MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FRUIT HEIGHTS CITY
910 South Mountain Road
June 16, 2026

WELCOME:
Mayor Jeanne Groberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE & OPENING CEREMONY:
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Gary Anderson with Council Member David Hale conducting the opening ceremony by prayer.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mayor Jeanne Groberg; Council Members Gary Anderson, Mark Cottrell, David Hale, Eileen Moss, and Blake Winslow.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:
City Manager Darren Frandsen and Public Works Director Layne Leonard were present.

VISITORS:
Mary Monson, Jim Crismer, Linda Crismer, Dale Kunkel, Frank Leaver, Mike Burnett, Celeste Cottrell, Mary Jones, Scott Martineau, Anne Quintes Bose, Jon Groberg, Terry Harrs, Klayne Palmer, Elaine Palmer, Clark Moss

DECLARATION OF CONFILICT(S) OF INTEREST:
None

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Cottrell Report:
Council Member Cottrell reported on attending a tour and monthly meetings of the Davis County Mosquito Abatement District. He provided an overview of mosquito monitoring and abatement services available to Fruit Heights residents, including mosquito trapping, treatment of standing water, distribution of mosquito fish, and spraying services for residents. He noted that these services are funded through property taxes and encouraged residents to contact the Mosquito Abatement District with any questions or concerns.

Council Member Hale Report:
Council Member Hale reported meeting with the City Manager to discuss upcoming budget items and noted that further budget discussions will take place later in the meeting. He also discussed emergency preparedness efforts for the city, including a review of the City's ham radio setup located in the City Hall basement. Council Member Hale noted ongoing discussions regarding the City's emergency preparedness committee and continued efforts to strengthen preparedness planning.

Council Member Moss Report:
Council Member Moss reported on the pickleball project, noting that the city is awaiting an RFP from Jones in order to move forward with design and planning. She stated that the Council has a general understanding of the desired scope and is looking forward to progressing the project. Council Member Moss also reported

on the cemetery committee, noting that staff will be assisting with digging trenches to evaluate site conditions, including soil and rock composition, to better inform future planning efforts. She stated that the committee has developed and continues to update a tracking spreadsheet of completed work and potential project options under consideration. She further noted that a recent site visit with a potential consultant included discussion of grading and terracing options, and that the presence of usable rock material on-site may provide opportunities for incorporating existing materials into future site design.

Council Member Winslow Report:
Council Member Blake reported on attending an America 250 Committee meeting and expressed appreciation for the work of committee members in preparation for the upcoming America 250 celebration scheduled to be held at Harvey Park on June 29. Council Member Blake recognized Jim and Jenalee Frazier for their work in organizing a float for the parade, noting that the float includes a representation of the North Church from Boston and a rider portraying Paul Revere. He also recognized Nicole Hale for her work in coordinating a lineup of performers and activities for the event, including live music and family-friendly activities. Council Member Blake encouraged residents to attend the celebration and noted that additional Americana-themed displays and items will be welcomed for display in the City Hall basement. He also noted the availability of a historical landmarks' activity card, available at City Hall, which highlights various historic sites throughout the city for residents and families to visit. Council Member Blake stated that participation in the activity includes small prizes and encourages community engagement with local history.

STAFF REPORTS:
Public Works Director Layne Leonard Report:
Public Works Director Layne Leonard reported that Road Safe completed striping work throughout the city, including Mountain Road, Lloyd Road, and Nichols Road. He noted that the contractor is also working on stencil applications for 25-mile-per-hour speed limit markings and bike lane striping. He stated that the project is nearing completion.

City Manager Darren Frandsen Report:
City Manager Darren Frandsen reported that the majority of the city budget has been completed following receipt of the State certified tax rate, which was received the previous Friday and distributed to Council. He also reported on ongoing discussions regarding temporary access across City property with Scott Martineau. He noted that the proposed access area has been surveyed and refined to reduce impacts to City property, trails, and surrounding improvements. City Manager Frandsen stated that he met with the developer to negotiate terms of the agreement and indicated that preliminary discussions resulted in a proposed compensation range of approximately $30,000 to $35,000, reflecting the reduced impact area. He also noted that additional terms being considered include ensuring no encroachment onto City property and establishing clear conditions for construction and project completion. He stated that the agreement would be formalized into a contract for review by legal counsel and presented to the City Council for consideration at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Linda Crismer provided comments regarding the America 250 celebration. She expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm and productivity of the planning committee over the past several months and encouraged residents to attend the event scheduled for June 29 at 5:30 p.m. at Harvey Park. She invited residents to decorate their homes during the week of the celebration through the Fourth of July with red, white, and blue decorations and encouraged participation in Americana-themed displays, including crafts, artwork, and

other handmade items to be displayed at City Hall during the event.

An electronic public comment was provided by Elizabeth Nielsen, who was unable to attend the meeting in person. Her comments were presented via recorded message.
Ms. Nielsen expressed concerns regarding the proposed parks improvement project, specifically referencing a proposal involving approximately $750,000 in park improvements and pickleball courts. She requested that Council carefully consider any plans that may remove or eliminate existing pavilion structures at Nicholls Park, noting community support for retaining the pavilions. She also suggested that maintenance issues, including irrigation impacts on pavilion areas, may be contributing to the deterioration of park furnishings, and noted that pavilion roofs were recently replaced. Ms. Nielsen further encouraged Council to consider the overall cost of proposed park improvements and to seek broader public input regarding how taxpayer funds are allocated for park projects. Additionally, she provided comments regarding a proposed survey related to General Plan amendments. She emphasized the importance of ensuring survey questions are unbiased and methodologically sound. She indicated willingness to assist the city in developing a survey and suggested that in-house or local expertise could potentially reduce costs associated with survey development.

Mike Burnett spoke regarding potential park improvements and the possible removal or replacement of existing pavilion structures at Nicholls Park. Mr. Burnett expressed concern that replacing the existing structures would result in the loss of historical elements associated with the site. He specifically referenced the flagpole located between the two bowery/pavilion structures, noting its connection to a prior Eagle Scout project and community-led efforts during the City’s 50th anniversary celebration. He further stated that a time capsule is located within the base of the flagpole containing historical memorabilia and items contributed by residents at the time of installation. Mr. Burnett emphasized that the project involved significant volunteer effort and donated materials and expressed concern that removal or reconstruction of the area could result in the loss of these historical features. He requested that Council consider the historical significance of the existing structures when evaluating future park improvement plans.

John Groberg spoke in support of the City’s Youth City Council program. Mr. Groberg, a former adult advisor and parent of a current Youth City Council member, shared his experience working with the program over the past several years. He described the Youth City Council as a youth-led organization that provides opportunities for teenagers to develop leadership skills through community service, civic engagement, and participation in City activities. He highlighted a variety of Youth City Council service activities, including assisting with community events such as the Easter egg hunt, food drives for the Bountiful Food Bank, placing flags on veterans’ graves, supporting informational outreach efforts, participating in civic education activities, and engaging in leadership conferences and mock governmental processes. Mr. Groberg noted that youth participants fund certain program-related expenses themselves, with City budget allocations helping to support participation in leadership activities and conferences. He emphasized the positive impact of the program on youth development and encouraged the City Council to continue financial support for the Youth City Council

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>:
6.1 Amendment to FY 2025-2026 Budget (Resolution 2026-10)

City Manager Darren Frandsen presented the proposed budget amendments, noting that budget adjustments are made throughout the fiscal year as necessary to address variances in expenditures and ensure accounts remain properly funded. He reported that in the General Fund, attorney fees exceeded the originally budgeted amount and are proposed to be increased by approximately $25,000, bringing the total budgeted amount to approximately $63,000 for the fiscal year. He further reported that in the Water Fund, expenditures for equipment, supplies, and maintenance exceeded budget due to unanticipated repairs, including broken hydrants and related system issues. This line item is proposed to be increased by approximately $45,000, bringing the total to approximately $95,000. City Manager Darren Frandsen also explained that approximately $107,000 in capital outlay impact fee funding is being removed from the current year's budget due to timing and eligibility of an associated project. He noted that these funds are restricted and will be returned to the appropriate impact fee fund for future use on eligible projects. He clarified that the amendments are intended to properly align budgeted amounts with actual expenditures and fund restrictions.

The Public Hearing opened 0:32 into the meeting.

Dale Kunkel, regarding the proposed budget amendments. Expressed concern over the proposed increase in the City's attorney fee budget, noting that it represented a significant increase over prior years. He questioned the circumstances that led to the additional legal expenses and encouraged the Council to consider ways to reduce such costs in future budget years. He acknowledged that, while the increase is relatively small within the overall City budget, it remains a significant expenditure and expressed hope that similar increases can be avoided in the future.

Council Member Gary Anderson made a motion to Close the public hearing Council Member Mark Cottrell seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the City Council at (0:34)

- Gary Anderson –YES
- Mark Cottrell – YES
- David Hale—YES
- Eileen Moss—YES
- Blake Winslow –YES

Motion Carried (5-0)

6.2 Adopting FY 2027 Operating Budget and Certified Tax Rate # 0.001693 (Resolution 2026-11)

City Manager Darren Frandsen presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget. He noted that the budget development process began earlier in the year and has included multiple Council work sessions to review the City's various funds and operating needs. He reported that the certified tax rate for Fiscal Year 2027 was received from the County and explained that the proposed certified tax rate is **0.001693**, a decrease from the prior year's rate of **0.001717**. He noted that, due to growth and other factors included in the certified tax rate calculation, projected property tax revenues are expected to increase slightly despite the lower tax rate.

The Public Hearing opened 0:36 into the meeting.

Eileen Moss shared comparative information regarding municipal property taxes and utility franchise fees among Davis County cities. Using an example of an owner-occupied home valued at $800,000, she explained that while Fruit Heights' property tax may appear higher than some neighboring communities, the City does not impose a utility franchise fee on gas and electric services. She noted that when utility franchise fees charged by other cities are considered, the overall cost to residents in Fruit Heights compares favorably with many other municipalities in Davis County. She distributed the comparison information to the Council.

Dale Kunkel regarded the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget. Mr. Kunkel stated that he has attended multiple City budget meetings over the past several years and expressed appreciation for the City's budget process. He noted that participating in budget discussions has helped him better understand municipal budgeting and City operations. He acknowledged that City government and the budget process can be complex and expressed appreciation for the Council's efforts to maintain the City's fiscal responsibility. He commended the City Council for its work on the proposed budget and encouraged the city to continue operating in a fiscally responsible manner.

Council Member Blake Winslow made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member David Hale seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the City Council at (0:41)

- Gary Anderson –YES
- Mark Cottrell – YES
- David Hale—YES
- Eileen Moss—YES
- Blake Winslow –YES

Motion Carried (5-0)

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7.1 Amendment to FY 2025-2026 Budget (Resolution 2026-10)

City Manager Darren Frandsen explained that the proposed budget amendments for the current fiscal year and the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget are separate agenda items and would be considered and voted on independently. Following the clarification, no additional discussion was offered regarding the proposed budget amendments.

7.2 Adopting FY 2027 Operating Budget and Certified Tax Rate # 0.001693 (Resolution 2026-11)

City Manager Darren Frandsen reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, noting it was developed over several months with input from each Council Member. He thanked the Council for their participation and engagement throughout the budget process. He explained that although the budget is being considered for final adoption, it may be amended during the fiscal year as operational needs arise. He also reviewed the requirement to adopt the certified tax rate in conjunction with the budget, noting that it is calculated by the County, reviewed by the Utah State Tax Commission, and certified to the city for adoption. The proposed certified tax rate for Fiscal Year 2027 is 0.001693.

City Manager Darren Frandsen confirmed that adoption of the budget and certified tax rate constitutes final approval and noted that a Truth in Taxation hearing is not required because no tax increase is being proposed. The mayor thanked staff for their work in preparing the budget and noted the Council's ongoing involvement throughout the process. He also reminded the Council that the fiscal year begins July 1 and invited final discussion.

City Manager Darren Frandsen explained that the Council may amend the budget throughout the fiscal year through formal budget amendment processes, which include public hearings and Council approval. He noted that unspent or unused funds may remain in or be returned to appropriate fund balances depending on restrictions and project completion.

Fund Balances and Budget Structure Council Member Moss expressed concerns regarding fund balance levels, capital project totals, and budget presentation clarity. She suggested improved consolidated reporting by category (e.g., salaries, benefits, and major funds) and recommended ongoing review of enterprise fund balances, including the Vehicle & Equipment, Solid Waste, and Sewer Funds. She also discussed recent changes in state requirements for budgeting employee benefits, noting that municipalities must now budget full eligible benefit costs for all employees regardless of participation, which increases reported expenditures without necessarily increasing actual usage.

Restricted Funds and Road Projects Council Member Moss raised concerns about transferring General Fund dollars into restricted funds, particularly the Class C Road Fund, and encouraged clearer budgeting practices to ensure appropriate use of restricted revenues. There are approximately $900,000 in planned road projects for the fiscal year, including about 11 roadway projects**.**

Council discussion addressed proposed compensation adjustments, including a 3.5% COLA and a proposed 3% merit component**.** Council Member Moss emphasized the need for structured pay practices and equity across pay levels.

The City Manager explained that COLA is calculated as a flat dollar amount based on average wages, ensuring equal dollar increases for all employees. He stated that merit pay is based on performance evaluations, training, goal completion, and expanded responsibilities.

He further noted that employees frequently perform multiple roles due to the City's small staffing structure and that compensation benchmarking was conducted with comparable municipalities, though direct comparisons are complex. He emphasized recruitment and retention challenges, noting that employees often leave for higher-paying opportunities after gaining experience. The City Manager recommended that the Council consider adopting a formal pay scale policy to guide future compensation adjustments.

Council Members discussed the Youth City Council program, noting its value in youth development and civic engagement. Funding was discussed. It was noted that the program is currently awaiting new leadership and has approximately **16 new applicants and 20 returning members**. Council reaffirmed support for the program while discussing appropriate funding levels and structure.

Budget Summary – Salaries and Benefits Council reviewed the proposed budget increases totaling approximately **$399,407**, including:

- **$178,447 in salary increases.**
- **$222,960 in benefit increases**

Council discussed the impact of state-mandated benefit costs and overall fiscal exposure. It was noted that benefit increases account for a significant portion of the adjustment.

Staff reported that the sewer district will implement a $3 monthly fee increase**,** effective after the July billing cycle, and confirmed the City will pass the increase through to customers.

<u>ACTION ITEMS:</u>
8.1 Resolution 2026-10 Amendment to FY 2025-2026 Budget

Council Member Gary Anderson made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 Amendment to FY 2025-2026 Budget Council Member Mark Cottrell seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the City Council at (1:30)

- Eileen Moss—YES
- David Hale—YES
- Blake Winslow –YES

- Gary Anderson –YES
- Gary Anderson –YES

Motion Carried (5-0)

8.2 Resolution 2026-11 Adopt/Deny Adopting FY 2027 Operating Budget and Certified Tax Rate # 0.001693

Council Member Mark Cottrell made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-11 Deny Adopting FY 2027 Operating Budget and Certified Tax Rate # 0.001693 Council Member Blake Winslow seconded the motion.

Council Member Eileen Moss made a substitute motion to amend the proposed budget by:

- Reducing the Youth City Council budget to **$5,500**, and
- Approving a **3.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)** with a **3% amount available for merit increases (capped)**.

Council Member Gary Anderson seconded the motion.

Council Member Cottrell expressed opposition to the substitute motion,

Council Member Hale expressed support for the proposed compensation structure, stating confidence in City administration to manage merit pay within the parameters approved by Council. He noted that a 3% merit allocation, in addition to a 3.5% COLA, was reasonable.

The mayor requested clarification regarding the proposed reduction of the Youth City Council budget to **$5,500.**

Council Member Moss stated the reduction was intended to align closely with prior year expenditures while ensuring that participation remains a privilege and not an expectation. She expressed the belief that participants should have some level of personal investment in program activities.

Council discussion followed regarding historical participation costs and program structure. It was explained that Youth City Council participation fees have historically included modest participant contributions (approximately $25–$50 depending on activity) and that apparel costs are typically covered by participants. Mayor Groberg also noted that participation in events such as “Day on the Hill” and USU-related activities is limited by capacity, scheduling, and school conflicts, meaning not all participants attend every event.

The program budgeting is based on actual estimated costs for planned activities, with partial cost-sharing from participant fees. It was noted that participation levels vary by event, and that selection is typically based on availability and program structure.

Council discussion included differing perspectives regarding the purpose of the program. Supporters emphasized that the Youth City Council provides civic engagement, leadership development, and service opportunities, and that City funding represents an investment in youth development and community engagement. It was also noted that the program contributes volunteer service hours and supports City events.

Concerns were also raised regarding prior incidents involving Youth City Council participants at a Utah State University-related activity. It was clarified that any disciplinary actions taken were handled at the program level and did not involve taxpayer funds.

Council discussed the substitute motion, clarifying that the proposed 3.5% COLA and 3% merit allocation established a maximum amount available for merit increases and was not intended to limit employee promotions or other necessary personnel adjustments. The City Manager expressed concerns regarding budget flexibility, and Council clarified that the motion provided direction on compensation rather than reducing the overall salary budget.

Council also continued discussing the Youth City Council budget. Members considered participation costs, program funding, and recent program concerns. A compromise to reduce the Youth City Council budget to $6,500 was discussed.

Council Member Moss revised her substitute motion to:

- *Set the **Youth City Council budget at $6,500**, while leaving the overall budget amount unchanged and directing staff not to exceed that amount without further Council approval.*
- *Leave the overall salary budget as proposed, including planned promotions.*
- *Provide for a **3.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)** and **up to a 3% merit increase**. Any merit increases exceeding 3% would require staff to return to the Council for consideration and approval.*

Council Member Gary Anderson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the City Council at (1:55)

- Gary Anderson –YES
- Mark Cottrell—NO
- David Hale—YES
- Eileen Moss—YES
- Blake Winslow –YES

Motion Carried (4-1)

8.3 City Council Meeting minutes for June 2, 2026

Council Member Gary Anderson made a motion to approve City Council Meeting minutes for June 2, 2026. Council Member Blake Winslow second the motion.

The motion was approved by the City Council at (1:58)

- Gary Anderson –YES
- Mark Cottrell—YES
- David Hale—YES
- Eileen Moss—YES
- Blake Winslow –YES

Motion Carried (5-0)

TABLED ITEMS:
None

NEW BUSINESS FOR UPCOMING MEETING-NO ACTION
None

CALENDAR:
June 19, 2026, Juneteenth office will be closed.
June 23, 2026, Primary Election
June 29, 2026, America 250 Celebrating Country, and Home 5:30 to 8:30pm at City Hall
June 30, 2026, Planning Commission Meeting
July 3,2026 office will be closed to observe the 4th of July.
July 7, 2026, City Council Meeting

CLOSED SESSION:
None

ADJOURNMENT:
Council Member Blake Winslow made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Council Member Gary Anderson seconding the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Council. (9:03)

Date approved by City Council: July 7, 2026

/S/: Hailee Ballingham

Hailee Ballingham, City Deputy Recorder