

City of La Verkin

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www.laverkin.gov

La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 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: Fay Reber, Derek Imlay, Chief Nuccitelli, and Nancy Cline; Public: Dave Harmon.

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

B. Presentation:

1. HVFD Wildland property protection.

Dave Harmon explained HB48. A house bill passed by the state for wildland codes. Cities are required to have WUI boundaries that they submit to the state. Houses that exist outside the boundaries will have a fee imposed by the state. The fee depends on how safe from wildland fires their property is by keeping their land clear. There is a PowerPoint presentation on the city website for the public to access.

2. Swearing in of new police officer.

Chief Nuccitelli introduced Officer Perez as the newest hire for the police department. Nancy Cline swore him in.

3. Chief Nuccitelli

Chief Nuccitelli introduced each member of his staff and recapped the past year and all of their accomplishments. He stressed the fact that they all get along well and are a family to each other. He explained that they recently hired three new police officers and one trainee.

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: \$ 308,502.34

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 \$308,502.34, second by Councilwoman Barr. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Business

1. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. R-2026-12, a resolution restricting the use of fireworks.

Fay explained that these are the same restrictions as last year, he emailed them to the HVFD and they had no changes to make to it. It includes dates, times, and locations for citizens to set off fireworks.

The motion was made by Councilman Gubler to approve the Resolution No. R-2026-12, a resolution restricting the use of fireworks, second by Councilman Pectol. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. R-2026-13, a resolution establishing hydrant meter water service classes, rates, fees, deposits, and conditions for temporary use of water from the city's culinary water system.

Derek explained that they have always charged one rate no matter what well the hydrate meter was hooked up to. This has prices for Toquerville/Ash Creek system and Cottom Well systems. Cottam Well is more

expensive, and the city is charged a higher rate that has not been passed on to the developers. They will provide the developers this information and what Well system their hydrate meter is pulling from. They increased the deposit to cover the cost of replacing the meter if its never returned. The city requires a manual read every other month and a phone call the other months. It has been increasingly difficult to get developers to do this so they added a late fee and will take the meter back if they don't call or bring in the meter and keep their bill up to date.

Councilman Pectol suggested what other cities do which is put a different colored tag on the meter, so they know what month has not been read. They also have to bring in the meter, and they blow air through it to make sure the meter is actually working and they aren't giving away free water. Moab has electronic cards that they have to swipe at the meter to fill up and it is sent to the city. He agreed with increasing the deposit and the fees for not calling in the meter reads. They need to charge enough to cover the cost of replacing the meter and the late fee needs to be an incentive for them to cooperate. He suggested maybe they could fill up from the pond once it's built.

Councilman Prince asked if they could use irrigation water.

Derek replied they have tried that, but the water trucks have filters on them and La Verkin's irrigation water is still too dirty to get through the filter.

Mayor Wilson suggested when they get the new irrigation system and settling pond completed that could be the option for them to use irrigation water.

Councilman Prince asked if the meters are manual read only.

Derek replied yes, they are manual. He knows they have technology to do electronic reading.

Mayor Wilson suggested they put a master meter on the hydrate for electronic readings.

Derek agreed with the suggestions and will look into them. Electronic reading would save the office staff a lot of time.

The motion was made by Councilman Valenti to approve the Resolution No. R-2026-12, a resolution restricting the use of fireworks, second by Councilman Pectol, seconded by Councilwoman Barr. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Gubler-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2026-15, an Ordinance amending title 10 Chapter 10, "off-street Parking" of the La Verkin city code, establishing rules and regulations pertaining to off-street parking in the city limits.

Derek explained that Brad Robbins and the planning commission have been working on the off-street parking resolution for months. The comprehensive updates expand standard stall sizes from 8'x18' to 9'x20' and include design diagrams to ensure adequate turning radii for multiple layouts (diagonal, straight, parallel), especially for larger modern vehicles. New business license conditions require ongoing parking lot maintenance (stripping, pothole repair, drainage). The ordinance right-sizes parking requirements by land use and supports shared-parking agreements, promoting functional sites rather than overbuilt lots. The city aims to clean up transitional/gravel access areas and elevate the visual appeal and safety of commercial access and parking. The city doesn't want to put any business under financial hardship but they need to maintain the parking lots in a safe manner for the public.

Councilwoman Barr asked about the entrance to the animal shelter. There is a lot of loose gravel, and she wanted to know who was responsible for keeping that clean.

Derek replied it is the owner of the businesses. But he would check it out and get it cleaned up.

The motion was made by Councilman Valenti to approve Ordinance No.2026-15, an Ordinance amending title 10 Chapter 10, "off-street Parking" of the La Verkin city code, establishing rules and regulations pertaining to off-street parking in the city limits, seconded by Councilwoman Barr. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Gubler-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion regarding the frequency of citizen comments and request for future agenda items.

Mayor Wilson pointed out at Utah League of city and towns it was brought up by an attorney they are not required to have citizens comments on the agenda. He wanted to know what the council thought about it. He receives phone calls and emails from citizens when they aren't happy about something and he always responds. He thought it is working out the way they are doing it by allowing each person three minutes and a total of twenty minutes total. He thought if the citizens are not coming to meetings or reaching out, they must approve of the way the city is being run.

Councilman Gubler added that he will receive emails and phone calls also. He has heard from citizens that they don't feel like they are being heard or that the council even cares about their concerns. The way they make the comments the council does not engage with them and seems cold. He suggested at the beginning the mayor could explain the rules, so they understand the council won't be responding. Also, they could inform the public better about reaching out to the council and having the council bring up their concerns for them. It's difficult to hear citizens get emotional and the council doesn't respond to them. He knows other cities have problems with the citizen comments because there is no time limit and they could be there for hours. He felt like La Verkin does not have that problem.

Councilwoman Barr commented that some people have shared with her they don't come because it doesn't seem like the council listens to them and their minds are already made up. She has had people come to her with concerns and she has shared them with the council.

Councilman Prince added that he would like to hear the citizen comments before they vote on a subject.

Councilman Valenti thought the way they did it now was working. When a citizen sent them all a group email about a cat problem, he liked the other council members all commenting back and even informing them of state laws and what a city can and can't do in that regard. He doesn't feel like they need to change the way they handle citizen comments.

Councilman Pectol has attended other cities city council meetings and sees that there could be problems with it extending the length of the meetings and also some disagreements. However, he has not seen that happen with the La Verkin city council meetings and agrees they don't need to change it.

5 Consideration and possible action to approve Sunrise Engineering Work Release regarding the lead and copper project biological and archeological clearances.

Derek explained that the EPA is demanding they get these studies done before they start the project. The money is in the grant and proposal they have already approved. The council only needs to vote to approve releasing the payment to the engineers to do the study.

The motion was made by Councilman Pectol to approve Sunrise Engineering Work Release regarding the lead and copper project biological and archeological clearances, seconded by Councilman Valenti, Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible reconsideration of Zion Collaborative Agreement.

Councilman Valenti explained that Hurricane city pulled their funding from the ZRC. The funding is purely a donation. Even though the council voted to donate to the ZRC now that Hurricane has dropped it, that agreement is void and the ZRC would have to rewrite a new agreement. The coordinator will finish out her contract. The ZRC will continue as an organization but will get volunteers and interns to help. He explained that the ZRC helps coordinate all the sister cities, so they are part of a big community. They have applied and received several grants for trails in southern Utah. The separate city councils in the area don't have time to do the things the ZRC have taken on. He suggested not giving up on the organization. That will help from volunteers so they may be able to get it running again.

Councilman Pectol commented that he didn't agree with giving funding to the ZRC. However, after listening to Councilman Valenti he voted in favor to donate to that cause. Now that he understands the limited funds La Verkin has he wouldn't vote to support the ZRC again.

Councilwoman Barr commented she would like a clearer explanation of what they have accomplished that will explain the expense.

Councilman Valenti explained that the city council only sees the end result. They don't see all the meetings, planning, and phone calls that go into these projects. They were in charge of the Rim to River trail, The Guacamole trail, the sun tram running from St. George to Zion. All the grants and paperwork they have handled to accomplish this would have had to be done by a councilmember. So, they do a lot for all the cities in southern Utah. He suggested tabling it and discussing it later when the ZRC has a plan on how to proceed.

F. Mayor & Council Reports:

Mayor Wilson: Nothing to report.

Kyle Gubler: Not in attendance.

Fay: Nothing to report.

Pectol: Reported that HVFD has received a \$22 million grant for additional district fire stations. Plans include an administrative building near Sand Hollow as the first of five, with future stations proposed for Springdale and Toquerville to improve 24/7 coverage, response times, and insurance accessibility (properties beyond 5 miles from a 24-hour manned station face difficulty obtaining coverage). The Council and planning commission toured the new Ash Creek Sewer facility's performance and operations. It was balanced and functioning within approximately 72 hours of startup and has been operating for about a month. Odors outside buildings are minimal; operators are responsive to complaints and mitigation. The tour improved public understanding of environmental and noise controls.

Barr: Reported the solid waste dump has a new two-lane entry building—funded and approved at the last meeting—was installed and operational in roughly two months, significantly reducing Saturday wait times.

Valenti: Reported on June 10, 2026 planning commission meeting. They are working on updating the general plan.

Gubler: Reported that the city's festival begins July 3; festivities include unveiling and ringing the tower bell, along with music and food trucks.

Prince: Reported on the DTech meeting the state is encouraging a local sales tax for roads to improve eligibility for future grants; this is a city choice and is being researched. The state is also surveying for a potential Opportunity Zone designation covering La Verkin, Toquerville, and Virgin to unlock business and housing investment incentives.

G. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

No comments made.

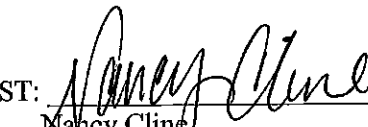
H. Adjourn:

The mayor closed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

July 1, 2026

Date Approved

ATTEST:



Nancy Cline
City Recorder



Mayor Kelly B. Wilson