

**MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 9, 2026**

***Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:***

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at [www.utah.gov/pmn](http://www.utah.gov/pmn) and video is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=T83OY32YCPE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T83OY32YCPE). Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Councilmembers Jason Taylor, Tawny Knutson-Boyd, Kaitlin Myers, Colin Topper and Miles Loftin attended. Also in attendance were City Manager Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Patrick Trim, Police Chief Lex Bell, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton, Jr., Public Works Director Levi Jones, Community Development Director Cory Shurtleff, Deputy Recorder Yvonne Hatathly, Engineer Mark Jolissaint, Assistant Engineer Didar Charles, Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin and 12 members of the public. Councilmember Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Public Comments:***

Sara Melnicoff reported on the expenses of Moab Solutions for the month of June. She indicated that the organization had received approximately \$4,000 in funding from the City, which was used to assist residents in need.

Bill Agee stated he lives on Mill Creek Drive and asked Council to approve a 20 miles per hour (mph) speed limit on designated routes and to delay a decision regarding omitting the current 15 mph speed limit for street-legal off-highway vehicles (OHVs). He requested a legal determination regarding the legality of the differential limits for OHVs. He stated that recent concern about the 15 mph limit is cause for review, not rescission from the municipal code.

Pete Gross stated he agreed with Mr. Agee. He complimented Council on the calm and collaborative atmosphere at City Council meetings. He said he is disturbed at all hours by OHV noise. He asked if there had ever been a noise violation citation issued by police. He mentioned acoustic noise cameras that were in use in various municipalities across the country. He acknowledged that noise violation enforcement is a tough topic. He volunteered to research acoustic cameras and noted that such technology could assist police in enforcement 24 hours a day with little staffing demand. He said it was the same loud vehicles every night on Main Street.

Emily Niehaus stated she echoed the comments by Mr. Agee. She urged Council to try all approaches to solving the noise dilemma. She asked for lower speed limits. Lower noise levels from lower OHV speeds were noticeable, she reported. She noted the agenda amendment to include a pride proclamation and said the City's efforts go a long way. She thanked Council for their work.

***Department Update:***

Police Chief Bell reported on the conclusion of the first citizens' academy which covered the role and activities of the police department. Academy graduate Rachel Mundell also reported to Council on her impressions of the course. Bell stated 22 residents completed the academy and noted students were high school age to retirees. He noted the session received complimentary reviews on content and instructional quality. Councilmember Loftin, who attended the academy, praise the police staff and the quality of the program.

***Consent Agenda—Approved***

Councilmember Myers moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: approval of minutes for the May 26, 2026, Regular Meeting, approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$404,129.33 and approval of a Pride Month proclamation. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. Myers expressed gratitude for the Pride proclamation, which Mayor Langianese read aloud to the audience. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

### **General Business:**

#### **Public Hearing regarding amending the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget—Tabled**

Councilmember Myers moved to postpone until the next regular meeting the public hearing regarding amending the 2025-2026 budget. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. City Manager Black stated there may not be a need for a budget amendment to close out the fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Budget Amendment for FY 25/26 (Resolution 10-2026)—Discussion**

City Manager Black stated the City budget revenues are 18 percent ahead of expenses. He explained some capital projects are not yet completed and would be covered by enterprise funds. He said some Workforce Affordable Housing Units (WAHU) funds were not yet received because of delays in development. He concluded by stating tourism-related tax collection was higher than projected.

#### **Lions Park River Access Feasibility Study Contract Award—Approved**

**Presentation and Discussion:** Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Trim presented for consideration a grant-funded contract to undertake a feasibility study to develop non-motorized access to the Colorado River at Lions Park. Councilmember Topper stated he was excited to explore ideas regarding access for swimming and paddle boarding and other non-motorized access to the river. Councilmember Taylor mentioned the County-owned far shore of the river in the vicinity. Trim stated he attended a meeting at which the County's boat ramp was discussed for motorized use and said the County's project would not duplicate the City's project. He added the County had applied for a stream alteration permit. Councilmember Myers asked about collaborating with stakeholders and engaging the public in the project. Councilmember Loftin said he was enthusiastic about the town-side access.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Loftin moved to approve a contract award to River Restoration in the amount of \$198,407 for a Lions Park River Access Feasibility Study. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

#### **Red Rock Development Easement at Golf Course—Presentation**

Community Development Director Shurtleff and Assistant Engineer Charles described a request for easements for water, sanitary sewer service and stormwater infrastructure access for a proposed 55-unit residential development near the City-owned land at the golf course. Charles mentioned the drinking water source protection zone and requirements to maintain the zone. Shurtleff explained some platting issues including small areas that are undevelopable. Councilmember Myers asked about roadway standards, maintenance and expressed concern about the proposed easement creating a triangle of land. Councilmember Taylor stated his understanding that the proposed utility road easement was only for access to the retention basin and would not be used for residential access.

#### **Surplus Property Declaration—Approved**

Recorder Johnson explained the surplus items, including a snow blower and a golf cart, would be auctioned at [www.publicsurplus.com](http://www.publicsurplus.com).

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Knutson-Boyd moved to adopt **Resolution 11-2026** declaring certain property owned by the City of Moab as surplus. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Speed Limit Amendments for Street-Legal Vehicles—Approved**

**Presentation and Discussion:** City Manager Black and Police Chief Bell introduced the proposed amendment to the municipal code. Bell stated the *prima facie* speed limit throughout the City is 20 mph unless otherwise posted. Councilmember Myers noted that Council would have the authority to set speed limits for OHVs and other vehicles. Councilmember Loftin noted the proposal gave clarity to the law.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Taylor moved to approve **Ordinance 2026-12**: an ordinance repealing and replacing **Ordinance 2020-15** and amending section 10.04.090 of the Moab Municipal Code regarding the establishment of speed limits for street-legal vehicles, including street-legal all-

terrain vehicles. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Speed Limit Changes Within the City of Moab—Tabled***

**Presentation and Discussion:** Mayor Langianese recommended tabling the action until the community could participate in the Safe Streets for All project. Public Works Director Jones and Police Chief Bell presented speed limit recommendations based on public feedback and studies and new considerations, including streets that were identified as priorities and those serving as a bypass to Main Street. Chief Bell stated his recommendations, including retaining a 25 mph speed limit on 500 West, 400 East, Williams Way and Kane Creek Boulevard. He stated his support for designating Mill Creek Drive, 400 North and 100 West as 20 mph zones. Councilmember Loftin stated his agreement with keeping 500 West and 400 East at 25 mph. Councilmember Taylor concurred. Councilmember Topper mentioned that residents are concerned about the removal of the 15 mph OHV speed limit. Topper noted he is a cyclist and said he is almost always in favor of lowering speed limits. He stated that the slower OHVs create a heated environment on the streets and the slower vehicles drive in the bike lanes, creating conflicts with bikes. He stated he is in favor of tabling until a public workshop. He said cyclists almost always lose and the differential speed limits are problematic.

**Motion and Discussion:** Councilmember Topper moved to table until September speed limit changes in priority areas as identified by staff. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. Mayor Langianese suggested tabling the motion until the Safe Street report was completed. Councilmember Myers stated the decision date was a long way out, and she commonly hears that vehicle noise is related to speeds. Councilmember Topper stated the speed limit discussion is independent of the Safe Street program. He said that if noise was not a consideration, he did not want a differential 15 mph speed limit.

Councilmember Taylor agreed with Councilmember Myers, citing enforcement issues and said he does not want OHVs singled out. He said education, enforcement, and a legally viable option were preferred.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

### ***City Manager Report:***

City Manager Black reported all the trailers at Walnut Lane were demolished. He mentioned a grant to complete the reconstruction of the Pack Creek pedestrian bridge. He mentioned the Smithsonian exhibit, “Voices & Votes” is at the MARC June 8 to August 7. He mentioned job openings with the City recreation department and noted Juneteenth is a City holiday.

### ***Mayor and Council Reports:***

**Councilmember Loftin** reported that he attended a meeting of the Utah Renewable Energy Communities. He said 16 Utah communities were participating in the program, and he had received questions about how utility customers can opt out.

**Councilmember Myers** stated she attended the rodeo and a meeting of the housing task force and mentioned an upcoming housing town hall. She said she attended the opening of the Voices & Votes exhibit and the Safe Streets open house. She mentioned an upcoming family-friendly Pride Month event at the aquatic center.

**Councilmember Topper** thanked public works staff for work on the Rotary Park bridge. He said he attended a safety action plan open house and a TrailMix meeting.

**Councilmember Knutson-Boyd** reported she met with museum staff and attended a meeting at Utah State University regarding a memorial for Joe Kingsley. She mentioned the Smithsonian exhibit.

**Councilmember Taylor** reported he attended the high school graduation, an airport board meeting, and the North Wash boat ramp ribbon cutting. He said he attended the Safe Streets open house and a meeting of the travel council.

**Mayor Langianese** reported she attended meetings of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Southeastern Rural Development Agency. She said she discussed upcoming legislation with the City’s lobbyists and attended meetings with the County Commission chair, the golf course planning committee, the Arches shuttle working group, and attended the opening of the Voices & Votes exhibit.

***Executive (Closed) Session:***

Councilmember Myers moved to enter an executive session to discuss reasonably imminent and/or pending litigation. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese convened the closed session at 8:02 p.m. Councilmember Taylor moved to end the closed session. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese ended the closed session at 8:40 p.m.

***Adjournment:***

Councilmember Knutson-Boyd moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder