



Town Council Special Meeting

Minutes

Monday, June 29, 2026 at 12:00 pm

Public Access

Meeting access is available electronically. See <https://dutchjohn.gov/pages/calendar> for more details.

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Minutes:

- Town Council: Butch Johns, Harriet Dickerson, Sandy Kunkel, Amy McDonald, Rachel Albritton
- Public: Al Pulham, Scott Gough

3. Freedom Festival and Fireworks Display Cancellation Consideration - Discussion and Possible Action

Minutes:

The Council met to discuss canceling the Freedom Fest Fireworks show scheduled for July 4.

Discussion

- Due to extremely dry conditions and the current high risk of wildfires across Utah, members felt it would be irresponsible to proceed.
- The Governor indicated that resources are scarce, and towns may be on their own if a fire occurs.
- The town faced significant challenges securing liability insurance, as the provider was unresponsive and difficult to work with late in the planning process.
- Late planning and coordination challenges regarding ambulance services and crew scheduling contributed to the consensus that they could not reliably host the event.

During the meeting, there was some public pushback questioning the necessity of canceling the fireworks due to fire concerns.

- Attendees questioned if the local fire risk was as severe as reported, suggesting that the broader situation in Utah might be creating unnecessary "hype."
- Several participants argued that the town has a competent fire department that

has successfully managed minor incidents in the past, implying they could handle any potential issues.

- It was noted that, historically, there have not been significant fires caused by fireworks in the town, leading some to believe the concern was overstated.
- Concerns were expressed that canceling the event, especially during the 250th anniversary, represented a missed opportunity for the town.

After discussion, the council voted to cancel the fireworks show for this year.

Vote

- Butch Johns - yes
- Harriet Dickerson - Yes
- Sandy Kunkel - Yes
- Amy McDonald - No
- Rachel Albritton - Yes

Next Steps

- While the fireworks are canceled, the council intends to proceed with the planned breakfast and profits would be donated to the local fire department. Contact local media outlets to notify the public of the fireworks cancellation.

4. Adjournment

Contact: Amy McDonald (amcdonald@dutchjohn.org 801-243-1463) | Minutes published on 07/09/2026, adopted on 07/08/2026



Deputy Clerk