

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett District #1
Pam Cotter District #2
Clark Bullen District #3
Diane Turner District #4 – Vice Chair
Adam Hock District #5 – Council Chair

Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Crystal Brown	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Ryan Madsen	IT Director	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Stephen Olson	Assistant Fire Chief	Emily Barton	Finance Controller
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Benjamin Gregoire	Patrol Officer
Kristin Reardon	Police Admin	Doug Roberts	Deputy Police Chief
Mike Obrey	Deputy Police Chief	Greg Bellon	Power Director
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Chris Niemann	Engineering Manager
Derrick Bolton	Public Works	Aron Frisk	Public Works
Citizens and Guests		Chris Zawislak	Senior Civil Engineer

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. – Council Member Bullen

Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting May 19, 2026.

MOTION: Ms. Cotter moved to approve. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Citizen Comments:

Mark Kammermian – Murray Resident

Mr. Kammermian expressed concern that lights at Hidden Village Park remain on overnight, shining into his home and backyard, requiring him to purchase blinds and blackout curtains. He questioned the need for lights to remain on from dusk to dawn, acknowledged security considerations, and stated the lighting gives the impression the park is still open and contributes to late-night noise. He asked whether the park lights could be turned off at 11:00 p.m., similar to other pickleball court parks.

Special Recognition:

1. **Murray City Employee of the Month, Benjamin Gregoire, Patrol Officer.** Mr. Bullen, Mayor Hales and Police Chief Craig Burnett, presented Mr. Gregoire with a certificate and gift card, recognizing him for hard work and commitment to prioritizing mental wellness, fostering confidential peer support, and helping to normalize seeking assistance among public safety professionals.

Public Hearings:

1. **Murray City intends to make the following statement containing each of the following elements (a) through (d), as required by state law:**
 - a. that Murray City is considering levying a tax rate that exceeds Murray City’s certified tax rate (“tax rate increase”);
 - b. the approximate dollar amount of and purpose for additional ad valorem tax revenue that

- would be generated by the proposed tax rate increase;
- c. the approximate percentage increase in ad valorem tax revenue for Murray City based on the proposed tax rate increase; and
 - d. that if Murray City proceeds with the proposed tax rate increase, Murray City will provide notice of and conduct a public hearing, as required by state law (Utah Code 59-2-919(4)(c)), at which members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed tax rate increase.

Finance Director Brenda Moore stated that the Murray City Council's interim budget, which is scheduled for consideration in this meeting, contains a property tax levy increase above the certified tax rate. The certified tax rate was released on June 12, 2026. The certified tax rate included growth revenue of \$136,643, or 1.09%. The City needs more revenue than what is anticipated to be collected by other revenue sources and the current property tax levy. The proposed budget requires \$714,297 of new property tax revenue. The proposed amount is a 5.72% increase in the City's certified tax levy. This is just an increase of the City's portion of the property tax paid, not the entire amount paid by a taxpayer. Murray City Library property tax growth was \$27,538, and its certified tax rate will remain at .00286 as calculated by the County Auditor. They will not have a property tax increase. The City revenue increase would be used for an additional police officer, additional overtime for the police and fire departments, and pay range increases for the City police officers and firefighters. If the City proceeds with the tax rate increase, the City will provide notice of, and conduct a public hearing on August 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., as required by State law, Utah Code 59-29-194C, at which members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments on this proposed tax rate increase.

2. **Presentation of the property tax impact schedule.** Ms. Moore explained that the Property Tax Impact Increase Statement was a new requirement under State law, as amended in the 2026 Legislative Session. The purpose was to make the public aware that the City would propose a property tax levy increase. It was also required to show details of the increase and explain the effect it would have if the increase were not approved. Ms. Moore reviewed how the property tax system worked and how it was designed, including where property tax revenue was applied and how much each taxing entity received per tax bill. She emphasized that the property tax increase would only apply to Murray City's 17¢ portion of each dollar and explained the difference between the Murray School District and the Granite School District tax bills.

Ms. Moore shared that Murray's current property tax rate, as adjusted by the County Auditor, was now .001370 and was projected to provide the City with \$12.6 million. However, the City needs \$13.3 million, which is estimated to generate an additional \$714,000 and is equivalent to a 5.72% increase. For those living in the Murray School District, the increase would be .98% on the entire bill, and .78% for those living in the Granite School District. The estimated increase to a primary residence valuing \$614,000 would be \$26.46 for the year, or \$2.21 per month; commercial businesses would see an annual increase of \$48.12, or \$4.01 per month.

Ms. Moore confirmed that a total of \$714,297 would be allocated to the GF (General Fund), where \$361,531 would be applied to the Murray Police Department budget for funding one new police officer position, overtime and pay range increases. The Murray Fire Department budget would receive \$352,766 for market adjustment salaries and overtime.

3. **Consider a resolution adopting the City Council's interim budget, as amended, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, a Property Tax Impact Schedule and scheduling a hearing to receive public comment before the final budget is adopted.** Ms. Moore highlighted budget changes since her last budget presentation on June 2, 2026, related to the Power Department, Library property tax revenue, GF property tax revenue, Utopia debt payment decrease, the property tax increase being reduced to 5.72%, and the addition of the Zepfest Film Festival to the Addendum. Ms. Moore confirmed no other changes were made to the budget. The next meeting would be August 11, 2026, when the Truth in Taxation public hearing would be held to adopt the tax levy and final budget.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to adopt the resolution. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Mr. Pickett Aye
Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Motion passed: 5-0

4. **Consider an ordinance vacating two municipal utility easements located at approximately 4950 South Galleria Drive, Murray City, Salt Lake County, State of Utah.** Engineering Manager Chris Niemann reviewed site maps to explain the need to vacate two municipal utility easements and confirm the location where they would be reinstalled, noting that the reason was to prepare for a new townhome development.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Cotter moved to adopt the ordinance Mr. Pickett SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Mr. Pickett Aye
Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Motion passed: 5-0

Business Item:

1. **Consider a resolution providing advice and consent to the Mayor's appointment of Chris Zawislak as the City Engineer to direct the Engineering Services Division.** Mayor Hales introduced Mr. Zawislak, who would take the place of Mr. Trae Stokes, who recently retired. The Mayor spoke about Mr. Zawislak's qualifications, commended him for his experience, and requested approval of the appointment.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Hock SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Ms. Turner Aye

Mr. Hock Aye
Mr. Pickett Aye
Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Motion passed: 5-0

Mr. Zawislak was sworn in by City Recorder Brooke Smith.

Mayor's Report and Questions: Mayor Hales announced festivities for the July 4th Celebration.

Adjournment: 7:05 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III