

Manti City Council Regular Meeting

MINUTES

JUNE 17, 2026

6:30 PM

MANTI CITY BUILDING
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET

MEETING CALLED BY	Mayor Mary Wintch
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Council Meeting
ATTENDEES	Councilmembers: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois City Manager: Jason Brown City Recorder: Matt Gray
ABSENT	None
WELCOME	Mayor Wintch
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Led by Councilmember Meagan Johnson

Regular Meeting

ITEM 1	Declaration of Conflicts of Personal Interest
The meeting began by Mayor Wintch asking the council if there were any agenda items that needed to be disclosed concerning conflicts of interest. There were no items brought before the council.	

ITEM 2	Approval of Recent Council Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2026
Mayor Wintch spoke regarding the minutes for the Council meeting on June 3, 2026. She asked if there were any corrections or modifications needed for the regular City Council meeting minutes. There were no corrections noted. Mayor Wintch called for a motion to approve the minutes for the June 3, 2026 meeting. Councilmember Brian Francois made the motion and Councilmember Mary Pipes seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of the City Council minutes from the June 3, 2026, meeting.	

ITEM 3	Approval of Payment Report (Bills) May 16-31, 2026
Mayor Wintch proceeded by asking if there were any questions regarding the current bills. Noting that there were no questions, Mayor Wintch called for a motion to approve signing of the bills from June 1-15, 2026. Councilmember Meagan Johnson made the motion and Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of the bills from June 1-15, 2026.	

ITEM 4	Manti High School Donation Request
The council considered a booster sponsorship request from Manti High School. Manti High School requested either a Gold level sponsorship of \$500 or a Platinum booster sponsorship of \$800. City Manager Jason Brown stated that the city sponsored the High School at the \$500 level the previous year. The council decided to continue supporting at the Gold level sponsorship. Mayor Wintch requested a motion to sponsor Manti High School as a Gold level sponsorship for the coming year in the amount of \$500. Councilmember Mary Pipes made the motion and Councilmember Brian Francois seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of a Gold booster sponsorship to Manti High School by Manti City.	

ITEM 5	Annexation Policy Plan Discussion
Mayor Wintch stated that this would be a continuation of the earlier discussion regarding the city's annexation policy plan. Council members generally felt the proposed plan was clear and useful, especially because it explains why annexation is being considered and what the process would involve. City Manager Brown clarified that the council was only reviewing the policy that night and did not need to formally adopt it yet. He said the city is nearing the end of its review process and hopes to approve the annexation and subdivision materials before the current moratorium expires on July 21, 2026. He also noted that the city has received very little public comment outside of prior council meetings. Councilmember AJ Mower asked how many annexation requests are currently active, and City Manager Brown said there was just one at the moment.	

ITEM 6	Subdivision Ordinance Discussion
Mayor Wintch then started the subdivision ordinance discussion. She explained that she had already contacted City Planner McKay Muhlestein about a correction in the draft involving minor and major subdivisions. The corrected language defines a minor subdivision as four lots or fewer and a major subdivision as five lots or more. Much of the conversation then turned to water. Council members and staff discussed language requiring new subdivisions to have sufficient water for culinary use. Jason explained that developers may have surface water or underground water rights, but those rights must be able to be converted or approved for municipal culinary use under state rules. He said this creates administrative work for the city because state water requirements involve tracking usage and applying a rolling five-year average. That led to a broader conversation about water conservation and landscaping. AJ suggested the city may want to consider requiring some amount of desert landscaping or xeriscaping in new subdivisions, pointing to other communities that have grown while keeping water use lower. Councilmember Pipes was hesitant to make xeriscaping mandatory, saying residents should generally have the choice of how to landscape their property. She also pointed out that replacing lawn with gravel or hard surfaces can create more heat and may not always save as much water as people expect. City Manager Brown said the subdivision ordinance would be the proper place to include landscaping requirements if the council wanted them, but no final direction was given. The council left the issue open for more thought.	

ITEM 7	FY 2025-26 Amended Budget
Mayor Wintch turned the time over to City Manager Jason Brown. He explained that because the fiscal year ends June 30 and the city still had one more accounts payable cycle, staff needed authority to make the final budget adjustments in the general fund and enterprise funds. Public hearings on the amended budget and next year's budget would still occur later. Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen made the motion and Councilmember Meagan Johnson seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
The council next approved the amended budget for the current fiscal year, FY 2025–2026.	

ITEM 8	e911 Rural Health Tax Discussion
Mayor Wintch began a discussion regarding e911 dispatch funding and the proposed rural health tax. The mayor explained that the State is requiring a new computer-aided dispatch system and two dispatchers on duty at all times, twenty-four hours a day. The State mandate was not funded by the State, and the county's dispatch costs are	

expected to rise. The rough cost estimate would be an increase from roughly \$400,000 to more than \$1 million. The first idea was to divide the added cost among cities and towns by population, but council members and other local mayors objected because residents in unincorporated areas would not share equally in the added burden. The rural health tax was presented as a better option because it would apply countywide and could also capture some revenue from visitors who use emergency services. Mayor Wintch emphasized that the rural health tax would be dedicated to e911 dispatch, and not to a hospital or clinic project. Council members discussed where the tax would be applied. It would not apply to basic grocery food or gasoline, but it would be added to prepared food and many non-food purchases. The mayor and council members encouraged residents to attend the upcoming June 30 town hall meeting at the county courthouse so they could hear the full explanation, ask questions, and understand the issue before it appears on the November ballot. The council stressed that dispatch has to be paid for one way or another, and if the rural health tax fails, cities and towns may face a heavier burden.

ITEM 9

Fee Schedule Review and Approval

Mayor Wintch again turned the time over to City Manager Brown who explained that the city needs to review fees regularly so costs do not fall behind actual expenses. Several increases were proposed. The animal control daily boarding fee would increase from \$15 to \$25 because caring for animals takes staff time and resources. The Manti ATV ride fee would increase from \$99 to \$125 per rider. A new family night swim rate of \$2 per person was added for Mondays from 3:00 to 5:45 p.m. Electric rates received significant attention. Manager Brown stated the city has been told to expect about a 14% increase in purchased power costs, though the city is not immediately passing through the full increase. He recommended raising the electric usage rate by 5%, from \$0.1155 cents per kilowatt-hour to \$0.1212 cents per kilowatt-hour, while leaving the base rate unchanged. Council members asked whether starting with 5% would help avoid larger increases later. Manager Brown said the power market is uncertain, and the city may need to revisit rates monthly depending on actual costs. He explained that hydropower shortages, power plant issues, market volatility, and winter and summer demand are all creating pressure. Council members generally agreed that a smaller increase now, paired with close monitoring, was better than waiting and potentially needing a much larger increase later. Water and sewer fees were also discussed. City Manager Brown recommended raising the water base rate from \$33 to \$35 per month. That base rate covers up to 7,000 gallons per month. He did not recommend changing the tiered water rates yet because the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is conducting a water and sewer rate study for the city. Once that study comes back, the city may need to revisit the tiers. Manager Brown explained that new meters and software should help the city track monthly usage more accurately and identify leaks sooner. He also

recommended the \$2 sewer increase, citing future costs related to sewer lagoons, including expansion, cleaning, dredging, and long-term maintenance.

The council also discussed water shares and development fees for subdivisions. The existing fee-in-lieu amount for water is \$2,500 per lot, but Jason and council members agreed that amount is far too low compared with current water share values. They talked through the difficulty of setting a fair cost because water prices vary widely depending on ditch company, availability, and market conditions. Some council members worried that if the fee is too low, developers or landowners will simply keep their water and pay the city instead. Others were concerned that requiring small local land owners to find water rights could make development impossible. Manager Brown suggested increasing the residential fee to \$12,500 while leaving commercial and industrial water fees to be determined until the RCAC study provides better information. The council approved the updated fee schedule as presented, effective July 1, 2026, with the understanding that more adjustments may come later.

Councilmember Brian Francois made the motion and Councilmember Meagan Johnson seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.

ACTION TAKEN	
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Formal approval of the updated Manti City Fee Schedule for FY27.
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ITEM 10	FY 2026-27 Budget Approval
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Mayor Wintch proceeded to ask City Manager Jason Brown if there would be a formal budget hearing for the proposed budget. Manager Brown affirmed that the hearing would be held during the next council meeting on July 1, 2026. This meeting will also address the supervisory employee compensation increases. Mayor Wintch called for a motion to approve the FY2026-27 budget. Councilmember Mary Pipes made the motion and Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.

ACTION TAKEN	
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Approval FY2026-27 Budget proposal

ITEM 11	4th of July Community Celebration
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Mayor Wintch began the conversation on the Fourth of July celebration. Fire danger was the central issue. Council members discussed whether the city should adopt restrictions similar to Stage 1 fire restrictions. Manager Brown said he had spoken with the fire chief and recommended that the city follow the fire department's guidance. Council members discussed the fact that many lawns and open areas are

extremely dry and that in past years some non-residents have come into Manti, set up in intersections, and lit fireworks.

The council generally agreed that personal fireworks should not be allowed this year because of the dry conditions. They also agreed that the city fireworks show should remain “to be determined” and that the fire chief should have flexibility to cancel it at the last minute if wind, fallout direction, or other safety conditions are poor. Some council members acknowledged that people may still light fireworks even if prohibited, but they felt the city should clearly communicate the rule and the safety concerns. There was also informal discussion about possibly saving fireworks for New Year’s Eve if July conditions are unsafe.

The council then discussed Fourth of July event logistics. KMTI has requested information for advertising, including the event schedule. Councilmember Pipes said there would be another planning meeting the next day to finalize details. Events mentioned included the parade, park activities, a patriotic program, watermelon bust, and grand marshal details. Council members decided that they would ride in the parade on the new fire truck or another vehicle, and Councilmember Brian Francois mentioned possibly playing “Call to the Colors” on his bugle.

ITEM 12	Continuing Business
a. Annexation/Subdivision Moratorium (expires July 21, 2026) Discussed earlier in this meeting	
b. City Ordinance Corrections on rear-yard accessory buildings capacity New language being drafted for final version.	
c. Master Plan (General Plan) Update Language drafted and currently under review.	
d. Veterans Memorial A new design proposal has been submitted and site locations are being discussed.	
e. Parks, Paths & Trails On-hold to gather additional information	
f. America 250 Discussed earlier in this meeting	
g. Economic Development Manti City is currently working on new projects.	
h. e911 Rural Health Tax Discussed earlier in this meeting	

ITEM 13	Council Member Reports
Council Member Francois - Nothing to report.	
Council Member Christiansen	

- Youth City Council will be holding an event July 3rd at the Manti Sports Complex. They will have a live band and line dance instruction. The event will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. There will be treats and a chalk throw at the end.

Council Member Mower

- Nothing to report.

Council Member Pipes

- Wanted to make sure people know to register their ADU & STR's to be grandfathered. She attended the Manti City Creek Water Users board meeting last Friday. The irrigation water will most likely be shut off from Sunday to Wednesday and then on from Thursday through Saturday. This will give them time to fill the reservoir. She also stated that the public will be reminded of the watering recommendations, if they are watering during the day or abusing the watering privilege. Councilmember Pipes then went on to state several facts regarding the water levels at surrounding lakes and reservoirs. She finished up by asking if the certified tax rate had been adopted.

Council Member Johnson

- Nothing to report.

ITEM 14

Administration Reports: City Manager Jason Brown

City Manager Jason Brown began his comments by reporting on the financial situation of the city. He said the city had met with financial advisor Marcus Keller from Crews and Associates to review debt service and possible budget improvements. Mr. Keller is expected to attend the July 1, 2026, meeting to discuss debt service and transportation utility fee requirements with the council. Manager Brown also reported on a positive meeting with Sheriff Buchanan and Captain Larson. He praised law enforcement and first responders and suggested the city find a way to honor them. City Manager Brown ended his report with a fun activity. He had council members pick numbers corresponding to George Washington's "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior," then read several of the selected rules.

ITEM 15

Public Comment

Heather Weiss (Resident) - Expressed concern that wealthy residents could simply pay more to use excessive water, such as for large green lawns. She suggested that water should be limited based on land size, household size, and use. Once a household reaches its limit, water should be turned off. Farmers or those producing food or supporting livestock should receive more water than households without such needs. The system should be fair and not simply allow those with more money to use more water.

Ralph Nair (Resident) - Communicated his concern about the long, hot, dry summer and the importance of water conservation. Many people would comply if they understood recommendations. Some people are watering in the middle of the day. Notices should be more visible and reliable. Suggested communication methods

include: notices in utility bills, flyers around town, radio announcements, and other public outreach.

Susan Manning (Resident)- Commented some people on the east side of town may water midday because they have little or no water pressure at other times. She suggested low pressure may be contributing to noncompliance.

ITEM 16

Mayor Comments: Mayor Wintch

Mayor Wintch emphasized that Manti City does not control secondary irrigation water and that it is handled by Manti City Creek Water Users. She encouraged residents to contact that organization with questions. She also said that once secondary water meters are fully installed, it should be easier to track usage and address overuse. The mayor briefly mentioned that the Senior Center CDBG project is finally moving forward after a long delay. She also reported that at a recent commissioners/mayors meeting, rural water cybersecurity was discussed, including emergency response planning and sanitary review requirements for drinking water systems.

ITEM 17

Closed Session - for discussion

Mayor Wintch wrapped the meeting up by calling for a motion to move into a closed session. Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen made the motion, and it was seconded by Councilmember Meagan Johnson. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.

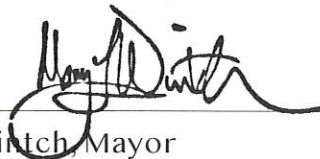
Adjourned from the regular session into the closed session.
Signing of bills and payroll occurred after adjournment.

ADJOURNED

8:38 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Council Meeting – July 1, 2026



Mary Wintch, Mayor



Matt Gray, City Recorder