

**IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 8, 2026**

Minutes of the Special Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. June 8, 2026 in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Kenneth Robinson	Commission Chair
Michael Bleak	Commissioner
Paul Cozzens	Commissioner
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

Karsten Reed	County Assessor
Terry Palmer	Building & Zoning
Sam Woodall	Deputy Attorney
George Colson	Emergency Management
Jennifer Bradbury	Human Resources
Bryce Williams	Parks & Recreation
Brett Hamilton	Planner

Others in Attendance:

Addison Adams	Sachet Carter	Matt Cook
Natalie Cook	Stacy Cook	Bruce McDonald
Jeff Richards	Cody Roberts	

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INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Jon Whittaker.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Bryce Williams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting held on May 26, 2026. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve Claims for Payment from May 27, 2026 to June 7, 2026. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Bryce Williams, Parks and Recreation, reported that the budget was at 38% spent and generated \$2K in revenue. Past scheduled events, April 25th through June 6th, were well attended and successful. Events scheduled through October 10th were the Utah Summer Games-Practical Shooting, to be held July 18th; RC Rock Crawl, July 24-26; Cedar City Half Marathon, September 12th; and the Utah Cycling League Region 3 Race, October 10th. Bryce noted that Wood Ranch opened on June 1st. The Northwest fence line clearing was in progress in preparation for the installation of a new two-rail fence. He reported that Parks & Recreation was required, by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW), to install a chlorination system on the water system at Wood Ranch. This would be very expensive and may be fiscally irresponsible to convert the system to a non-potable water system. There was a discussion regarding the water issue. The 5-Mile Recreation Area opened on May 1st. The City of Parowan provided temporary irrigation water. He noted that future irrigation concerns may arise pending redevelopment of the 6 Mile Spring. Vegetation was planted and relocated along the north fence line with assistance from Forest Service personnel. A new vault toilet was expected to be installed this summer on the north side. Burn piles at the Three Peaks Recreation Area could not be burned this last winter due to dry conditions, and he was anticipating burning them next winter. Water Service was turned on for the season on April 1st. Bryce reported that he was waiting for a response from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the south fence boundary extension at the Shooting Range. The department hired Kien Hicken as a seasonal employee, who began working on May 25th, and was doing well.

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he attended the Utah Summer Games (USG) Special Olympics held on May 28. This was a great addition to the USG. He had several coordination meetings with Inland Port and the opportunity to meet with a couple of industrial manufacturing companies. Mike noted that he coordinated with David Johnson, Economic Developer, regarding the latest legislation rules on incentives given to companies. He attended the department head meeting, which was well attended, and discussed issues the departments were having. Mike reported that he attended the USG Opening Ceremony. An American Flag that was flown on the USS Iron County Naval Ship in World War II, in Okinawa, South Pacific, and during the Korean conflict, was used for the Opening Ceremony. After the USG was over, the flag would be permanently retired during Labor Day at the Iron County Fair and displayed in the Iron County Courthouse. Mike expressed his appreciation to Jon Oglesby, USG Director, and his crew, the SUU crew, Maria Twitchell, and Iron County volunteers. He noted that Iron County was awarded a Sponsor Gold Medal for its support of the USG.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, reported that one of the areas he was a liaison for was the 5-County Association of Governments (AOG). The 5-County AOG had been struggling with finances and needed ways to fund the organization. Paul listed the departments and the programs they were responsible for. 1) Community and Economic Development:

Community Planning Assistance, Consolidated Plan for Southwestern Utah, CDBG, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Regional Capital Improvements Planning. 2) Transportation Planning Office: Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization, Iron County Rural Planning Organization, Mobility Management, and Medical Transportation Voucher Program. 3) Community Support Services: Heat Energy Assistance, Circles Program, ESG and CoC Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Prevention. TANF Family Housing, SSBG Funded Services, and Court-Ordered Community Service. 4) Council on Aging: Senior Nutrition Services, Supportive Services, Aging Waiver Medicaid, Alternatives Program, Veteran Directed Care, Caregiver Support Program, State Health Insurance Assistance Program, Senior Medicare Patrol, Benefit Enrollment Center, Veteran Benefit Services, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Community Education and Outreach. He explained that Darin Bushman, 5 County AOG Executive Director, was working on the bylaws to include additional funding sources. Each county had an assessment of how much it would pay. Paul asked Jon Whittaker if he would include 5-County AOG on the July 13th Commission meeting so Mr. Bushman could report on the bylaws and their needs. Paul expressed his appreciation for the Iron County Planning Commission (ICPC) for the time they spent on doing what was right for Iron County and the way they handled the pressure at the last meeting. He continued to attend the Jail meetings, and construction was within the timeline. Paul explained that in the past, the 5 County AOG had administered water hauling in all 5 counties. They voted to split that duty to each county, and Iron County Commissioners, Terry Palmer, Sam Woodall, and others who were involved need to meet and create a water hauling ordinance.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he continued to attend the weekly jail meetings and was pleased that they were making great progress. He attended the USG Opening Ceremony, which was great for our community, attended the department head's meeting, and had some great conversations. One of the issues discussed was the rising cost of Health Insurance and its impact on Iron County and employees. Ken participated in a Zoom call with the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) regarding data centers and managing public perceptions. He expressed his appreciation to the ICPC for the research and effort they put towards the data center and the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). There were 53 conditions added to the CUP, which was evidence that the public concerns were being heard and addressed. Ken noted that he would like Iron County to have the first right to deny where the power generated was in excess, and make sure that the power remained in Iron County. He reported that he attended USG and was pleased that the Flag was flown there, as mentioned by Commissioner Bleak.

Paul Cozzens explained the water use for the data center. When the data center comes to fruition, there has to be a point of diversion to the Cedar Valley Water District. The tax revenue coming from the data center could help pay for the Desert Pipeline from Pine Valley to bring 15K acre-feet of water into the Cedar Valley.

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, noted that he agreed with Commissioner Cozzens regarding the 5 County AOG and all they do for the county. Jon reported that he had a conversation with Zions Bank regarding HB 485, which limits how much revenue a taxing entity receives from new growth on value that was left over after an incentive period ends on a solar project. Jon reported that he asked Zions Bank to create a proposal to capture the net effect solar has had on Iron County from a taxpayer perspective, and how much it would cost for the study.

PUBLIC HEARING, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED ZONE CHANGE (ORDINANCE 2026-14) TO THE IRON COUNTY ZONING MAP- ZONE CHANGE FROM RURAL AGRICULTURE 20 ACRES (RA-20) TO RESIDENTIAL 5 ACRE (R-5), FOR APPROXIMATELY 20.27 ACRES LOCATED 4179 W. MIDVALLEY ROAD, CEDAR CITY, UT (APN: D-515-7) Applicant: Matthew & Stacy Cook

Brett Hamilton, Iron County Planner, noted that the zone change was located 1¼ miles west of Lund Hwy on Midvalley Road, and that the purpose of the request was to allow residential use in the area. Zoning around the property was RA-20 to the east and west, R-½ to the south, and R-1 to the north, with some I, A-20, and R-2. The nearest 5-acre was on the east side of Lund Hwy. Brett explained that after review of the Evaluation Considerations for Re-Zoning Property criteria, the Iron County Planning Commission (ICPC) recommended denial of the zone change to the Iron County Commission. The reason for denial was a) the property did not consist of at least 40 contiguous acres, and b) it was not adjacent to other existing R-5 zone property. There was water available, but no sewer facility. He reported that the property was currently in a Tier 2 area, but with the beginning of modifying the Tier boundaries, it could be in the Tier 4 area.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared a Public Hearing open regarding the proposed Zone change.

Stacy Cook, applicant, noted that she did not understand the reason for the denial because it was not in the Tier 2 when they purchased the property. They want to sell one part of the property to give their children part of the land. Brett explained the reason why the zone change was denied because it did not meet the criteria of the Evaluation Consideration for Re-Zoning Property. He noted that the Zone change could be changed to Residential 1 (R-1) rather than R-5 and hook into the Cedar Valley Water Conservancy (CVWC) city water. There was a discussion regarding structures on the property and the septic density, and not allowing more than 4 lots.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the Public Hearing closed.

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve a zone change from what was listed from RA-20 to R-1 rather than to R-5, with the understanding that only 4 lots were available. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

IRON COUNTY ORDINANCE 2026-14

AN ORDINANCE OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH, APPROVING A REQUESTED AMENDMENT TO THE IRON COUNTY ZONING MAP – CHANGE 20.27 ACRES (APN: D-0515-0007-0000) FROM RA-20 (RURAL AGRICULTURE 20 ACRE) TO R-1 (RESIDENTIAL 1 ACRE), BASED ON FINDINGS OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN, ZONING PATTERNS, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, Iron County has received a request to amend the Iron County Zoning Map by changing the zoning designation of one parcel totaling 20.27 acres located at 4179 W Midvalley Road, Cedar City, Iron County, Utah (as more particularly described in Exhibit A, hereto attached), from Rural Agriculture 20 Acre (RA-20) to Residential 5 acre (R-5); and

Whereas, the County Commission has reviewed the request in accordance with the Iron County Re-Zone Policy, Zoning Code (including Chapter 17.12.060), considering factors such as the effect on surrounding areas, consistency with the General Plan, compatibility with adjacent properties, suitability for proposed uses, impacts on nearby properties, and overall community benefit; and

Whereas, the Planning Commission of Iron County has held a duly advertised and noticed public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment, and after carefully and thoroughly reviewing and considering the staff report, public comments, and applicable criteria, has voted to forward a recommendation of denial to the Iron County Commission; and

Whereas, the Iron County Commission has held a duly advertised and noticed public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment and, after considering the staff report, and public comments, concluded that the proposed zone change to R-5 failed to meet acreage and adjacency requirements. However, at the June 8, 2026 meeting, the County Commission determined that a change to the Residential 1 Acre (R-1) zone would meet the adjacent requirements. Therefore, the County Commission concludes that the proposed zone change to R-1 appropriately considers and balances all interests in accordance with the purposes and goals of the County Land Use, Development, and Management Act; and the Iron County General Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Within the Iron County Zoning Map, the property identified as APN: D-0515-0007-0000, consisting of approximately 20.27 acres, shall be, and hereby is, identified and amended to be zoned from Rural Agriculture 20 acre (RA-20) to Residential 1 Acre (R-1), and shown on the official zoning map and website of Iron County (IronCountyut.gov) – and as shown on Exhibit A, hereto attached.

SECTION 2. Severability.

Should any portion of this ordinance be found for any reason to be unconstitutional, unlawful, or otherwise void or unenforceable, the balance of the ordinance shall be severable therefrom, and shall survive such declaration, remaining in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.


This ordinance shall become effective immediately after the required publication thereof, as set forth in Utah Code §17-53-208.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH this 8th day of June, 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
IRON COUNTY, UTAH**

By: 
Michael Bleak, Chair pro tem

ATTEST:


Jonathan T. Whittaker
Iron County Clerk



PUBLIC HEARING, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED ZONE CHANGE (ORDINANCE 2026-15) TO THE IRON COUNTY ZONING MAP-ZONE CHANGE FROM RESIDENTIAL 2 ACRES (R-2) TO COMMERCIAL (C), FOR APPROXIMATELY 1 ACRES APPROXIMATELY LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 18, NORTH OF 800 SOUTH, BERYL, UT (APN: E-1406-168) Applicant: Vilma Hernandez

Brett Hamilton, Iron County Planner, explained that the zone change was surrounded by R-2 zones with pockets of Commercial (C). This was previously Zoned Commercial along Hwy 18, but was changed to R-2, and allowed Commercial if requested. Vilma Hernandez would request that the Zone be changed back to C to allow a personal storage facility. Brett reported that after review and discussion of the Evaluation Considerations for Re-Zoning Property, the ICPC recommended approval.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared a Public Hearing open regarding the proposed Zone change.

No Public Comments were offered.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the Public Hearing closed.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-15, a Zone change from R-2 to Commercial as presented. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

IRON COUNTY ORDINANCE 2026-15

AN ORDINANCE OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH, AMENDING THE IRON COUNTY ZONING MAP – CHANGING ONE PARCEL TOTALING 1 ACRE (APN: E-1406-0168-0000), FROM RESIDENTIAL 2 ACRE (R-2) TO COMMERCIAL (C), AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, Iron County has determined in accordance with the desire to update the Iron County Zoning Map, various provisions and map changes are to be amended or modified; and

Whereas, the County Commission finds that it is in the best interest of the County after taking into consideration the applicant’s request, public comments, health, safety and welfare, to amend the county zoning map; and

Whereas, the Planning Commission of Iron County has held a duly advertised and noticed public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment, and has carefully and thoroughly reviewed and considered the comments received, and has voted to forward the proposed zoning map amendment to the Iron County Commission with a recommendation for approval; and,

Whereas, the Iron County Commission has held a duly advertised and noticed public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment and after considering the public comments and the language of the proposed zoning change, the County Commission concludes that the proposed zone change appropriately considers and balances all interests in accordance with the purposes and goals of the County Land Use, Development, and Management Act; and the Iron County General Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Within the Iron County Zoning Map, the properties identified as APN: E-1406-0168-0000, consisting of approximately 1 acre, shall be, and hereby is, identified and amended to be zoned from Residential 2 acre (R-2) to Commercial (C), and shown on the official zoning map and website of Iron County (IronCountyut.gov) – and as shown on Exhibit A, hereto attached.

SECTION 2. Severability.


Should any portion of this ordinance be found for any reason to be unconstitutional, unlawful, or otherwise void or unenforceable, the balance of the ordinance shall be severable therefrom, and shall survive such declaration, remaining in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately after the required publication thereof, as set forth in Utah Code §17-53-208.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH this 8th day of June, 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
IRON COUNTY, UTAH**

By: 
Michael Bleak, Chair pro tem

ATTEST:


Jonathan T. Whittaker
County Clerk



**PUBLIC HEARING, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED
ZONE CHANGE (ORDINANCE 2026-16) TO THE IRON COUNTY ZONING MAP-
ZONE CHANGE FROM RURAL AGRICULTURE 20 ACRES (RA-20) TO
COMMERCIAL (C), FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 ACRES LOCATED 5566 W 3600 S,
CEDAR CITY, UT (APN: E-259-8) Applicant: Cody Roberts**

Brett Hamilton, Iron County Planner, explained that the property was west of I-15, just off the Hamilton Fort interchange on 5700 West, surrounded by RA-20 and Commercial on the south side of the property. The applicant requested that the Zone be changed to Commercial. Brett reported one concern presented to the ICPC was regarding the type of road improvement that would be made to 3600 S, which would be chip-sealed or paved. He noted that after review and discussion of the Evaluation Considerations for Re-Zoning Property, the ICPC recommended approval.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared a Public Hearing open regarding the proposed Zone change.

Cody Robert, applicant, noted that he understood the road improvement plans.

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared the Public Hearing closed.

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-16, a zone change from RA-20 to Commercial (C) as presented. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

IRON COUNTY ORDINANCE 2026-16

AN ORDINANCE OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH, AMENDING THE IRON COUNTY ZONING MAP – CHANGING ONE PARCEL TOTALING 20 ACRES (APN: E-0259-0008-0000), FROM RURAL AGRICULTURE (RA-20) TO COMMERCIAL (C), AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, Iron County has determined in accordance with the desire to update the Iron County Zoning Map, various provisions and map changes are to be amended or modified; and

Whereas, the County Commission finds that it is in the best interest of the County after taking into consideration the applicant's request, public comments, health, safety and welfare, to amend the county zoning map; and

Whereas, the Planning Commission of Iron County has held a duly advertised and noticed public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment, and has carefully and thoroughly reviewed and considered the comments received, and has voted to forward the proposed zoning map amendment to the Iron County Commission with a recommendation for approval; and,

Whereas, the Iron County Commission has held a duly advertised and noticed public hearing on the proposed zoning map amendment and after considering the public comments and the language of the proposed zoning change, the County Commission concludes that the proposed zone change appropriately considers and balances all interests in accordance with the purposes and goals of the County Land Use, Development, and Management Act; and the Iron County General Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Within the Iron County Zoning Map, the properties identified as APN: E-0259-0008-0000, consisting of approximately 20 acres, shall be, and hereby is, identified and amended to be zoned from Rural Agriculture 20 acre (RA-20) to Commercial (C), and shown on the official zoning map and website of Iron County (IronCountyut.gov) – and as shown on Exhibit A, hereto attached.

SECTION 2. Severability.

Should any portion of this ordinance be found for any reason to be unconstitutional, unlawful, or otherwise void or unenforceable, the balance of the ordinance shall be severable therefrom, and shall survive such declaration, remaining in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately after the required publication thereof, as set forth in Utah Code §17-53-208.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF IRON COUNTY, UTAH this 8th day of June, 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
IRON COUNTY, UTAH**

By: _____

Michael Bleak
Michael Bleak, Chair pro tem

ATTEST:

Jonathan T. Whittaker
Jonathan T. Whittaker
Iron County Clerk



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terry Palmer, Iron County Building & Zoning Administrator, expressed that he wanted to publicly thank the Iron County Planning Commission (ICPC) board for the professional way they have handled the data center controversy. A Public Hearing had been ongoing for 3 months, and the ICPC did not have to have additional input from the public at Thursday's meeting, but they did. The board had taken a lot of heat from the public. Terry reported that he wanted to let the ICPC know that they were appreciated for the volunteer service they do for Iron County. Mike Bleak noted that on the 5th, he received 3 death threats, and hoped he would die a painful death, even though the Iron County Commission was not involved in the decision. All the Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the ICPC.

PROCLAMATION 2026-2, DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY REGARDING SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND WILDFIRE RISK IN IRON COUNTY

George Colson, Iron County Emergency Management Manager, reported that this Proclamation was to declare a state of emergency for the drought and fire danger in Iron County. It would allow George to facilitate any mutual aid, help, or finance that might come into Iron County. George recommended approval by the Iron County Commission.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Proclamation 2026-2, declaring a local emergency regarding severe drought conditions and wildfire risk in Iron County as presented. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

IRON COUNTY PROCLAMATION 2026-2

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY REGARDING SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND WILDFIRE RISK IN IRON COUNTY

Whereas, on May 21, 2026, the Governor of the State of Utah issued Executive Order 2026-02 declaring a state of emergency due to severe drought conditions in all twenty-nine counties of the State of Utah, including Iron County;

Whereas, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, all twenty-nine counties in the State of Utah are experiencing severe drought and twenty-two counties, including Iron County in Southern Utah, are experiencing extreme drought conditions;

Whereas, statewide snowpack peaked approximately three weeks early at only 53% of normal, average winter temperatures were nearly three degrees higher than normal, and water supply forecasts around the state range from 20% to 55% of normal;

Whereas, Iron County and Interagency fire managers recently implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions based on rapidly increasing fire danger, hot and dry weather, windy conditions, and increasingly dry forests and rangelands;

Whereas, the continuation of drought and associated wildfire risks constitute an ongoing threat to life, property, agriculture, and the public water supply;

Whereas, the Iron County Commission finds that Iron County may require additional assistance to supplement the response and recovery efforts of the county;

Whereas, the mobilization of county resources is critical to protecting life and property from ongoing and future drought threats, mitigating wildfire risk, conserving the County's limited water supply, and supporting affected residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Iron County Board of Commissioners as follows:

Section 1. Declaration of Local Emergency. In accordance with Utah Code Section 53-2a-208, Iron County hereby declares that there is a local drought emergency affecting Iron County, Utah, and assistance is requested from both the State of Utah and the federal government to provide all necessary resources to address the impacts of drought, conserve and protect drinking water supplies, mitigate the heightened risk of wildfire, protect life and property, and to support recovery efforts for affected residents.

Section 2. Duration. This declaration of a local emergency shall expire 90 days from the date of the adoption of this Proclamation, unless extended by further action of the Iron County Commission.

Section 3. Emergency Powers. This declaration authorizes Iron County's Emergency Manager and other appropriate county officials to take any necessary actions to protect life and property, including but not limited to:

- a. Coordinating with state and federal agencies;
- b. Requesting mutual aid resources;
- c. Establishing emergency water supplies and services for affected residents and livestock;
- d. Deploying emergency equipment and personnel for drought response and wildfire preparedness; Providing water conservation information and resources to residents, agricultural producers, and businesses; and
- e. Conducting damage assessments and documentation for state and federal disaster assistance applications.

IRON COUNTY COMMISSION


Michael Bleak, Chair pro tem

ATTEST


Jonathan T. Whittaker – Clerk



PERSONNEL

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, presented the new hire of Jared Carter as a Full-Time Medical Technician Deputy in the Sheriff's Office-Corrections, effective June 7th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the new hire of Richard (Chance) Rhodes at a Full-Time Road Technician in the Road Department, effective June 22nd. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the new hire of Larin Taylor as a Full-Time Landfill Technician in the Landfill Department, effective June 8th. This was a backfill of a vacant position; the new hire of Tanner Rigrup as a Full-Time Judicial Assistant in the Justice Court Department, effective June 8th. This was a backfill of a vacant position.

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the personnel changes as presented by Jennifer Bradbury. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

Jennifer explained the transfer of the Code Enforcement Position for the Building Department to the Sheriff's Office-Patrol, effective June 21st, which would allow access to

programming to be able to enforce laws and regulations. Supervision would be between the Building & Zoning Department and the Sheriff's Office.

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve the transfer of the Code Enforcement Position from the Building Department to the Sheriff's Office-Patrol, effective June 21. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

Jennifer explained the increased funding for the School Resource Officer, effective July 1st. Sam Woodall, Iron County Deputy Attorney, explained that Zach Tuttle was the school Security Chief for Iron County. He works with the Sheriff's Office to implement the school security and was an invaluable resource with the SWAT Team. The increased stipend would go towards the work he spends outside of the school security, specifically with SWAT. This was a state-mandated position, and the increase would be \$9,100 for a total of \$25,000/year.

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the increase in funding for the School Resource Officer by \$9,500 for a total of \$25K, as presented. Second by: Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Aye.

DISCUSSION REGARDING A CLOSED SESSION OF THE IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON MAY 26, 2026

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he filed a lawsuit against Iron County regarding the closed session that was held at the May 26th Commission Meeting. Paul stated that the Open and Public Meetings Act allows closed meetings only for narrow statutory purposes. Personnel matters may be discussed in a closed session only when limited to issues such as an individual's character, Professional competence, or physical or mental health. He felt that the closed meeting exceeded that limited scope and included matters that did not pertain to the subject at hand. He learned about the closed meeting remotely while flying from Boston to Phoenix. He called into the meeting once he learned the nature of the discussion and stated that the manner in which the meeting was being conducted was inappropriate. He was deeply concerned that portions of the discussion exceeded the narrow scope authorized for a personnel closed session under Utah law. Paul was the liaison to the department associated with the closed session and was not included. He heard a discussion that, in his view, was not necessary to evaluate the character or professional competence of the employee whose matter was purportedly before the commission.

Paul Cozzens made a motion that the Iron County Commission authorize the release of the May 26th closed session record to the fullest extent permitted by law, with redactions limited to the employee's identity, personally identifying information, and any portions actually protected by the Open and Public Meetings Act. There was no second to the motion.

Jon Whittaker read a prepared statement regarding the actions of Commissioner Cozzens. He and Paul had a spirited discussion regarding the matter.

Mike Bleak noted that he would not comment on the pending lawsuit. He explained that the reason he did not second the motion to release the closed session was that there was a lawsuit filed in the court. That issue is now up to the courts.


NON-DELEGATED ITEMS

Michael Bleak made a motion to change the commission liaison for the Assessor's Office to Kenneth Robinson and the commission liaison for the Treasurer's Office to Michael Bleak, because of the aforementioned lawsuit regarding the May 26th closed session filed by Commissioner Cozzens. Michael Bleak noted that he had spoken with the Attorney's Office and expressed that because of said pending litigation, it would be a conflict of interest for Commissioner Cozzens to continue as the liaison to those offices. Second by Kenneth Robinson, who noted that this was an administrative action and was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Kenneth Robinson, Iron County Commission Chair, declared adjournment.


Signed: Michael Bleak, Chair pro tem


Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk

