

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 16, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the Washington County Commission was called to order by Chairman Adam Snow at 4:00 p.m. on June 16, 2026, in the Washington County Commission Chambers, and via Zoom 111 East Tabernacle, St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Commissioner Adam Snow, Commissioner Gil Almquist, Commissioner Victor Iverson, Deputy County Attorney Devin Snow, County Administrator Nicholle Felshaw and Deputy Clerk Sarah Lloyd.

**INVOCATION BY: Rabbi Helene Ainbinder**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chief Ivor Fuller**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*(None presented.)*

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting the consideration of routine matters. If a commissioner requests that items be removed from the consent agenda, those items are placed at the beginning of the regular agenda. Other than requests to remove items, a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda is not debatable.

- Consideration of Auditor-Approved Claims for Payment for June 3, 2026, through June 16, 2026.
- Consideration of Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2026
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Personal Property
- Consideration of License Agreement with Intermountain Health for Temporary Trailhead Parking

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve the Consent Agenda as Outlined. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.**

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY**

Roads Superintendent Dean Wulffenstein recognized Nick Cottam on his 20 years of service to Washington County. Commissioner Gil Almquist recognized Treasurer David Whitehead on his 20 years of service to Washington County.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Snow to Move the Search and Rescue Report Until All Search and Rescue Volunteers Arrive. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**PRESENTATION: WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR WINS BEST OF SOUTHERN UTAH AWARD**

Fair Director & Event Manager Susi Lafaele reported that the Washington County Fair won gold as Best Annual Event/Festival for the third year in a row.

**CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE REQUESTS:**

Roads, Specialty Chip Oil ..... (\$349,00.00)  
Sheriff, K9 Vehicles ..... (\$123,692.00)  
Dixie Center, Exhibit Hall Can-Light Replacement/Upgrade ..... (\$155,430.00)

*All purchases are budgeted, bonded, or paid for through grant funds.*

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Approve the Purchase Requests as Outlined. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE 2026 WASHINGTON COUNTY TAX SALE**

Clerk/Auditor Ryan Sullivan reported there were four total properties in the 2026 Tax Sale. Two remnant properties sold to the neighboring property owners, and it is recommended the remaining two properties be struck to the County, with the properties being struck to the cities they are in later.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Approve 2026 Washington County Tax Sale as Outlined. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE 2026 CERTIFIED TAX RATES FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Mr. Sullivan explained the certified tax rate for Washington County will be as follows: General Operations rate is 0.000364; the Library Rate is 0.000126 for a total budgeted revenue of \$20,599,445. The County Assessing & Collecting Rate is 0.000225 for a total budget of \$9,550,351.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve 2026 Certified Tax Rates. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1322, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9, BUILDINGS, LAND AND CONSTRUCTION, BY ADDING CHAPTER 6, EARTHEN BUILDING, MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES**

Washington County Engineer Elliott Taylor explained the proposed amendments to Title 9 to establish construction standards for the construction of buildings with adobe, rammed earth and compressed earth blocks.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Adopt Ordinance No. 2026-1322-O, An Ordinance Adopting and Amending Title 9, Buildings, Lands and Construction, by Adding Chapter 6, Earthen Building, Materials and Construction and Other Miscellaneous Changes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT / SAR RECOGNITION: WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sargeant Jacob Paul of the Washington County Sheriff's Office reported there were nine (9) total calls from May 18<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup> with a total of 474.5 man-hours. There has been a total of 57 SAR incidents in 2026.

(See attached report.)

Sargeant Paul also reported at the recent SAR training, Washington County was well represented winning both the SAR Rodeo and the Shooting Event.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3774, A RESOLUTION APPROVING ANNUAL TRCCA FUNDING BY WASHINGTON COUNTY TO THE LIONS CLUB FOR HOSTING THE DIXIE ROUNDUP RODEO AND ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Mr. Sullivan explained the Lions Club hosts the Dixie Roundup Rodeo and Washington County has contributed TRCCA funding for many years, with this Resolution solidifying the annual funding of \$12,000 per year.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3774, A Resolution Approving Annual TRCCA Funding by Washington County to the Lions Club for Hosting the Dixie Roundup Rodeo and Associated Community Events. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3775, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT TO REMOVE MANURE AT LEGACY PARK**

Deputy County Attorney Devin Snow stated that Legacy Park hosts equestrian events that generate manure that needs to be removed. It is recommended that Bang Concrete LLC be contracted with to remove that manure.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3775, A Resolution Approving an Agreement to Remove Manure at Legacy Park. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3776, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE VIRGIN RIVER LAND PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION FOR A PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL LAND USE CONSERVATION**

Mr. Snow explained with the passing of House Bill 237 in 2025, Washington County desires to strategically execute open space and conservation initiatives. Virgin River Land Trust and Washington County would like to create a collaborative partnership to promote the long-term success of House Bill 237 by proving conservation planning expertise to Washington County.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3776, A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virgin River Land Preservation Association for a Partnership for Regional Land Use Conservation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3777, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MINOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT TO THE RED CLIFFS DESERT RESERVE**

Habitat Conservation Plan Director Cameron Rognan stated Washington County adopted Resolution No. R-2026-3370 to approve a boundary adjustment, however the property owner subsequently asked that a slight modification be made. This Resolution would repeal said Resolution to adjust the boundary accordingly.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3777, A Resolution Approving a Minor Boundary Adjustment to the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3778, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND YOUR BUCKET LIST GUIDE FOR SATELLITE MEDIA TOUR AND HOSTING SERVICES**

Tourism Operations Manager Jamie Allen stated Your Bucket List Guide is an experienced media production contractor specializing in the booking, production and hosting of Satellite Media Tours under which the contractor will target six television markets, specifically Chicago, Washington D.C., Phoenix, Seattle, Denver and San Diego.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3778, A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement Between Washington County and Your Bucket List Guide for Satellite Media Tour and Hosting Services. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3779, A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH WRX CONSTRUCTION INC., FOR THE WIRE MESA, REVENANT, AND HELL HOLE TRAILHEADS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.**

Destination Development Coordinator Trista Nielson explained WRX Construction came in as the highest-ranked bid for the Wire Mesa Trailhead Expansion, Revenant Trailhead Construction and Hell Hole Trailhead Construction Project.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3779, A Resolution Approving a Construction Agreement with WRX Construction Inc. for the Wire Mesa, Revenant, and Hell Hole Trailheads Construction Project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3780, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH TRAILHAUS FOR THE CLIFFROSE TRAIL SYSTEM PHASE 3 PROJECT**

Ms. Nielson stated Washington County and Trailhaus previously entered into a Project Management Agreement for the project management of the construction of Phases 1, 2, and 2.1 and to design Phase 3, and Washington County now desires the construction of Phase 3 with an expiration date of June 30, 2027.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3780, A Resolution Approving the Second Amendment to the Project Management Agreement with Trailhaus for the Cliffrose Trail System Phase 3 Project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3781, A RESOLUTION APPROVING EASEMENTS WITH THE STATE AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION FOR A TRAIL PARK IN DESERT COLOR**



Destination Development Manager Leslie Fonger explained a mountain bike trail system and staging area on State and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) near Desert Color, and Washington County desires to use the trail park to host events such as mountain bike races. SITLA is willing to allow Washington County to enter the lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, managing and accessing a trail park. This agreement would be pending final attorney review.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3781, A Resolution Approving Easements with the State and Institutional Trust Lands Administration for a Trail Park in Desert Color. Motion seconded by Commissioner Iverson and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2026-3782, A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PARTNER CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH ZION NATIONAL PARK**

Deputy County Attorney Devin Snow explained Phase 1 of the Zion Sewer Line Extension is almost finished, and Washington County would like to add Phase 2 to the project and have Ash Creek Special Service District move forward as the contracting entity for Phase 2.

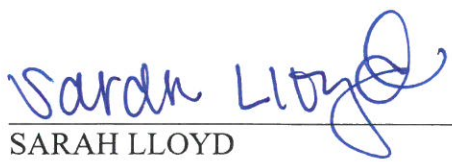
**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Iverson to Approve Resolution No. R-2026-3782, A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Partner Construction Agreement with Zion National Park. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Snow, Almquist and Iverson voting aye.**

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Almquist stated the Commissioners recently met with the organizers of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration at Greater Zion Stadium, and hopes that it will be well attended.

Commissioner Snow stated the Administration Building did not cost over \$70 million as reported, but less than ½ of that amount.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SARAH LLOYD  
DEPUTY CLERK

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ADAM SNOW  
COMMISSION CHAIR

WASHINGTON Council Commissioners

6/15/26 / 1 TAMUZ 5786 2 112

SHALOM,

I am Rabbi Helene Ainsbinder, A PAST PRESIDENT of The ST. GEORGE INTERFAITH Council, and A Member of UTAH <sup>ADVISORY</sup> COMMITTEE TO THE U.S. COMMISSIONERS ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Thank you on Behalf of The ST. GEORGE INTERFAITH Council

For allowing  
our member  
to offer

Prayers.

We pray  
for our  
Gov't officials  
Law Enforcement  
Military,  
Veterans  
FIRST Responders  
and their  
families

### ONE THING I ASK OF GOD

I'm not asking God to change the world.  
I'm not asking God to make this a world  
where people no longer die,  
where people are automatically good,  
where they must choose good  
because they are incapable of evil.

If I weren't sure of God,  
if I couldn't be sure that justice, courage, and peace  
were things God wanted,  
I'm not sure I could go on working for them.

If I didn't believe God cared about me and how I live,  
that God takes every human life seriously  
and invests it with significance,  
I couldn't believe that the world was on the way  
to becoming God's kind of world.

I think I'd be too scared of death and evil to help anyone.

So I'm not asking God to change the world for me.  
I ask only one thing of God. nothing but this:  
Reassurance that God is there.  
That God is real.  
That God makes a difference.

Let me know that.  
Let me find God  
in my own power to grow and to believe,  
to sanctify and to help others,  
and I will know that I'm not alone.  
My world will be filled with light and with strength.

PRAYER — Harold Kushner

RABBI Helene Ainsbinder

# **SAR Incident Synopsis**

**For May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 through June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Sheriff Golding,**

**Below is the SAR Report from May 18<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

## **May-June 2026 Report**

**Total Calls this report –9**

**Total Non Certified Volunteer Man Hours – 474.5**

**Total Certified Man Hours – 54**

**Total Man Hours this report –**

**Total SAR Incidents 2026 – 57**

## **Rescued Subjects 2026**

**In County Residence – 44**

**Out of County (Utah) Residence – 24**

**Out of Utah – 31**

**International – 5**

## **Highlights**

**05/19/2026 @ 1917, Lost Hikers, Red Reef Trail, Red Cliffs Desert Reserve – Man Hours– 108 (Non Certified) 4 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to Red Reef Trail on a report of two hikers who were lost near Red Reef Trail. The two individuals were instructed to stay where they made the call from. A drone was utilized to confirm the location of the hikers and SAR members responded to their GPS coordinates. They were provided fluids to re hydrate. SAR members then utilized a series of lifting and lowering rope systems to assist the hikers safely back to Incident Command. They declined medical evaluation and were returned to their vehicle.



**05/28/2026 @ 1223, Drowning, Sand Hollow Reservoir – Man Hours – 45.5 (Non Certified) 13 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to Sand Hollow State Park on a report of a 22 year old male who had gone under water while swimming to the swim dock with a group of friends. The victim was located deceased by SAR divers approximately five and a half hours after the call was dispatched at a depth of 19 feet. Evidence was gathered and the deceased male was retrieved and placed in the care of the mortuary.

**05/29/2026 @1418, Missing Person, General Steam Rd – Man Hours – 170 (Non Certified) 19 (Certified)**

On 05/29/2026 Deputies responded to General Steam Rd area after a vehicle belonging to a missing male out of Santa Clara area had been located. The male had been missing for approximately five days when the vehicle was located. There did not appear to be any recent signs of activity around the vehicle. SAR K9 Scout was deployed in an attempt to locate him. STAR9 was also requested to fly the area. Law enforcement units searched for approximately four hours without locating the missing male. A plan was made at that point to return with Search and Rescue (SAR) at first light and resume the search.

At approximately 0730 the following morning, deputies, SAR units, STAR9, and BLM rangers returned to the location of the vehicle. They began an extensive search of approximately two square miles around the vehicle location utilizing hiking teams, drones, the helicopter, and K9 Scout. SAR members searched the area for approximately 10 hours. However, despite the search parties extensive efforts, they were unable to locate the male. At that point, it was determined to call off the search due to a lack of new evidence showing that the male was still in the area.

On 05/31/2026, Deputies returned to the area and again attempted to locate the missing male using K9 scout. They were unable to locate any further sign that the missing male was still in the area.

**Additional Calls**

**05/24/2026 @1219, ATV Rollover, Sand Mountain – Man Hours – 10.5 (Non Certified) 3 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to Sand Mountain on a report of an ATV rollover. The female patient reportedly had a hand and wrist injury. SAR units located the patient and she was transported back to Incident Command. She was then loaded in an ambulance and transported to the hospital.

**05/24/2026 @ 2123, Stranded Climbers, Island in the Sky, Snow Canyon – Man Hours – 34 (Non Certified) 2 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to Island in the Sky in Snow Canyon State Park on a report of a group of three who were part way down a rappelling route and unable to find the next anchor. The group was also out of water and food. SAR High Angle Team responded to the location of the stranded group. They were provided fluids to re hydrate. They were then safely guided down the rest of the rappelling route and back to Incident Command. All three individuals declined medical evaluation.

**05/31/2026 @ 1426, Injured Hiker, Water Canyon – Man Hours – 45 (Non Certified) 4 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to Water Canyon after an SOS beacon was activated by a male and female who were on a hike. The male hiker reportedly sustained an ankle injury as a result of falling and was unable to walk. SAR members arrived and began hiking to the patient location. Due to the extreme terrain, UHP Helicopter STAR9 was requested to assist. STAR9 arrived at the patient location and both individuals were hoisted from their location to Maxwell Park in Hildale. The male was transported to the hospital via ambulance and the female was returned to her vehicle. All SAR members were accounted for as they returned to Incident Command.

**06/09/2026 @1327, Side by Side Rollover, Sand Mountain – Man Hours – 10 (Non Certified) 2 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to Sand Mountain on a report of a side by side rollover involving two occupants. One had a reported hand injury and the other a shoulder injury. SAR members, DNR Rangers, and Hurricane Valley Fire medics responded to the scene of the accident. They were loaded in a side by side and transported back to Incident Command. The two patients were then evaluated in the ambulance and declined medical transport.

**06/13/2026 @ 1342, Injured Climber, The Subway, Zion National Park – Man Hours – 27.5 (Non Certified) 2.5 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) responded to the Subway on a report of a male who had a reported ankle injury. SAR members responded to the location of the patient and he was stabilized. STAR9 was requested to assist due to the location. The patient was hoisted from the area and back to Incident Command. He was then loaded in an ambulance and transported to the hospital.

**06/13/2026 @ 1646, Boating Incident, Quail Creek – Man Hours – 24 (Non Certified) 4.5 (Certified)**

Search and Rescue (SAR) Dive Team responded to Quail Lake on a report of a boat that had sunk near the boat ramp. Dive team members utilized lift bags to recover the boat. It was then removed from the water. A large quantity of fuel spilled near the boat ramp as a result of the crash. A fuel spill kit was deployed to remove the fuel from the water.

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**Board of Equalization  
Personal Property  
Commission Meeting  
06/16/26**

[illegible]

|                                                                                                                                                         |                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Utah State Tax Commission - Property Tax Division</b><br><b>Tax Rate Summary (693)</b><br><b>ENTITY: 1020 COUNTY ASSESSING &amp; COLLECTING LEVY</b> | <b>Form PT-693</b><br>Rev. 2/15 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

WASHINGTON COUNTY

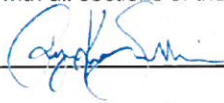
Tax Year: 2026

The Board of Commissioners for the above special district has set the current year's tax rates as

| Purpose of Tax Rate<br>(Code from Utah Code Annotated) | Auditor's<br>Tax Rate | Proposed<br>Tax Rate | Maximum<br>By Law    | Budgeted<br>Revenue |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 955 County Assessing & Collecting<br>59-2-1602(4)      | 0.000225              | 0.000225             | _____                | 9,550,351           |
| <b>Total Tax Rate</b>                                  | <b>0.000225</b>       | <b>0.000225</b>      | <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>\$9,550,351</b>  |

**Certification by Taxing Entity**

I, Ryan Sullivan, as authorized agent, hereby certify that this statement is true and correct and in compliance with all sections of the Utah State Code relating to the tax rate setting process.

Signature:  Date: 6/17/2026

Title: Clerk/Auditor Telephone: (435) 301-7220

Mailing address: 111 East Tabernacle Street, St. George, UT 84770



|                                                                                                                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Utah State Tax Commission - Property Tax Division</b><br><b>Tax Rate Summary (693)</b><br><b>ENTITY: 1010 WASHINGTON</b> | <b>Form PT-693</b><br><br>Rev. 2/15 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

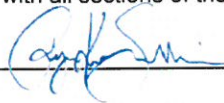
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|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 10 General Operations<br>§59-2-908                     | 0.000364              | 0.000364             | .003200/.003600      | 15,302,445          |
| 30 Library<br>§§9-7-501&10-6-133.5                     | 0.000126              | 0.000126             | 0.001                | 5,297,000           |
| <b>Total Tax Rate</b>                                  | <b>0.000490</b>       | <b>0.000490</b>      | <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>\$20,599,445</b> |

**Certification by Taxing Entity**

I, Ryan Sullivan, as authorized agent, hereby certify that this statement is true and correct and in compliance with all sections of the Utah State Code relating to the tax rate setting process.

Signature:  Date: 6/17/2026

Title: Clerk/Auditor Telephone: (435) 301-7220

Mailing address: 111 East Tabernacle Street, St. George, UT 84770