

Manti City Council Regular Meeting

MINUTES

JULY 1, 2026
6:30 PM

MANTI CITY BUILDING
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET

MEETING CALLED BY	Mayor-Pro-Tem Mary Pipes
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Council Meeting
ATTENDEES	Councilmembers: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois City Manager: Jason Brown City Recorder: Matt Gray
ABSENT	Mayor Wintch
WELCOME	Mayor-Pro-Tem Mary Pipes
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Led by Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen

Regular Meeting

ITEM 1	Declaration of Conflicts of Personal Interest
The meeting began by Mayor-Pro-Tem Mary Pipes asking the council if there were any agenda items that needed to be disclosed concerning conflicts of interest. There were no items brought before the council.	
ITEM 2	Approval of Recent Council Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2026
Mayor-Pro-Tem Mary Pipes spoke regarding the minutes for the Council meeting on June 17, 2026. She asked if there were any corrections or modifications needed for the regular City Council meeting minutes. There were no corrections noted. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes called for a motion to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2026 meeting. Councilmember Brian Francois made the motion and Councilmember Meagan Johnson seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of the City Council minutes from the June 17, 2026, meeting.	

ITEM 3	Approval of Payment Report (Bills) June 16-30, 2026
Mayor-Pro-Tem Mary Pipes proceeded by asking if there were any questions regarding the current bills. Noting that there were no questions, Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes called for a motion to approve signing of the bills from June 16-30, 2026. Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen made the motion and Councilmember AJ Mower seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of the bills from June 16-30, 2026.	

ITEM 4	Water Asset Management Plan Proposal Award
City Manager Jason Brown presented the water asset management plan proposal item and started the discussion. He stated that the city received three proposals for the water asset management plan. Manager Brown explained that the plan is required by the Division of Drinking Water for the city's water treatment plant. Manager Brown recommended awarding the proposal to Jones & DeMille Engineering, stating they provided the best bid and were the recommended choice. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes asked for a motion for approval of Jones & Demille for the water asset management plan. Councilmember AJ Mower made the motion and Councilmember Meagan Johnson seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of Jones & DeMille Engineering to be used for the city water asset management.	

Public Hearing

ITEM 5	Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed FY 2026-27 Interim Budget
Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes let Manager Brown explain the Manti fiscal year budget. After discussing several items Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes opened the public hearing on the topic. There were no public comments brought before the council. Seeing no comments Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes closed the public hearing.	

The Proposed FY 2026-27 Public Hearing closed at 6:35 pm

Public Hearing

ITEM 6	Public Hearing Regarding Executive Municipal Officer Compensation
Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes asked City Manager Brown to discuss the executive municipal officer compensation for Manti City. After displaying the compensation for the city executive employees Manager Brown turned the time to Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes who opened the public hearing on the topic. There were no public comments brought before the council. Seeing no comments Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes closed the public hearing.	

The Executive Municipal Officer Compensation Public Hearing closed at 6:39 pm

ITEM 7	Consideration and Possible Adoption of the County Auditor's Certified Tax Rate
Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes explained that the current tax rate will remain unchanged from the previous year. She requested a motion to accept the current tax rate for the year. Councilmember Brian Francois made the motion and Councilmember AJ Mower seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of the County Auditor's certified tax rate.	

ITEM 8	Sanpete County Chamber of Commerce - Membership Discussion
Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes moved on to discuss membership in the Sanpete County Chamber of Commerce. The council discussed whether Manti City should continue its membership in the Sanpete County Chamber of Commerce. Manager Brown explained that the city's annual chamber membership is due and would cost \$650. Manager Brown asked for a list of benefits the city receives from chamber membership. The council discussed several items such as: uniting county businesses, providing networking opportunities, creating partnerships between businesses across the county, training opportunities, sharing information about available grants, advocating at the legislature, and helping connect business leaders and local officials. After discussing the items listed the council stated some statistics regarding the chamber in Sanpete County. It has about 75 members countywide, at least 17 Manti businesses are members, and Manti is one of nine cities participating in the chamber. The council discussed the chamber's role in helping fill vacant storefronts on Main Street. The chamber has also discussed possible business incubator spaces, including	

small storefront or office-style spaces for startups. Several on the council have expressed support for a continued membership in the chamber. No formal vote was set forth.

ITEM 9

Annexation Policy Plan 3rd Review

The council briefly reviewed the Annexation Policy Plan. Manager Brown indicated the item was included to see whether council members had questions. Council members noted that nothing had changed since the last review. The council expects to take formal action at the next meeting on July 15, 2026, because the current moratorium ends on July 21, 2026.

ITEM 10

Subdivision Ordinance 3rd Review

The council briefly reviewed the Subdivision Ordinance. Manager Brown displayed a water plan from 2022 and indicated that he wanted to discuss the water plan because of the outdoor watering requirements in the ordinance. Several facts regarding the previous water plan were discussed. It was noted that some of the wording had changed after a meeting with the district engineer over water and the latest version is available to the council. The council acknowledged that they needed to review the new material prior to the next meeting so that formal action can be taken before the subdivision moratorium ends on July 21, 2026.

ITEM 11

e911 Rural Health Tax Discussion

Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes began the next topic by stating that Councilmembers Christiansen and Francois attended the public hearing regarding the e911 unfunded mandate from the Utah legislature. Several ideas were presented in the meeting. The most equitable solution presented was the rural health tax. The county is considering the rural health tax, which is a local option sales and use tax authorized under Utah law for eligible rural counties. Although the name references health, the council clarified that in this case the revenue would be used specifically for E-911 dispatch services in Sanpete County. It would not be used for hospitals, clinics, or healthcare centers. The proposed tax would be up to 1% and applied to many non-food retail purchases and prepared or processed food. This tax will not be applied to most basic grocery food items or gasoline. This option will include people using county recreation areas who potentially may need an emergency response. These visitors would help contribute to covering the total cost of the state mandate through purchases. If the proposed tax does not pass in the next voting cycle, the county would likely distribute the costs among municipalities. If this happens, Manti residents could see a monthly fee on utility meters, estimated to be Approximately \$7 to \$11 per household per month. The council described the sales tax approach as likely the most equitable and least expensive option, because both residents and visitors would contribute.

ITEM 12	Fee Schedule Resolution Adoption: Resolution 2026-2
Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes began the conversation by stating that the council has been working on the fee schedule for some time. She asked if the council was ready to adopt the current fee schedule as it has been presented previously. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes called for a motion to adopt the current fee schedule under Resolution 2026-2. Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen made the motion and Councilmember Brian Francois seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of the Fee Schedule, Resolution 2026-2.	

ITEM 13	Adoption of Proposed FY 2026-27 Interim Budget: Resolution 2026-3
Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes then turned to the adoption of the proposed FY2026-27 budget (Resolution 2026-3). She asked the council if there were any additional discussion items or questions regarding the budget. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes then called for a motion to approve Resolution 2026-3 the FY2026-27 interim budget. Councilmember Meagan Johnson made the motion and Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen seconded the motion. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None	
ACTION TAKEN	
Approval of the FY2026-27 interim budget, Resolution 2026-3.	

ITEM 14	Adoption of Fireworks Discharge Prohibition: Resolution 2026-4
Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes began by introducing the Manti Fire Chief Elliot Anderson. The most urgent and emotional discussion of the meeting centered on fireworks and fire danger. Fire Chief Anderson addressed the council and gave a detailed update on current fire conditions and the workload facing the volunteer fire department. Firefighters are already stretched thin and Manti's volunteer fire service had already put in more than 500 hours in June alone. He explained that Manti crews had responded to several fires and had also sent firefighters and equipment to help neighboring areas including the Cottonwood Fire in Beaver County, Molly's Fire, Wild Goose Fire, and a fire in Sulphur Dell. He emphasized that when neighboring communities call, Manti's firefighters go because they are trying to help save homes and support nearby communities. Fire behavior is unusually dangerous and the fires this year are not behaving like fires in previous years. Chief Anderson said these are the kinds of fires that can burn down cities. He described seeing fuels and vegetation	

burn in ways he has not seen before, including juniper burning aggressively in June. He talked about extremely tall flames and said firefighters sometimes cannot safely be placed in front of these fires. Chief Anderson also explained that homes are extremely dry, just like vegetation. On one fire, even homes that had been well prepared still burned because embers got into eaves and other vulnerable areas. His overall message was that the conditions are serious, unusual, and dangerous. Chief Anderson was very direct and had a strong recommendation against private fireworks. He said private fireworks should not happen this year. He said he personally loves fireworks, but this is not the year for them. In his view, the responsible thing is for people not to light fireworks anywhere in the city. The council discussed the governor's emergency order banning fireworks from July 2 through July 5. The order allows professional firework shows if local officials determine they can be done safely. Manti has considered its own resolution banning fireworks, but because the governor's order was already in place, the council decided to hold off on adopting the local resolution for now. The council plans to revisit the issue at the next meeting if needed, especially before the July 24th holiday period. The council's message was that there is no safe place in Manti for private fireworks. Professional fireworks show may still happen and the city still hoped to hold the professional fireworks show, but only if Chief Anderson and fire officials determine it is safe based on wind, weather, and available resources. The council made clear that if the show cannot happen safely on July 4, it can be postponed. There was even some lighthearted discussion about doing fireworks later in the year, such as around Christmas or when snow is on the ground. Council members asked what would happen if people set off private fireworks anyway. Chief Anderson said enforcement would primarily be a law enforcement issue unless a fire starts. If a fire does start, the fire department would respond, and the person responsible could potentially be held liable for fire suppression costs. He noted that firefighting costs can be very expensive. Chief Anderson also raised a concern from the previous year. He said many people who set off fireworks in Manti last year were not from Manti. According to him, fireworks stands were giving people lists of cities that had not banned fireworks, and people came to Manti to light them. He said there were about 12 fires on the Fourth of July evening last year and that some fireworks were large enough that debris was falling over homes and churches. This was part of the reason he strongly supported making Manti's restrictions clear. Chief Anderson encouraged the city to post information on social media and the official city website. The council agreed that the city website should become the place people go for accurate city information. Before leaving, Chief Anderson also spoke about the role of grazing in fire prevention. He said there has been a cultural shift where grazing is sometimes viewed negatively, but from a fire management perspective, responsible grazing can be very helpful. He said cow and sheep trails often help stop fires and that ranchers can help reduce fuels and assist with early fire mitigation. He emphasized that responsible grazing, not overgrazing, should be part

of the conversation about long-term fire prevention and forest management. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes also recommended that residents use LED toys that can be tossed into the air, instead of fireworks. No formal action was taken on Resolution 2026-4.

ITEM 15

4th of July Community Celebration

Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes asked Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen if she would detail some of the activities for the July 4th celebration. Councilmember Christiansen then explained that the new youth city council planned an event for July 3rd at the sports park for students in 7th through 12th grade. The event was scheduled from about 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. and included: live music from The Dukes, a chalk throw, treats, and games. A pickleball tournament was also planned, with different divisions including novice, intermediate, and advanced. Sign-ups will happen at the pickleball courts. The July 4th celebration was described as a traditional, old-fashioned Manti celebration. Planned activities include: American Legion breakfast, parade, races, tug-of-war, grease pole, watermelon bust, free swimming for the first 300 people at the pool, evening activities at the sports park, and possible professional fireworks show (depending on conditions).

ITEM 16

Continuing Business

a. Annexation/Subdivision Moratorium

No additional comments (expires July 21, 2026).

b. City Ordinance Corrections on rear-yard accessory buildings capacity

Administrative work being completed.

c. Master Plan (General Plan) Update

McKay Muhlestein conducting community walk arounds and surveys.

d. Veterans Memorial

Temporary layout of the memorial location being discussed.

e. Parks, Paths & Trails

On-hold to gather additional information.

f. America 250

July 4th events discussed earlier in the meeting.

g. Economic Development

Manti City is currently working on new projects.

h. e911 Rural Health Tax

Discussed earlier in this meeting.

ITEM 17

Council Member Reports

Council Member Francois

- Nothing to report.

Council Member Christiansen

- Nothing to report.

Council Member Mower

- Nothing to report.

Council Member Pipes

- Postponed comments for the Mayor's Comments section.

Council Member Johnson

- Nothing to report.

ITEM 18

Administration Reports: City Manager Jason Brown

City Manager Jason Brown began his comments by reporting on the Senior Citizen Center improvement project and showed photos of the work. He explained that the building has been cleared out and that crews have made good progress. One major issue was a depression in the floor on the east side of the building. The floor was jacked up, and Jason said the repair turned out very well. The front door threshold was also replaced after the floor work affected the door opening. Manager Brown said the kitchen may soon be ready for cabinet measurements, but cabinets will likely have about a two-month lead time, making them one of the longer parts of the project schedule. Currently the meal preparation is temporarily occurring at the new fairgrounds exhibit building, and is working well for senior meals.

ITEM 19

Public Comment

Ken Kelch (Resident) – Commented that he was there to represent one of the partners who helped build the Palisade Lake. They are working with the state to build a facility. He wanted to know who of the council would like to support the event being held on August 8, 2026.

Ralph Nair (Resident) – Questioned if the city fire department should be using the fire trucks to spray water at the July 4th event due to the water situation.

Susan Manning (Resident)– Commented that she is going to contact the manager of the Dollar General regarding the weeds around the store. She believes if the city council and residents of Manti were to send letters, it would not look so junky.

Heather Weiss (Resident) – Wondered if the council had considered passing an ordinance for people over watering or setting off fireworks, and issue citations accordingly. She explained a situation with her uncle that received a ticket after setting off fireworks on the beach in Oregon.

ITEM 20

Mayor Comments: Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes

Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes reported that the Historic Preservation Commission met on June 22. The commission has appointed Shannon Miller as chair, pending her acceptance. The commission also discussed beginning the process of having Manti designated as a National Register historic area. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes clarified that

this type of designation would not take away property rights. Property owners would still be able to change, paint, remodel, or even tear down their buildings. The designation would not affect city taxes or property taxes.

Instead, it could provide benefits, such as possible grants, funding opportunities, and a one-time 20% state tax credit for qualifying improvements. The city would need to conduct a survey of historic buildings as part of the process. The mayor said Manti may have more buildings over 50 years old than any other city in Utah. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes then discussed changing the council meeting schedule from two meetings per month to one meeting per month from August through December 2026. Manager Brown recommended holding the monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. He said the first week of the month does not give staff enough time to prepare financial information for the council. Council members discussed whether the mayor, who was not present, would be comfortable with the change. They noted that she had been part of previous discussions about moving to once-a-month meetings, though perhaps not the exact second-Wednesday schedule. It was also made clear that special or emergency meetings could still be called if needed. Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes called for a motion to approve the new council schedule. Councilmember Jennifer Christiansen made the motion, and it was seconded by Councilmember Brian Francois. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.

ITEM 21

Closed Session - for discussion

Mayor-Pro-Tem Pipes wrapped the meeting up by calling for a motion to move into a closed session. Councilmember Meagan Johnson made the motion, and it was seconded by Councilmember AJ Mower. Council members voting Aye: Meagan Johnson, Mary Pipes, AJ Mower, Jennifer Christiansen, and Brian Francois. Council members voting Nay: None.

Adjourned from the regular session into the closed session.

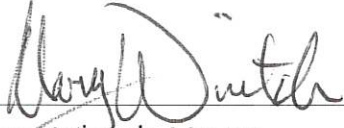
Signing of bills and payroll occurred after adjournment.

ADJOURNED

7:46 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Council Meeting – July 17, 2026



Mary Wintch, Mayor



Matt Gray, City Recorder