

**Naples City Council  
May 14, 2026  
Minutes**

A meeting of the Naples City Council was held May 14, 2026, 7:30 p.m., at the Naples City Office, 1420 East 2850 South, Naples, Uintah County, Utah.

***DATE, TIME & PLACE OF MEETING***

Council members attending were Brock Arnold, Nate Zilles, Dan Olsen, Ross Morton, Kenneth Reynolds and Jonathan Beede.

***COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING***

Others attending were Marty Partridge, Carson Young, Cliff Grua, David Smuin, Brooks Jones, Szeth Simmons, Ryan Cook, Scott Gray, Micheal Davis and Gwen Harrison.

***OTHERS ATTENDING***

Mayor Arnold welcomed everyone and apologized for beginning the meeting late. He said they took care of opening ceremonies in the budget meeting held before regular council meeting so they would move right into the agenda.

***OPENING CEREMONY***

Mayor Arnold asked for approval of the agenda. Nate Zilles **moved** to approve the agenda. Dan Olsen **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

***APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA***

The minutes of the city council meeting of April 9, 2026 were presented for approval. Kenneth Reynolds **moved** to approve the minutes. Ross Morton **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

***MINUTES APPROVED***

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open the public comment period. Nate Zilles **moved** to enter the public comment period. Dan Olsen **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye. Nothing was brought forward from the public. Jonathan Beede **moved** to close the public comment period. Kenneth Reynolds **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting in the affirmative.

***PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD***

Carson Young, President of the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo Association, came before the Council to share updates from last year's rodeo and let them know about activities for this year. Mr. Young said they are grateful for the support

***DINOSAUR ROUNDUP RODEO UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP***

received from Naples City in the past. He said the rodeo this year will be June 18-20. Mr. Young stated last year they had over 600 professional contestants, spectators from thirty-five states and sold out both Friday and Saturday nights. He said they will have the Westernaires back this year along with the National Finals Rodeo Clown. Mr. Young said it is a PRCA sponsored rodeo and will be broadcast on the Cowboy Channel. Mr. Young said they are doing the Dino decorating contest again this year and wanted those to be out soon to help advertise for the rodeo. Mr. Young asked if the Council had any questions. Councilman Morton asked what activities, outside of the rodeo, do they do? Mr. Young said on Wednesday night they do an exceptional rodeo for individuals with special needs. He said they do mechanical bull rides and autograph sessions after the rodeo. Councilman Morton said it would be fun if they could partner with a business and do a roping clinic, or something like that. Councilman Zilles asked when they switched the dates for the rodeo. Mr. Young said this will be the third year of the rodeo being held in June. Councilman Zilles asked if it has made a difference. Mr. Young said he believes the number of contestants has increased and also the quality of contestants has increased. He said when the rodeo was in July they were competing with larger rodeos. Sponsorship of the rodeo was included in the budget and Council members were happy to continue with that support.

Marty Partridge from the Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce came before the Council to give an update about the Chamber. Ms. Partridge said they had 279 members in 2025 and they have increased that number this year. She said they attended the Utah Association of Chamber meeting and were recognized for their communication newsletter and also for the best marketing program. Ms. Partridge reported on a workshop their business development committee hosted and on their chamber lunches. She noted the businesses that helped sponsor a "shop local" season, which allowed them to give away gift cards for people who shopped locally and turned in a receipt. Ms. Partridge commented on the overseas trips they help facilitate and how many take advantage of those. Ms. Partridge stated they are growing their social media platform in order to help highlight more local businesses. She praised the Dyna-Mites and noted how many ribbon cutting ceremonies they have conducted. Ms. Partridge reported on the business symposium they held, the Gala they hold, and the good things the Chamber is doing.

***VERNAL AREA CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE UPDATE***

Council members thanked Ms. Partridge for her report.

Micheal explained the process of accepting improvements or infrastructure in subdivisions. He told the Council that developers are required to have money in an escrow account and funds are released as improvements are completed. He said the City holds onto 10 percent of the escrow money for one year after the infrastructure or improvements are completed and the improvements are accepted. Micheal explained that Cliff Grua was in attendance to report on phase 5 of The Farm subdivision and to ask the City to accept those improvements and to release all but 10 percent of the escrow account funds. Mr. Grua stated they are completing the last phase in The Farm and they have sold the remaining lots to a contractor and they will take over and finish the subdivision. Mr. Grua thanked those on the Council that have been with them throughout this whole project and those who were there when he started with Ironwood Subdivision. Mr. Grua said he wanted to discuss the roundabout in The Farm and said it was dedicated to the City years ago and he has been taking care of it all this time, with the help of Mark Palacious, who lives on the corner. Mr. Grua said he hopes the City will keep it and find a way to take care of it. Mr. Grua thanked the City again for their support over the last twenty-eight years. Mayor Arnold asked Micheal if there were any concerns. Micheal said they have completed the inspection and everything seems to be good. Mayor Arnold said he would take a motion to accept phase 5 of The Farm and also the maintenance of the roundabout. Dan Olsen **moved** to release all but 10 percent of the escrow funds for The Farm and take over control of the roundabout. Kenneth Reynolds **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye.

***MOTION TO ACCEPT  
PHASE 5 OF THE FARM  
SUBDIVISION***

Szeth Simmons presented bids to the Council for repairs of the salt shed at the City Shop. Szeth explained they have two salt sheds and both have fabric roofs that have been replaced or repaired due to wind damage. He said the fabric roofs have not been the best. Szeth stated he advertized for bids and had contractors come and look at the building but only received one bid from Mark Foster Construction to replace the roof. He asked Council to approve the bid from Mr. Foster and believed he would do a good job. Szeth said they saved money in the replacement of the other roof and there is money in the budget for this repair. Kenneth Reynolds **moved** to approve the bid for the salt shed repair. Nate Zilles **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with

***ACCEPT BID FOR SALT  
SHED REPAIR***

the following vote:

Nate Zilles	Aye
Dan Olsen	Aye
Ross Morton	Aye
Kenneth Reynolds	Aye
Jonathan Beede	Aye

Micheal explained to the Council that the City has retained Crossroads Accounting for the last several years to conduct the annual audit. Micheal said he wanted to put the audit services out for bid and he published the request for proposals on the State website. He said he received two proposals, one from Crossroads Accounting and one from Smuin, Rich, and Marshing. Micheal said he had two people review the bids and rate them, the pricing of Crossroads was lower but the rating across the board came in a little higher for Smuin, Rich, and Marshing. Councilman Zilles asked Micheal if he was familiar with Smuin, Rich, and Marshing. Micheal said he is familiar with them and they do other agencies in the area. Nathan Zilles **moved** to accept Smuin, Rich, and Marshing as the city auditors. Jonathan Beede **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye on roll call.

***REVIEW AND ACCEPT  
BID FOR AUDIT  
SERVICES***

Jonathan Beede	Aye
Kenneth Reynolds	Aye
Ross Morton	Aye
Dan Olsen	Aye
Nate Zilles	Aye

Mayor Arnold said Councilman Zilles asked to have a discussion regarding term limits put on the agenda and he said he supports him but would let him lead the discussion. Councilman Zilles said he had a few thoughts about term limits for Naples City and wanted to open it up for discussion. Councilman Zilles said he works with several cities and towns and he notices the stress that comes with these positions. He asked Mr. Harrington to look into the legality of it and has not heard back from him, but wanted to have a discussion. Councilman Morton said, historically, early executive leaders only served two terms and then later it became a law. He said it's normally only been with the executive branch and that was in order to keep someone from becoming a dictator. Councilman Morton said the citizens select representatives and you take away options if you put on term limits. He said, if people love who is serving,

***DISCUSSION OF TERM  
LIMITS***

they can keep putting them in there. Councilman Zilles said that is why he wanted to have this discussion, he knows Councilman Olsen and Councilman Reynolds have served for a long time and he appreciates all they have done. Councilman Zilles stated that Councilman Olsen has actually served over his lifetime and that is a lot of time and sacrifice from someone and he appreciates it. Councilman Beede also expressed his appreciation for the knowledge that both Councilman Reynolds and Councilman Olsen bring, both because they have lived in the City for so long, but also, because they have served on the Council for so long it allows those serving now to learn from them. Councilman Beede stated the newcomers would lose a lot from not being able to learn from them if they were not in those roles. Mayor Arnold said he was happy to have the discussion and would probably only serve two terms. Councilman Morton said he understands the arguments that when you have the same people serve for extended periods of time, that Council might become stagnant, but he felt like it was a decision for the citizens to make. Mayor Arnold said he hears about the idea of term limits, on a federal level, quite often because those elected are not doing their job and he would lean toward that on a federal level. He asked Councilman Zilles if people have brought the idea up to him. Councilman Zilles said he has had people ask him about it and thought they should have the discussion. Councilman Zilles said he has thought about the knowledge obtained by those who continue to serve and the value of that, but he's also had people ask. Mayor Arnold said they should do their due diligence and have the conversations. Councilman Morton said people are allowed to voice their concerns every four years if they are not happy with the way things are going. Mayor Arnold said he would like there to be more conversation with citizens about voting and would love to see the number of voters increase. Councilman Beede asked about other places and if they have term limits. Councilman Zilles said it was adopted in Roosevelt City. Mayor Arnold said that Roosevelt City did put in term limits for themselves. Mayor Arnold asked Council members to have discussions with citizens about term limits and encouraged them to have discussions with others about voting. No action was taken.

A change to the personnel policy regarding maternity leave was presented to Council for approval. Mayor Arnold asked if this was a Council decision. Micheal said he would like to discuss it because it does affect benefits. Councilman Olsen asked about the current policy. Micheal said the current

***DISCUSSION TO APPROVE  
UPDATING MATERNITY  
LEAVE IN PERSONNEL  
POLICY***

policy covers maternity leave, but does not cover leave for a spouse or non-birth parent. Current policy covers the birth parent and the change would be “an eligible employee who is the non-birth parent, domestic partner, adoption, or placement of children” and they would be entitled to two weeks of paid leave. Mayor Arnold said he is support of the change and it would add an incentive in recruiting people to work for the City. He doesn’t see it as an added expense to the City because they have already budgeted for the salary. Micheal said most of the recent new hires have been young people and the City would like to be family friendly. Micheal explained the policy change was brought to him with a current officer in mind and they wanted to get the policy in place before the birth of their baby and then the baby ended up coming prematurely. Micheal asked the Council, if they adopt the policy, would they consider making it retroactive for this employee. Mayor Arnold asked if language could be added to the policy to allow the city manager to make adjustments due to special or extenuating circumstances. There was some confusion between the new policy and the old policy about how many days were allowed for maternity leave, it was determined the previous policy allowed for thirty days but an employee would have to use either sick leave or vacation, the new policy allows for 120 hours of paid leave for the birth parent and 80 hours for the non-birth parent. Jonathan Beede **moved** to approve the new paternity leave policy with the addition of permission for administrator to adjust or alter at their discretion. Nate Zilles **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Nate Zilles	Aye
Dan Olsen	Aye
Ross Morton	Aye
Kenneth Reynolds	Aye
Jonathan Beede	Aye

Dan Olsen **moved** to adopt the tentative budget in the amount of \$3,650,000. Kenneth Reynolds **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote as follows:

***MOTION TO ADOPT  
TENTATIVE BUDGET***

Nate Zilles	Aye
Dan Olsen	Aye
Ross Morton	Aye
Kenneth Reynolds	Aye
Jonathan Beede	Aye

With no other business before the Council, Nate Zilles **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Jonathan Beede **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye.

***MOTION TO ADJOURN***

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2026

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_