allow property owners to challenge their WUI map designations, though the process for doing so has not been defined. Harris noted that even the wildland fire chief was unaware of this change until the same day she learned of it, and that it cannot yet be found on the Fire, Forestry and State Lands website. Contacts at Fire, Forestry and State Lands have expressed willingness to come to Firewise Day and share whatever information is available at that time, even if details remain unsettled.

Council Member Harris also described the broader context: under the new law, all homes in high-risk geographic areas are initially defaulted to the highest risk category. After three years, once an evaluation process and authority are established, homeowners may seek individual assessments. However, the entity responsible for conducting those evaluations has not yet been determined. Fire, Forestry and State Lands are charged with developing the plan but does not currently conduct individual home evaluations. Individual fire departments do but lack the capacity for the volume mandated by law. The council expressed concern about the implementation gap and the uncertainty facing residents.

Regardless of the legislative situation, the council agreed that Firewise Day should focus on practical preparedness: defensible space, Code Red enrollment, go-bag preparation, and evacuation planning — all of which are relevant regardless of how the legal and regulatory situation resolves.

Mayor Brems expressed significant concern about the approaching fire season, describing it as potentially the most dangerous the canyon has faced given warm and dry conditions, and emphasized the importance of rapid response and evacuation readiness.

C. Bike Lane Signage

Council Member Harris raised the issue of bike lane signage and road markings in the canyon, noting that the matter is urgent given the start of the bike season. Key concerns included:

- The canyon has very few bike lane markings — approximately five signs between the western border with Salt Lake City and the rest of the corridor — with no clear indication of where bike lanes begin or end.
- There is no signage directing cyclists on how to use the road where no formal bike lane exists (e.g., shared lane markings), unlike neighboring Salt Lake City, which follows national standards.
- The lack of defined standards makes enforcement difficult for UPD officers.
- No parking signage in bike lane areas is absent or insufficient.

City Attorney Platt noted that UDOT has established bike lane regulations that the city could adopt, which would align with both state and national standards (MUTCD — Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). MSD engineer Tamaran Woodland confirmed that Emigration Canyon's existing engineering standards already reference and automatically adopt the latest revisions of AASHTO, the Utah MUTCD, and applicable UDOT standards — the issue is that those standards have not been physically implemented on the road.

Council Member Hawkes noted that signage, road surface standards, width, and related matters are being incorporated into the design guidelines she is developing. The council agreed that having one comprehensive reference document would be beneficial. Mr. Platt and Mrs. Woodland agreed to prepare a summary of applicable UDOT/MUTCD guidelines for council review and potential adoption at the next regular meeting, so that MSD can be directed accordingly.

Council Member Hawkes also noted the need for explicit no-parking signage in bike lane areas, clarifying that even where parking is prohibited by regulation, physical signage is still required.

3. ADJOURN

Council Member Hawkes moved to adjourn the March 17, 2026 Emigration Canyon City Council Workshop Meeting. Council Member Harris seconded the motion; vote was 5-0, unanimous in favor.

Emigration Canyon City Council Workshop Meeting
UFA Emigration Canyon Fire Station #119
March 17, 2026

The March 17, 2026 Emigration Canyon Council Workshop Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The March 17, 2026 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes were Approved by the City Council on the 19th day of May 2026:

ATTEST:



Diana Baun, City Recorder



David Brems, Mayor