

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1 - Excused
Pam Cotter	District #2
Clark Bullen	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4
Adam Hock	District #5 – Council Chair

Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Greg Bellon	Power Director	Jacob Hudley	Power Department
Justin Larsen	Power Department	Britton Farr	Power Department
Bryant Anderson	Power Department	Jeff Webster	Senior Center
Cory Plant	Senior Center Director	Ryan Madsen	IT Director
Citizens and Guests		Ben Gray	IT

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. – Council Member Cotter

Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting April 21, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to approve. Mr. Hock seconded the motion. All in favor 4-0.

Citizen Comments:

Luis Pineda – NeighborWorks Salt Lake

Mr. Pineda spoke about a homeownership workshop associated with the Nationwide NeighborWorks America that would be held at the Murray location, on June 3, 2026 and noted the longstanding relationship between Murray City and NeighborWorks since 2009.

DeLynn Barney – Murray Resident

Mr. Barney shared concerns regarding what he believed were misaligned boundary lines on his family's Murray property, owned since 1928. He stated that three years ago he brought the issue before the City Council, which was still not resolved and wanted to find a way to restore the property lines to what they were originally 100 years ago.

Special Recognition:

1. **Murray City Employee of the Month, Justin Larsen, Line working Supervisor.** Ms. Cotter, Mayor Hales and Power Director Greg Bellon presented Mr. Larsen with a certificate and gift card, recognizing him for 22 years of dedicated service, hard work and commitment to excellence.
2. **Light Up Navajo Report.** Mr. Larsen gave a presentation to share about the annual trip and project to install power poles and lines to provide first-time energy service to Navajo Nation residents. Crew members who participated were introduced and they shared about the rewarding experience.

Consent Agenda:

1. **Consider confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Maren Patterson as a Hearing Officer for a term**

from May 6, 2026 through May 5, 2029. Mayor Hales introduced Ms. Patterson and requested she be confirmed as a Hearing Officer.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve the appointment. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion Passed:	4-0

2. **Consider confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Jeff Webster to the Senior Recreation Center Advisory Board for a term from February 2026 through January 2029.** Mayor Hales introduced Mr. Webster and requested he be confirmed to the Senior Recreation Center Board.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to approve the appointment. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion Passed:	4-0

Public Hearings:

1. **Consider an ordinance amending the Standard Land Use Code (originally adopted by Murray City on April 7, 1987) to create and add Land Use Classification Number 8230 for "Veterinary Dentistry".** Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson explained that the request was the first of its kind for the department, noting that the State Legislature adopted a new process allowing an applicant to request that a new business designation be created if it was not already listed. The applicant requested that veterinary dentistry businesses be added as a new permitted use, which was currently not permitted in the GO (General Office) zone. Mr. Wilkinson explained that the veterinary dentistry business would provide outpatient care only and would not include overnight boarding or outdoor kennels like a typical veterinary service, which was a listed use.

He explained that in 2026, legislation was further refined to require that these types of requests be heard only by the legislative body and not the Planning Commission, and that a city must formally adopt the new procedure. He stated that staff recommended approval to the City Council and pointed out that there would be two parts to overall approval: first, establishing veterinary dentistry as a new use and listing it in the standard land use Code; and second, adopting the use as a conditional use in the GO zone.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to adopt the ordinance Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion passed:	4-0

2. **Consider an ordinance amending Section 17.144.030 of the Murray City Municipal Code to allow Land Use No. 8230 "Veterinary Dentistry" as a Conditional Use in the G-O (General Office District) Zone.** The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to adopt the ordinance Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion passed:	4-0

3. **Consider an ordinance amending Section 12.24.175(B) and enacting Section 12.24.185 of the Murray City Municipal Code related to Murray Armory rental fees.** Mr. Hock stated that adoption of the ordinance would allow the Council to approve new Armory rental fees going forward, while other associated Armory fees and charges would remain under the Mayor's control. He explained that the ordinance would also codify a chart outlining whether the Mayor or City Council would oversee fee schedules for the Murray Armory and Murray Theater. He noted that the Armory fee schedule in the proposed ordinance was the same schedule staff had been using for the past year.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to adopt the ordinance Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion passed:	4-0

Business Items:

1. **Consider an ordinance renumbering Sections of Chapter 2.32 and amending Sections 2.32.020, 2.32.040, 2.32.050, and 2.32.070 and enacting Section 2.32.060 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to the Public Works Department.** City Attorney G.L. Critchfield explained that the Wastewater Division had been operating under the Public Works Department since 2020 when the Public Services Department changed its name to the Murray City Public Works Department. The proposed ordinance would codify that change and allow for a wastewater superintendent position to oversee the Wastewater Division. The proposed Code would reflect the update, renumber sections of Code, clean up language with no budget impact.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve the ordinance. Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion passed:	4-0

2. **Consider an ordinance amending Sections 2.06.010, 2.06.020, and 2.06.030 of the Murray City**

Municipal Code relating to City Officers generally. Mr. Critchfield explained that the proposed ordinance would eliminate the option of obtaining individual surety bonds for elected officials and the City Treasurer. He stated that the request would align the City Code with State legislation by removing the surety bond requirement and replacing it with a crime insurance policy, as required by statute.

MOTION: Mr. Bullen moved to approve the ordinance. Mr. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Motion passed:	4-0

3. Murray City intends to make the following statement containing each of the following elements (a) through (d), as required by state law:

- a. that Murray City is considering levying a tax rate that exceeds Murray City's certified tax rate ("tax rate increase");
- b. the approximate dollar amount of and purpose for additional ad valorem tax revenue that would be generated by the proposed tax rate increase;
- c. the approximate percentage increase in ad valorem tax revenue for Murray City based on the proposed tax rate increase; and
- d. that if Murray City proceeds with the proposed tax rate increase, Murray City will provide notice of and conduct a public hearing, as required by state law (Utah Code 59-2-919(4)(c)), at which members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed tax rate increase.

Finance Director Brenda Moore stated that the Murray City Council's tentative budget which is up for approval during this meeting contains a property tax levy increase above the certified tax rate, which will be released in June. The City needs more revenue than what is anticipated to be collected by other revenue sources and the current property tax levy with anticipated growth. The proposed budget requires \$863,709 of new property tax revenue including growth. The proposed amount is a 6.92% increase in the Cities certified tax levy from calendar 2025. This is just an increase of the City's portion of the property tax paid, not the entire amount paid. It is anticipated that the amount of revenue required will change after the property tax growth figure is received from the County auditor. The Certified tax rate for the Murray city Library will remain the same as the County Auditor will provide in June.

The revenue increase would be used for an additional police officer, additional overtime for police and fire department; pay range increases for the City's police officers and firefighters, an additional vehicle/firetruck maintenance in the fire department.

If the City proceeds with the tax rate increase, the City will provide notice and conduct a public hearing on August 11, 2026 as required by State law Utah Cod 59-2-9194C, at which members of the public would have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed tax rate increase.

4. Presentation of the property tax impact schedule. Ms. Moore reviewed the Property Tax Increase Impact Schedule, noting that it had changed slightly since she last presented it. She stated that the estimated increase to Murray City's Property Tax Rate would be 6.92%. This meant the estimated increase to primary residence valued at \$602,900 would be \$32.19 per year, or \$2.68 per month; the

estimated increase to a business valued at approximately \$602,900 would be \$58.53 per year or \$4.88 per month.

The Police Department would receive \$429,882 to hire a new police officer, make market adjustments to police officer salaries and increase Overtime to allow more time to be spent on major incidents. The Fire Department would receive \$433,827 to make market adjustments to firefighter salaries, increase Overtime and the Vehicle and Fire Truck Maintenance budget.

5. **Consider a resolution adopting the City Council's Tentative Budget, as amended, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, a Property Tax Impact Schedule, and scheduling a hearing to receive public comment before the interim budget is adopted.** Ms. Moore reviewed the tentative budget, highlighting that the GF (General Fund) budget was balanced using \$915,000 of Class C reserves, \$3.2 million of .2 sales tax revenue, and a 6.92% property tax increase, which would provide \$863,709. Employees would receive a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment, and the Step program was fully funded. The budget includes a net 14.7% health insurance increase for existing employees, a 3.9% dental increase, and the City could continue the 85%/15% split on premiums. The budget also includes one new full-time police officer, and public safety position pay ranges were increased to the market average, affecting 144 employees.

Ms. Moore outlined the budget requirements of the Enterprise Funds and reviewed the GF Summary, highlighting that Personnel costs increased 3%, or \$1.3 million, while Operations costs decreased 2%. She noted that the annual cost of operating the Murray Theater was budgeted at \$.9 million, which would be funded by the .2 sales tax revenue rather than property tax revenue. She also noted that \$3.3 million in Class C Road projects was budgeted. Ms. Moore explained where the City's revenue comes from and reviewed all GF expenditures by category and by function.

Ms. Moore confirmed that the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) Fund would provide \$11.1 million for CIP projects and reviewed future meeting dates related to the FY 2026-2027 budget.

She explained that once the proposed FY 2026-2027 tentative budget was adopted, it would become an interim budget. Public comments related to the interim budget could be made during public hearings on June 2, 2026. The City Council would vote to adopt the interim budget on June 16, 2026. The City would operate under the interim budget until the Truth in Taxation meeting on August 11, 2026, when the interim budget would be adopted as the full and final FY 2026-2027 budget.

Ms. Moore clarified that, due to new legislation, the interim budget was a new step in the budget adoption process. None of the department line-item numbers would change between the interim and proposed final budget. However, new growth related to property tax revenue would be received, which could reduce the increase required in property tax revenue, thereby reducing the increased percentage.

Mayor Hales was excused from the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Bullen SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye

Motion passed: 4-0

Mayor's Report and Questions: None

Adjournment: 7:45 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III