

City of La Verkin

435 North Main St., La Verkin, Utah, 84745

(435) 635-2581 Fax (435) 635-2104

www.laverkin.gov

La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 6:00 pm.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Kelly Wilson; Council Members: Darren Prince, Micah Gubler, Scot Pectol, Amanda Barr, John Valenti; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Fay Reber, Chief Nuccitelli, and Nancy Cline; Public: Nick Wright, Barbra Burnell.

A. Called to Order – Micah Gubler gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

B. Presentation:

1. HVFD

Nick Wright reported on the stats for the Fire District in May. The council asked if he could arrange some wildlife training for them. He agreed.

C. Consent Agenda: (Items on the consent agenda may not require discussion. These items will be a single motion unless removed at the request of the Mayor or City Council.)

1. Declarations of conflict of interest
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Minutes: June 3, 2026, regular meeting.
4. Checks & Invoices: \$ 76,614.49

The motion was made by Councilman Valenti to approve the consent agenda as written. Meeting minutes for June 3, 2026, regular meeting. Checks and invoices in the amount \$76,614.49, second by Councilwoman Barr. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Hearing:

1. Amending FY 2025-2026 Budget.

Kyle explained that there is a total revenue of \$485,500 that remained in the budget. The biggest majority of that \$390,000 is the finding, from the auditor, not transferring the funds from the savings account into the capital projects. The expenditure includes transferring that money which was \$390,000. \$383,000 was transferred into fund 45 and \$7,000 into fund 48, that was based on the recommendation of our auditor. Under community development the ULCT dues and cameras are in that account. \$16,000 under highways they are fixing roads around town. Total revenue was \$6,500 with expenditures to match. They added capital accounts 45 and 48.

Public Hearing opened at 6:07 p.m.

No comments made.

Public Hearing closed at 6:08 p.m.

2. Approving a 2.5% COLA increase for statutory employees.

Kyle explained that state law now requires a public hearing for statutory employees anytime they get an increase in their income. They discussed the COLA increase at the budget retreat and the council agreed.

Public Hearing opened at 6:09 p.m.

No comments made.

Public Hearing closed at 6:10 p.m.

3. Parity Water Revenue Bond issuance.

Kyle explained that our bond council suggested that we at least give the details of the bond. It was mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency for us to replace lead and copper lines. We have a little less than one hundred places in La Verkin that need that to be replaced. That will be taken from the main line all the way to the house. 95% of those that need to be replaced are in Stowel's trailer park, that has been there since the 60's. The loan is \$2,228,000.00. 70% is a forgiveness grant and 30% loan at 2% for 30 years. They can pay it off early if they want.

Public Hearing opened at 6:11 p.m.

No comments were made.

Public Hearing closed at 6:12 p.m.

E. Business:

1. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. R-2026-10, a resolution opening and amending FY 2025-2026 Budget.

The motion was made by Councilman Pectol to approve Resolution No. R-2026-10, a resolution opening and amending FY 2025-2026 Budget, seconded by Councilman Gubler. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Gubler-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2026-14, an Ordinance increasing statutory employees' salary by 2.5% COLA increase.

The motion was made by Councilman Prince to approve Ordinance No. 2026-14, an Ordinance increasing statutory employees' salary by 2.5% COLA increase, seconded by Councilman Valenti. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Gubler-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. R- 2026-11, a resolution regarding the Ultra Water Efficiency Standards.

Fay explained that the resolution includes changes the council asked him to make. It limits it to the Top Side properties and subdivisions, not single lots. He also added that the Water District includes a \$10 surcharge per 1,000 gallons when they use more than 8,000 gallons.

The motion was made by Councilwoman Barr to approve a Resolution No. R- 2026-11, a resolution regarding the Ultra Water Efficiency Standards, seconded by Councilman Prince. Roll Call Vote: Barr-No, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration and possible action to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for the Zion Regional Collaborative Coordinator.

Barbara Burnell, the Mayor of Springdale, explained that she is the co-chair of the Regional Collaborative committee. They are a group that gets together and works on subjects of interest to those of us in the Zion region. It includes representatives of various municipalities as well as participants from the Forest Service, Zion National Park, Zion Forever Project, and the county always attends our meetings. They head up projects like updating the corridor management plan. They were able to get Hurricane designated as a scenic byway. The funding was done through a grant. They are working on getting the Guacamole trail designated as a legal trail and install bathrooms at the trail. Our coordinator is the person that plans our meetings and gets our speakers and keeps us going because none of our municipalities have the bandwidth with their employees to do that job. She is on a pretty modest salary and does a lot of work and is a real asset to them. They would like to be able to continue to fund that position so that they can continue to do the good work that they've been doing.

Councilman Gubler commented we have supported this in past years.

Barbara explained the city has donated in past years and Patty was on the city council and a member of their committee and she still is. Councilman Valenti is now on the committee and as asset to them.

Mayor Wilson asked how the tunnel in Zions National Park will work now that they are no longer allowing large vehicles to go through it.

Barbra explained that it would start on June 8, 2026, and they have always shut down the tunnel for 14 minutes every hour to allow those vehicles to go through and traffic is getting backed up. The other issue is that it's just not safe for these large vehicles to go through that tunnel. Even on the highway switchbacks, they can't stay in the lane. There is a safety problem, and this has taken about two years. They have informed the tour groups, and the bus tours. They've given them a lot of notice. But as of Saturday, they will no longer be able to go through the tunnel. She heard that some of the tour companies will have smaller shuttles, sort of like a Mercedes Sprinter van that takes people from the east side and lets them come down through the park or use the park shuttles. The buses will go around through Hurricane and La Verkin. But at the end of the summer, Sheep Bridge Road should be paved, and they should be able to take that little bit of a shortcut. Mayor Kraus and her town manager Tom Gansey have worked diligently, and they have worked with a private business in Virgin, White Bison, and they've created a parking lot there. People can park their oversized vehicles there, and they can get on the Sun Tran shuttle or the White Bison shuttle. More importantly for them, it will keep those large vehicles from coming up into Springdale. They're about eighty- five to ninety a day on average, and they won't have parking for that many of them. They are hoping that they believe that there's no parking and don't come and clog their roads because they have such traffic problems. She didn't think there's any going back on this because it truly is a safety issue. The tricky part is going to be when the tunnel is not being manned, like at night during different times because there's no one stopping the large vehicles from going in there, and it happens more than you might expect. A large vehicle will go in, and a car will be coming the other way, and our public safety people are off. She would like the funding just to manage the tunnel all the time, but right now they don't have the funding for the staff.

Councilman Pectol asked how the committee decides how much each city pays to the ZRC.

Barbra explained that each city donates however much they want and Springdale has been making up the difference. She pointed out that the committee doesn't sit around talking about ideas they take action and get projects completed.

The motion was made by Councilman Valenti to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for the Zion Regional Collaborative Coordinator, seconded by Councilman Gubler. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Prince-yes, Pectol-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration and possible action to approve plat amendment for Olsen subdivision.

Fay explained that this has been on the agenda for a few months. He reminded them that the Olsen subdivision had a 20-foot easement and Theresa Fish applied to have the city vacate that easement and return it back to her. The other owner in the subdivision disagreed with that so the city did not vacate the property. Theresa has now bought the property and is the only owner of the subdivision, so no one is objecting to vacating that property and returning it to Theresa. She filed a petition to amend the plat and if there are no objections from the council, they could approve that tonight.

The motion was made by Councilwoman Barr to approve plat amendment for Olsen subdivision, seconded by Councilman Pectol. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion regarding Ordinance No. 2026-00, an ordinance amending the La Verkin City animal control code.

Chief Nuccitelli explained they had an incident in 2025 where an animal jumped into another neighbor's yard, killing their dog. When he went through the investigation the neighbors then reported that they had more than the number of dogs that were on our city code. The person that he cited, in that case, challenged them and they provided terrible paperwork that shows that all the dogs that are over the number allowed are emotional, support animals and care animals. After speaking with our prosecutor, he wanted to continue the case so that we could hold that person accountable for what took place. He discussed it with Fay and asked him if there was some verbiage that they could include in our code, that would then include the terminology that was used in court to challenge us. That's what was done. They designated a total number allowed in our ordinance but then included definitions of how many total animals are, including but not limited to, all of those other definitions of support animals.

Fay explained that in the ordinance now it states each household can have four dogs but that does not include any terminology for certified service dog, emotional support animal, puppies that have been born to one of the original four dogs that are under the age of four months and haven't yet been weaned. What's happened is we've had somebody that's

got four dogs, but then they've got an additional four dogs, which they claim to be support animals. This amendment limits the total number of dogs they can have to four dogs. They can have any mixture of service dogs and household dogs but not more than four. It also allows them to have puppies that are under the age of three or four months and have not been weaned. This attempts to give more clarity to the total number of dogs that they can have.

Councilman Pectol asked about the statement "no more than four dogs, including certified service animals or emotional support dogs, shall be kept maintained or harbored in any residential dwelling or commercial establishment within the city of La Verkin, except for puppies, which are the offspring of a dog, which is included in the number of permissible dogs. And which are under the age of four months and not weaned or vaccinated." What applies to the commercial aspect?

Fay explained that commercial property are also only allowed four dogs. He suggested they could take the word commercial out.

Chief Nuccitelli explained that the police wouldn't be going to commercial business to check on dogs. This was brought before them for this specific case to clarify the problem of not having a definition of what dogs are included in the four-dog limit. It's not about commercial properties.

The council discussed different scenarios of commercial properties like the Flex buildings, dog grooming, dog sitting, if hotels allowed longer stays with animals, and the Luxury RV park. They decided to make changes to the definition of dogs and include service animals in the total allowed in a household.

Chief was concerned about the court case. The judge was allowing service dogs to not be counted in the four total because the city ordinance didn't clarify that and there was no proof other than an internet certificate. There was no real certification or training these dogs had. Real service dogs have training they go through. These dogs did not. This dog had killed the neighbor's dog, and the household had eight dogs. He believed that many dogs have a "pack" mentality and are more aggressive and that is why they have the restriction to four dogs. He was asking them to change the definition so this would help to limit the number of dogs to four in total.

7. Discussion regarding Ordinance No. 2026-00, an ordinance amending La Verkin City Code regulating the operation of off-highway vehicles

Chief Nuccitelli explained last summer he presented to the city council some updated verbiage. In May of this year, the state passed their new definitions for some of the things that are included in our city ordinance. We used to allow these OHVs, motorcycles and things like that, to continue down Main Street into what is now the Interstate Rock Pit. It did state in our definition that people were allowed to do that. If we were to go down and enforce that, Interstate Rock has their no trespassing so it would be confusing to people if they read it, and it's something we couldn't clearly enforce. We also had golf carts, e bikes, one wheels, all of these other cool vehicles that were able to drive that. We wanted to look at and see if long term, if they were safe for our city. If our city's getting too busy or if there were some accommodations, we could make. He felt that ninety-nine percent of our citizens are respectful and behave on the OHV's in our community. When we talk about some of these vehicles being limited on city streets, it's when the kids go to have fun, are they going to the parks and then doing donuts, and messing up sprinklers and grass and things like that? Which then becomes another burden that the city takes on. Then how would the police then be able to enforce that? A lot of those have been addressed now for juveniles. We had an e-bike accident on Halloween night last year, and then we had another one where a person was hit on their e-bike just on three hundred South over by the Hot Springs just a couple weeks ago. So, they happen here, and one person was wearing a helmet and they were adults. The other person was a kid under the age of eighteen that was not wearing a helmet. His philosophy when it comes to this is to be as safe as we can but not constrict people's fun.

Councilwoman Barr agreed with the ordinance. She had an example driving in Hurricane on 600 South and saw five people in a golf cart and the driver was holding a baby. She thought that was too dangerous. She lives by the school and sees kids and traffic not watching out for each other. She agrees with more rules but also allows people to have fun.

Councilman Prince thought some rules were too strict. Our older citizens use golf carts and four wheelers to walk their dogs.

Councilman Valenti commented that La Verkin use to be slower. We have gotten bigger. In the old neighborhoods it would be safe but SR9 is a busy street.

Councilman Prince said there was designated crossing on SR9 at Main Street, Center Street, and 300 South. He was concerned about the citizens having to update their golf carts to have all the requirements of light, seatbelts, blinkers. There is difference between his daughter driving around the park and tearing out the grass and the neighbor walking his dog with the golf cart.

Councilman Gubler asked if they have had accidents involving golf carts.

Chief Nuccitelli responded none that were reportable. They've had a golf cart hit a parked car, and then we worked it out with the owners. And, then we've had a golf cart create some damage at the park. He is open to people having the freedom, but the police have to manage that. He is there to inform the public.

Fay suggested the council read it over and make suggestions on items they would like to change or add. He felt it would take many discussions to get this ordinance complete.

F. Mayor & Council Reports:

Mayor Wilson: Reported the ULTC is in Salt Lake and needed to know who would be coming in October. Kyle needed a head count to make sure they have enough rooms. We have a tour on June 17th at 3:30 at Ash Creek.

Kyle Gubler: Reported that American First Credit Union has a contract on the Top Side property with a company called Grenoble. They want to meet with him to discuss what is expected for the property. He thought they prepare sites, and then they work with a developer. At the last water conservancy meeting it was estimated that about 21% of the homes in Washington County are second homes. They're trying to figure out how we can tax them for water and not the residents. We probably should put on a future agenda about electronic devices since we are moving away from printed copies. The council decided they would prefer a stipend for a tablet and they would personally pay the difference and keep the device.

Fay: Reported the city received notice from the law firm acting as trustee for the mortgage holder on the Flex Fields. They were in default under their mortgage requirements. They sent out a notice of default and notice of sale for over seventeen million dollars. The owner Blair Gardner reached out to Derek and is already taking care of it.

Pectol: Asked if the HVFD would set up a presentation for them about wildland training. Nick Wright agreed to do that. Ash Creek had a public hearing for a 7-million-dollar bond for a sewer line from Virgin to Confluence Park. Which would help with the Top Side development.

Barr: Reported she went to the Hurricane Valley Pioneer Museum and suggested they go if they haven't, it has a lot of interesting history for Hurricane and La Verkin.

Valenti: Nothing to report.

Gubler: Reported that Water Days are coming up. The youth council orientation day is Monday, and they're headed up to Zion Ponderosa Resort. They're getting registered to go up in July to the Utah State Youth Council training. The 250th and the Fourth of July celebration are starting Friday at six p.m. there'll be vendors, concert, and the bell. And then the next morning we'll have events. There will be a float for the city council in the parade. The 24th of July /Founders Day, that's being planned as well. The city helps out on the breakfast that morning financially, and if any of you want to help with the cooking on that, we've done that in the past. There will be a float for that one, also for the city council. The police department hired two new officers to replace the ones that moved. Chief had mentioned that we've received grant funding for two LPR license plate readers, which will be installed on SR nine. Chief commented that the ultimate purpose is the state wants to watch a lot of things. Every agency that we have around here has a minimum of two. When it comes to some of these cases that involve human trafficking and other things, that's the first investigative tool they use. Actually there was a homicide up in Wayne County recently where some hikers were and that's the go-to tool now.

Prince: Reported he met with HCP regarding Confluence that they were applying for a grant to convert the bathrooms down there to flush and tie it into the sewer. They wondered if the city could help with labor. In the meeting they also discovered Southern Utah has an estimated 70,000 visitors every day. We have had some complaints about the steepness and the loose gravel on the rim to river trail. We got a quote from our builders that was pretty high, twenty two thousand to put some cement on that. The neighbors have been smelling sewage from the treatment plant, and so they met with Ash Creek and they're putting some sensors up there.

G. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

No comments made.

H. Adjourn:

The mayor closed the meeting at 7:25 p.m.



6-17-2026
Date Approved

ATTEST: Nancy Cline
Nancy Cline
City Recorder

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor Kelly B. Wilson