



**PAROWAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 25, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.
PAROWAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
35 E. 100 N., PAROWAN, UT 84761**

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Mollie Halterman, Councilmember Lyle Barton, David Burton, John Dean, David Harris, and Rochell Topham

City Staff Present: Dan Jessen, City Manager; Chief Addison Adams, Parowan PD; Aldo Biasi, Public Works Superintendent; Anna Carlson, Pool Manager; Callie Bassett, City Recorder.

Excused: Scott Burns, City Attorney

Committee Members Present: Steve Decker, Parowan Arts Program; Marta Mitchell, Parowan Arts Program

Public Present: Hannes Frischnecht, Jordan Hirschi, Larry Zajac, Jill Decker

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Mayor Mollie Halterman called the Parowan City Council meeting to order on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 5:30 PM. Mayor Halterman noted that City Attorney Scott Burns was excused due to his involvement with fire response efforts in the Paiute area.

2. Opening Ceremonies

The invocation was offered by Steve Decker, who also led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Declaration of Conflicts With or Personal Interest In any Agenda Items

Mayor Halterman called for declarations of conflict with or personal interest in any agenda items. All Council Members present responded in the negative.

4. Public Comments

Two members of the public addressed the Council.

Marta Mitchell expressed appreciation to Parowan City's public works staff for their recent road improvement work in her neighborhood.

Jordan Hirschi raised a concern regarding trees located on city-owned property in front of her residence, stating that she had been informed she was financially responsible for trimming trees that the city owns. She asked that the matter be placed on a future agenda for discussion. Mayor Halterman acknowledged the confusion surrounding the relevant ordinances, noting that the Shade Tree Commission has also experienced difficulty making determinations in similar situations. She indicated that the cost of a city-wide tree trimming program had previously been found to be prohibitively expensive. The Mayor agreed the topic warranted revisiting. Lyle Barton, identifying himself as a member of the Shade Tree Committee, invited Ms. Hirschi to contact him directly to review the trees in question.

PRESENTATION:

5. Amendments to the FY2026 Budget

Dan Jessen presented the proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, noting that this is the final opportunity to amend the current year's budget before the close of June. He explained that without amendments, departments that exceed their budgeted amounts could result in audit findings.

Dan summarized two broad categories of amendments. The first category consisted of routine housekeeping true-ups, including adjustments to depreciation expenses in several utility funds and corrections to benefit line items such as retirement, workers' compensation, and FICA. The second category addressed several noteworthy items: budget adjustments related to the 200 South grant project, which was not anticipated at the time the budget was created and will be fully invoiced within the fiscal year; a significant increase in the Planning and Zoning engineering line item driven by subdivision and development review costs that are passed through to developers; major unplanned maintenance events at the 300 East Well, Canyon Well, and Four Bay Well; and unusually high utility bills at the 300 East Well, which staff attributed likely to a malfunctioning Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) that caused demand charge spikes. Additional adjustments were noted for road repair materials, Library HVAC costs stemming from last summer's air conditioning failure, a previously council-approved police truck purchase, and a \$2,000 catch-up contribution to a separate fund. City Manager Jessen indicated that a summary document had been distributed to the Council showing original budget figures alongside the proposed changes.

David Burton briefly inquired about a line item for Old Rock Church maintenance. Dan clarified that no amendment to that line item was included in the current document, as the Daughters of Utah Pioneers had cash-flowed the majority of the roof repair project directly.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

6. Consider Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Amended Budget

Rochell Topham moved to open the public hearing to consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Amended Budget. David Burton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The public hearing was opened. No members of the public offered comment. Mayor Halterman noted, with good humor, that budget hearings are reliably among the least attended public hearings in municipal government.

Rochell Topham moved to close the public hearing. David Burton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

7. City Council Meeting Minutes from June 11, 2026

8. Warrant Register for June 25, 2026

David Burton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 7 and 8. John Dean seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION AGENDA:

9. Consider Adoption of the FY2026 Amended Budget

David Burton moved to adopt the FY2026 Amended Budget. Rochell Topham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and Consideration of Fee Schedule for Pool and City Rec

Dan Jessen provided background, noting that staff had brought fee schedule recommendations to the Council two meetings prior. Discussion at that time had resulted in the item being tabled so that Pool Manager Anna Carlson could be present. John Dean had since submitted additional suggestions to staff and the Council for consideration.

Dan outlined the key topics requiring resolution: resident versus non-resident pricing on expanded fee categories; the potential introduction of family season passes; whether spectators entering the facility should pay a fee and at what rate; the establishment of pavilion rental fees; a review of after-hours rental rates; and a proposed concession punch card.

Pool Revenue and Operations Update: Pool Manager Anna Carlson reported that as of the prior week, pool revenue for the 2026 season stood at \$16,885, compared to \$14,169 at the same point in 2025—an increase of nearly \$3,000. She attributed part of the improvement to the resolution of an internet connectivity issue that had previously slowed payment processing and discouraged patrons. She reported that 158 punch passes had been sold to date at \$40 each (15 punches, saving the purchaser \$20), and that customers have responded positively to the format, frequently purchasing multiple passes. She noted that large out-of-town groups regularly call ahead and purchase punch passes in lieu of group discounts, and that the passes carry over to the following year if unused.

Family Season Passes: John Dean reported that he had informally surveyed several community members and researched seven pools between Layton and Sand Hollow, finding that the average family season pass price was approximately \$204. He noted that for a family of four or five children attending three days per week over a 12-week season, the cost through individual punch passes would significantly exceed the cost of a season pass. Rochell Topham agreed that if a season pass were offered, it should be priced above \$250 to appropriately reflect the value. Anna Carlson expressed the view that a season pass was unnecessary given the popularity and flexibility of punch passes, and that a season pass priced at \$250–\$300 would represent an undervaluation of the facility. She suggested that any family season pass, if adopted, should be priced at no less than \$450 for residents and \$500 for non-residents. David Burton indicated he viewed the punch pass as a sufficient mechanism and was not convinced a season pass was needed. Mayor Halterman noted the practical enforcement complexity of defining family membership for a season pass. The Council reached general consensus that family season passes, if introduced at all, should be considered for the 2027 season rather than the current year.

Spectator Admission Fee: Dan Jessen clarified that when the pool reopened, the intent had been for all individuals entering the facility—including non-swimming spectators—to pay the full general admission rate. Over time, however, that practice had not been consistently enforced. Staff had subsequently proposed a discounted spectator admission rate of \$2.50, which Anna Carlson had already begun implementing. Rochell Topham raised the question of whether the \$2.50 spectator fee had ever been formally approved by the Council, to which Dan confirmed it had not—it had been implemented by staff. The Council agreed that the spectator fee should be formally adopted.

Timing of Changes: Anna Carlson strongly advised against implementing any significant fee changes mid-season, noting that the pool operation had reached a stable rhythm and that altering fees now would create unnecessary disruption for both staff and patrons who had already been quoted and charged under the current structure. She also noted that after-hours pool rentals were nearly fully booked for the season and that previously quoted prices should be honored. John Dean acknowledged the late start

in pricing decisions and proposed that, going forward, fee schedule matters be resolved at least two months before the pool opens for the season. The Council agreed with this approach.

Capital Reserves for Pool Infrastructure: David Burton raised the importance of setting aside funds for future capital expenditures such as pool heater replacement, estimated at approximately \$35,000 plus installation. Anna Carlson concurred, also noting ongoing needs for furniture replacement and other maintenance. Dan confirmed that the mechanism available would be to budget an annual transfer into a capital projects fund, similar to how the city manages capital reserves for other infrastructure such as the firehouse.

Following discussion, Lyle Barton moved to leave the pool fee schedule status quo for the remainder of the current season and to review the financials at season's end before making any adjustments, with all fee schedule decisions to be finalized at least two months before the pool opens for the 2027 season. The motion was amended by Lyle Barton to also formally adopt the \$2.50 spectator admission fee that had been implemented by staff.

Lyle Barton moved to leave the pool fee schedule status quo for the current season, review financials at the end of the season, and make necessary adjustments no later than two months before the 2027 pool season opens, with an amendment to formally adopt the new spectator admission fee of \$2.50. David Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried 4–1, with John Dean voting against.

WORK AGENDA:

11. Report on Parowan Art Program: Steve Decker

Steve Decker presented the Third Annual Parowan Visual Art Program report, accompanied by Marta Mitchell and his wife, Jill Decker, both active program participants. Key highlights of the report included:

Program Statistics: Average attendance across all art programs was 13 participants per session, with the Third Thursday program averaging 17. Approximately one-third of attendees come from outside the Parowan High School boundaries, representing communities such as Cedar City and Enoch. The program recorded 385 total door count visits from at least 97 unique participants.

Third Thursday Program: Monthly classes have featured professional artist mentors covering a variety of mediums including watercolor, pastel, and acrylics. Marta Mitchell, a 34-year Parowan High School teacher, has served as mentor for many sessions.

Bodies of Art: Launched through a Utah Arts and Humanities grant, this monthly program on the first Tuesday of each month features live figure drawing sessions with community models, including a holiday session with Santa Claus and a Valentine's Day session with the City Treasurer Jerry Ross and his wife. Average attendance is approximately 8, and Mr. Decker noted the program will continue as long as attendance remains above six.

Creative Aging Grant: The program received the grant for a second consecutive year, this year funding an oil painting class focused on Parowan history. Approximately two-thirds of participants had never previously worked in oils. Topics studied included Hatch and Davenport pottery, local agriculture, and the WPA-constructed cemetery wall, with Mr. Decker noting that research corrected a longstanding community belief that the wall was a CCC project.

Expansion Programs: A Saturday morning abstract painting (Dutch pour) class was piloted with positive results, though Mr. Decker cautioned against growing too quickly and diluting the established programs.

A multi-week midwinter experience is being planned, with stained glass and sculpture under consideration.

Community Studio and Gallery: Mr. Decker reported that the program is exploring the development of a community studio and gallery on the property behind the Jesse Smith Home, which would place it in proximity to the war memorial, rock church, and Smith Home and within walking distance of local schools. The Smith family has been contacted, and discussions are ongoing without resolution at this time.

Return on Investment: Mr. Decker estimated a return on investment of approximately 254 percent—approximately \$2.54 returned to the community for every dollar spent. The program will actively pursue fundraising this year, including a QR code donation system tied directly to the program's budget line. Mayor Halterman asked whether the program would be suitable to apply for grants related to addressing epidemic-level social isolation, referencing a recent Healthy Utah informational call. Mr. Decker affirmed that it would, and John Dean elaborated on the call's findings that one in three people experience loneliness regularly, with older adults disproportionately affected. Mr. Decker noted that the Creative Aging grant is specifically designed for residents aged 55 and above and aligns directly with those goals. He distributed brochures for the fourth year of the program and directed the public to the Parowan City Arts page for the most current calendar.

12. Discussion Regarding Speeding Issues and Possible Solutions

Dan Jessen introduced the discussion, noting a pattern of recurring speeding complaints, particularly on 300 East—a road he described as especially prone to speed due to its downhill grade, atypical width, and use as a shortcut between the Paragonah Highway and State Route 143. He indicated that discussions with UDOT stemming from a recent traffic study on SR-143 have already advanced to exploring solar-powered radar speed feedback signs on that corridor.

Dan presented pricing information obtained from Utah Barricade for a solar radar speed sign, estimated at approximately \$3,600–\$3,800 for the sign and pole, not including installation labor. Public Works Director Aldo Biasi noted that he had also submitted a request to AllTraffic for a competing quote and would explore whether bulk purchasing discounts or grant funding might be available to offset the cost. Chief of Police Addison Adams confirmed that the two solar radar speed signs already installed on SR-91 had produced a dramatic reduction in both complaints and observed speeds on that corridor, and that the improvement has been sustained over time. He described the signs as highly effective, noting that most speeding occurs from inattention rather than willful disregard, and that immediate visual feedback is a strong behavioral correction. Chief Adams noted that officers do conduct periodic radar enforcement on 300 East and other complaint corridors—including 400 North and 600 West—but that observed violations tend to be in the 3–5 mph over range rather than egregious speeds, and that police presence alone produces the same slowing effect as the signs.

David Burton suggested exploring whether UDOT might share in the cost of a sign on 300 East, given their frequent use of that road to access the canyon. Council Member Barton identified 2200 South near Eagle Rock as an additional speeding concern, particularly given a new residential driveway on a curve. Chief Adams agreed it was a known problem area as well.

Mayor Halterman recalled a prior discussion with UDOT's Cody Marchant regarding a 50/50 cost share for a sign on 200 South, with the city's share estimated at \$5,800 of an \$11,600 total—which she considered too high relative to the city's budget constraints. She expressed greater interest in the lower-cost signs as a means of deploying multiple units. The Council discussed the possibility of phasing

purchases over multiple years, acquiring one sign per year, and evaluating whether a direct power connection (rather than solar) near certain locations could reduce costs.

Dan Jessen and Chief Adams discussed the potential value of a portable radar speed trailer as a complementary tool, though no pricing was available and cost was expected to be higher. No specific action was taken; staff was directed to continue researching pricing, bulk discounts, and grant opportunities and to report back to the Council.

13. Reports, Updates, Old Business Follow Up: Elected Officials and Staff

Council Member David Burton reported that work on the cemetery expansion is ongoing. He noted that the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has expressed willingness to explore options for installing an aerator at Makes Pond, which has experienced declining dissolved oxygen levels affecting fish health. DWR has not made funding commitments but has agreed to investigate possibilities. David also reported that the Patchwork Byways organization has secured all necessary funding and grants and is working to relocate a musical monument—composed for the Philharmonic Orchestra's bicentennial recording—from its current location at White Ledges to the Lions Park kiosk, where it will be accessible to the public via a QR code audio link.

Council Member John Dean reported attending the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, at which conditional use permits for commercial signs, commercial sign code revisions, and the question of whether building permits should be required for residential reroofing were discussed. He also participated in a Zoom check-in with the Parowan Recreation Atlas team reviewing public engagement results, visitation analysis, site visit findings, and candidate project focus areas for outdoor economy planning. John reported attending a webinar on a new social connection community grant of up to \$2,500, and noted the Parowan City Library's ongoing Tuesday outdoor reading program as another community engagement effort. He reported on a community walk audit held the prior day through the Parowan Community Garden initiative, with approximately 20 participants walking two routes to assess food access and walkability. Both routes confirmed the presence of food resources including restaurants, the market, and Grace Christian Church's twice-monthly food distribution. Rochell Topham added that the walk audit also identified sidewalks in need of repair to improve accessibility.

Council Member Lyle Barton reported that the Iron County Commission meeting was relatively quiet. He commended the public works department for the appearance of the recently improved streets and specifically recognized Jordan Hershey for remaining through the full meeting.

Council Member David Harris reported on the 200 South Interchange. He said the property owners got together and had a good discussion towards finding a solution for the issues there.

Council Member Rochell Topham reported no formal meetings beyond the walk audit referenced above.

City Manager Dan Jessen provided several updates:

Fire and Emergency Preparedness: Dan reported that the city's Facebook page has been active in response to public concerns about nearby wildfires, including correcting misinformation about potential evacuations. He briefed the Council on the Cottonwood Fire near Beaver, which escalated rapidly and required emergency evacuation of the mountain. He encouraged all residents to maintain a state of readiness consistent with the state's "Ready, Set, Go" framework—keeping important documents accessible and maintaining a go bag. He noted that the Governor issued an executive order regarding fireworks restrictions, though he clarified that under state code, a complete ban is legally complex, as

the mechanism for restricting areas rests with the fire chief designating hazard areas. The City's established approach of directing residents to the fairgrounds parking lot—which will be cleared of dry vegetation—for consumer fireworks was discussed and affirmed by the Council as the appropriate course of action. Chief Adams and the Council agreed that providing a designated, managed location is preferable to an outright ban, which could push activity to uncontrolled areas. No special meeting was deemed necessary; the current plan was considered sufficient.

Rocky Mountain Power: Dan advised that Rocky Mountain Power has been considering public safety power shutoffs on distribution circuits across the region due to fire danger. The city has been informed that Parowan City's fire-hardened high-voltage transmission line is not currently planned for shutoff, though conditions may change. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Everbridge emergency notifications and to be aware that the city also utilizes Yopify to reach utility customers with landline phones.

Building Inspections Agreement: Dan reported that Enoch City has countersigned the building inspections agreement. The City will continue using the CityInspect online permitting platform, with Enoch City personnel performing physical inspections.

Code Enforcement and Vegetation: Dan noted that code enforcement letters will be sent to property owners with overgrown dry vegetation. City staff will prioritize clearing the fairgrounds and surrounding city properties in advance of the Fourth of July.

Marathon Sale: Dan reported that a professional event management company has approached the city about purchasing the rights to the annual Parowan Marathon, currently managed by Jet, for \$7,000. The group had been prepared to run a marathon in Beaver that was cancelled due to the fire and expressed interest in potentially incorporating Parowan's existing registrations this season. He noted that Marathon Coordinator Jet Smith is supportive of the transition. The Council discussed the implications for law enforcement support, with Chief Adams noting the significant staffing demands of the event and the importance of setting clear expectations with any purchasing entity regarding what city support can realistically be provided. The Council expressed general comfort with allowing administration to proceed with the transaction as an administrative decision, with the direction that law enforcement cost and availability expectations be clearly communicated to the purchasing group.

Mayor Halterman reported attending an informational session on the Governor's attainable housing initiative, branded as the State Housing Infrastructure Program (SHIP). The session focused on system-level infrastructure funding, which did not present an immediate opportunity for Parowan at this time, though the Mayor noted the city will continue monitoring the program as employment and development opportunities in the area evolve.

14. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

15. Adjourn

David Burton moved to adjourn the meeting. Rochell Topham seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Signatures on next page.



Mollie Halterman, Mayor



Callie Bassett, CMC, City Recorder

Date Approved: 
