

**Rockville Town Council
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
Rockville Town Hall
June 10, 2026 – 6:00 pm**

1. **CALL TO ORDER-ROLL CALL:** Mayor Leach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following Town Council members were present: Andy Efstratis, Megan Honer-Orton, Jeff Ballard and Mayor Pam Leach. Council member Robin Smith was excused. Clerk Cox was recording the meeting.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Leach led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Megan Honer-Orton **SECONDED** the motion.

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

4. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH AN AGENDA ITEM.** No conflicts were declared.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Leach asked if there were any public comments. No comments were made.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION/NON-ACTION ITEMS

5. **REPORT ON HURRICANE VALLEY FIRE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT:** Captain Raynold Day from Springdale Fire Station #49 presented the Fire District information in the absence of Chief Ames. He said the call numbers for May, Rockville had zero (0) but have had some already for June. Springdale 40 calls, and Zion National Park nine (9) calls. Capt. Day said as a matter of information Wildfire Season has kicked off. Overall the District has had 15 incidents, and we have one team that's deployed, our REMS team, deployed to Idaho for the last two weeks. We anticipate them coming home this next week but don't anticipate they will be home for very long. Capt. Day asked if there were any questions. There were none. Mayor Leach thanked Capt. Day and his crew for the good work they provide the area with.
6. **REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORT- TIM ARNOLD:** In the absence of Chair Arnold, Commissioner Jane Brennan reported on last night's Planning Commission meeting. There were two items on the agenda. The first was an issue with Sofia Opmanis, at 115 East Main of two (2) residences on a property. She was informed of the code violation and had requested consideration of a preexisting non-conforming use living in a back shed. Her request to allow this was denied and she will need to conform.

Jane Brennan said the other agenda item was approval of a needed study for a building permit at 115 East Bridge Road for Ken Rybkiewicz. According to our Land Use Code, because his house is near the river and has a wash in the back it requires a 100' setback from those water ways instead of a normal 30' setback. For the lesser setback to be allowed it would require an engineer to review the setbacks stating the lesser setback will not harm the homeowner nor the environment. The Planning Commission approved the acceptance of the floodplain information as the needed information to allow lesser setbacks for the new home. With this approval from the Planning Commission Ken Rybkiewicz has completed the application process and can begin to build.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS

7. **WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR BOARD PRESENTATION & AWARD-RUFFIN JUDD:** Mayor Leach invited Susie Lafaele and Ruffin Judd, from the Washington County Fair Board, to come make their presentation. They presented a check to the Town of Rockville in the amount of \$500.00 as the Rockville fair display was the winner of the People's Choice Community display for this year at the County Fair. Ruffin Judd said he felt the Town crew were not only the most organized there, but on time and most efficient setting up and taking down. He presented the ribbon and the check. He asked for all those involved in the display to stand up. Pictures were taken. (see attached). Ruffin Judd said this year was the first year doing the People's Choice Award. He had overheard comments from those visiting and how they loved how Rockville incorporated the history of the Town and the light bulb in the display. He said this monetary award is the largest that has been given to date. Santa Clara won the Commissioner's Award and Hildale won the Fair Director's Award. Ruffin Judd thanked the Council for participating in the displays.
8. **DISCUSSION REGARDING A BIKE PATH THROUGH ROCKVILLE-JACOB ANDERSEN:** Mayor Leach invited Jacob Andersen to make his presentation to the Council. Jacob Andersen said he is here because there's a bike path that's extending from LaVerkin all the way to Zion National Park. He said that's not news to anybody but he would like provide ways to show how it might impact our Town. He said he worries it could be a good thing, maybe, or it could be something that could be quite bad if we routed the wrong way. He said he had spoken with Leslie Fonger, with Greater Zion, for the past three years and he also attends the Transportation Expo to discuss upcoming plans for improvement in our area. He said with the bike path his kids ride their bikes, or they go on walks as a family and each year he hears from the committee is that there will be bike path all the way through to Zion Park but they are unaware of what's happening with Rockville yet as there has been no input. He said they have talked that perhaps; the bikes will be routed on the sidewalk through Rockville and then back on the bike path as Rockville ends. He said that's always makes him nervous. He explained why this matters to people in this Town and not just the bicyclists that are passing through. His kids could ride their bikes to the bus stop instead of walking on the shoulder of SR9 in the dark in January, which currently they do. Currently the kids stand on a narrow strip of road as they walk to the bus with car headlights coming at them. A safe path could change that, especially if there's a bunch of bicyclists. Teenagers in Town could get themselves to work. While those residents who like to walk also have a safe area. He said although people using the Town portion of the sidewalk may be responsible, those riding through on bicycles may not be paying attention, which makes him nervous. He said if the bicyclists were using the sidewalk along with the others using it would still create unsafe conditions.

He said he understands this project is bigger than Rockville and understands the pressure is to just route bikes onto the sidewalks so we don't have to change anything on the shoulder or with our sidewalks or our ditches. But our sidewalks aren't built for that. They're narrow, they're interrupted, they cross open ditches. And putting fast-moving bikes on the same path as an elderly person out for a morning walk or a little kid heading to the post office is not a safe solution, it's a moving hazard. He said he thinks Rockville deserves to be part of this project, and a dedicated path can give pedestrians, like those of us that live in this town, a safe option, and it can connect our community. He said one thing that surprised me is we live in a farm town, but you can't easily go for a walk and feel safe about it. He said he thinks adding all those bicyclists to a sidewalk makes him a little more hesitant. He said he thinks we have an opportunity to make this town a little safer to walk, and if we don't, I worry that I don't want to be overrun by bicyclists taking over the town. Mayor Leach stated she speaks with Leslie Fonger occasionally about this issue and the committee doing this project has not come to talk to Rockville about any possible proposals of what they plan on doing here. Mayor Leach said she spoke with Leslie Fonger again and right now they are working on the LaVerkin to Virgin section of that bike path. They are hoping to have their Environmental Assessment (EA) done by the end of this year and then be working on the design next year. And then by sometime maybe next year or the year after, their next portion is from Rockville to Springdale. They're hoping that next year they'll be starting the design or at least talking about the design and looking at what must be done with right of ways and so on along SR 9. Mayor Leach said the proposal Mr. Andersen presented tonight with a path on one side is something that we have talked about both with you, Leslie Fonger and UDOT, is possibly giving up one of the parking lanes on either side of SR9 to create a double wide bike lane in the road, not on the sidewalk. She said there has not been any discussion with Rockville about putting the bike path onto the sidewalk. And up to this point, they really haven't even spent any time talking to us at all.

Mayor Leach said she did reach out to Leslie Fonger when she saw Jacob Andersen's request on the agenda

asking what the status is. Leslie Fonger said right now the plans stop where the sidewalks are at either end of the Town. So as of now it looks like sometime in the next two or three years, is when this might be something that happens. Mayor Leach told her there are several parents that are concerned about their kids getting to Springdale and other people too. Also if there's any possibility of looking at that portion from the East end of our sidewalk to meet up with their current bike path, because it doesn't have to go the whole way. Mayor Leach said she is hoping that we'll have some conversations about that. Mayor Leach and Jacob Andersen agreed a public presentation of the possibilities would be very helpful. Jacob Andersen said in his last conversation with Leslie Fonger she mentioned they were not getting any participation from Rockville. Mayor Leach said that is not correct, Leslie Fonger participates in the Zion Regional Collaborative meetings where the bike path is discussed quarterly. Mayor Leach thanked Jacob Andersen for bringing these suggestions to the Council.

9. **UDOT UPDATE REGARDING FIBER OPTIC PROJECT EXTENDING FROM I-15 HURRICANE EXIT TO MOUNT CARMEL JUNCTION ALONG SR 9-AVA PECORA- (CONNECTING WITH ZOOM)** Mayor Leach invited Ava Pecora to make her updates. Ava Pecora said she is working with UDAW on the design and fiber optics project extending from I-15 Hurricane exit to Mount Carmel Junction through Zion National Park. She was participating via zoom along with Libby Robbins, Nancy Cousins, and construction company personnel, Darren Bradshaw and Kylie Gabb, with BHI. Ava Pecora said with all these people any specific questions the Council had regarding this project should be able to be answered. Ava Pecora provided a quick refresher on what the project consists of. She said UDOT is bringing fiber optics along State Route 9 and the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway which will install over 50 miles of fiber either underneath the road or along the side of the highway. This project will tie in and help support UDOT's intelligent transportation systems. So, traffic cameras, weather stations, emergency and incident response, and then just broader traffic management technology that UDOT uses will be connected through this project. Construction started last week on Wednesday, June 3rd, with two crews working simultaneously. One crew is by Hurricane just off I-15 along SR-9. While another crew is working within Zion National Park. They are moving really quickly and have already trenched over 2,500 feet of roadway, thanks to a lot of the mobile equipment they are using. Along the Hurricane portion they are primarily working on the shoulders of the road, so there aren't any direct traffic impacts currently in that area. In the Zion National Park, they are actually installing under the road and then installing fiber cable and junction boxes that help connect the cables throughout the park. They are anticipating approaching Springdale and Rockville in one to two weeks, moving very quickly to complete this work. There will be no work on the project from July 3rd through the 7th or the 4th of July holiday to avoid traffic impacts on travelers who are heading to the park for the holiday weekend. Ava Pecora said any resident can call or e-mail them with questions about the project. They also upload weekly construction updates to the website. Mayor Leach said the information provided will also be sent out to residents on the Town email list. Andy Efstratis asked how deep the bore for the underground fiber lines would be. Darren Bradshaw is with BHI the contractor, said the fiber optic cable being buried is around 30 inches deep. No other questions were asked.

10. **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED TOWN OF ROCKVILLE 2026-27 FINAL BUDGET:** Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to open the public hearing to consider public comments on the proposed Town of Rockville 2026—2027 Final Budget. Andy Efstratis **SECONDED** the motion.

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Mayor Leach asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the proposed budget. Clerk Cox explained this is the same budget that was presented at our last meeting. Garth Tyler approached the Council and said he had reviewed the tentative budget amounts, and it showed a \$18,000 short fall of expenses to

revenues. He would like to reduce the amount spent on litigation from \$30,000 a year to \$500.00 monthly, which would then be \$6000.00 per year on litigation. He asked what in the world is the Town spending \$30,000 on litigation for. He stated the Town did not have a revenue stream for this expense and felt the Town should be more amenable to the residents and not take legal action against someone. Mayor Leach explained that the legal fee line item on the budget is not to go after people in Town, this is for when the Town is sued or for legal advice for things, or when somebody questions Codes within Rockville. Many times the State mandates changes, or update rules that we must follow or adopt, and sometimes we need some advice as to how best to handle things. Garth Tyler said he would like that amount for litigation lowered in the final budget.

Mayor Leach said in last month's meeting the difference in revenue versus expenses was estimated at \$18,000.00 and it was discussed this could be resolved by taking that amount out of the general fund savings account. She asked Clerk Cox if this amount was still needed. Clerk Cox said when reviewing all the documents and with the proposed taxes estimated for the upcoming year the amount is approximately \$6000.00 rather than \$18,000.00. She said sales tax has been projected to raise which will also help offset expenses. The draft of the final budget was available online and in the Office for anyone to review. Clerk Cox said these amounts are projections and the total amount may not all be spent, which any amount remaining would stay in the budget as unspent. Clerk Cox said the budget can be opened and amended anytime during the fiscal year if needed. The amounts used to project for the upcoming year are amounts used in previous years. Council member Jeff Ballard said he is offended to think the citizens feel the Town would go after them. That legal fee line-item amount is not used for that purpose but is used when the citizens do not agree with a rule or ordinance and then go after the Town. The other Council members agreed.

Mayor Leach said these numbers have been drafted after reviewing the budget amounts from the last few years. She said just because money is allocated to something doesn't necessarily mean we have to use it all. Skyler Davis made the comment that no costs ever go down, and he is concerned that the legal amount may continue to increase in coming years. He said he understands both opinions, but the amount does seem excessive for a town of 250 people to have that large of amount allocated for legal fees. Mayor Leach said at the current time the Town Attorney is under contract for a lower hourly rate than normal. However, things still need legal counsel and review before approval. Not all things, but some do require legal review. The Utah Local Government Trust also helps with legal questions and costs in some cases when an issue goes to court. Mayor Laech said the Council does its best and is aware of the revenues and expenses received. The Utah Local Government Trust can provide up to \$50,000 per year for legal expenses incurred in a Land Use issue that goes to court. The money is not listed in the budget as the funds are available to the Town as part of the insurance policy. Skyler Davis asked how much of the Utah Local Trust money has been used in previous years. Mayor Leach said she didn't think any had been used for many years. She would need to review that information to make an accounting.

Mayor Leach asked if there were any more comments or questions. None were asked.

11. **ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING** Megan Honer-Orton **MOVED** to close the public hearing considering the Final Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Jeff Ballard **SECONDED** the motion.

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Mayor Leach asked if the Council members had any questions or comments. The Council discussed leaving the budget as proposed as a safety net for possible expenses. As stated, it can always be amended during the upcoming year.

12. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 26-0610-1, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE 2026-27 FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF ROCKVILLE:** Megan Honer-Orton **MOVED** to approve Ordinance #26-0610-01, an ordinance adopting an annual budget of revenues and expenditures for the various funds of the Town of Rockville for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2027. Jeff Ballard **SECONDED** the motion.
VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

13. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 26-0610-2, A RESOLUTION TO SET THE CERTIFIED TAX RATE FOR THE 2026-27 FISCAL YEAR:** Mayor Leach asked Clerk Cox to explain this process. Clerk Cox said each year the County sends out information for each Town/City showing their proposed tax rate the County has set. The County sets the rates yearly depending on the State legislature and what has been approved. This past year an increase was given to the EMS Districts. Who then files that with the County to process and collect the additional taxes. The County has the ability to charge a maximum rate of .007% allowed by State law. The rate provided for this year is .001138% as shown. With this rate set it is projected to provide \$91383.00 in tax revenue to the Town of Rockville for general operations. Mayor Leach said if residents reviewed their tax notice, they would see the very small portion allotted to the Town of Rockville. The tax notices include taxes for schools, libraries and other taxing agencies. According to State Law .007% could be charged and collected up to the maximum amount. However this year the County has set the rate at .001138% for taxation. Clerk Cox said specific areas vote and approve tax increases for specific projects. The Town of Rockville has not ever proposed such a project. This means each year the Town approves what the County sets.

Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve Resolution #26-0610-2 to set the certified tax rate of .001138% for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Megan Honer-Orton **SECONDED** the motion.

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

14. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2026, PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING.** Mayor Leach asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from last month's meeting. None were made.

Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2026 public hearing and regular meeting. Mayor Leach **SECONDED** the motion.

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

15. **APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2026.** Mayor Leach asked if there were any questions on the expenditures for May 2026. No questions were asked.

Megan Honer-Orton **MOVED** to approve the expenditures for May 2026 as shown. Andy Efstratis **SECONDED** the motion.

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

16. **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Mayor Leach thanked Clerk Cox for providing this statement and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.

Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to approve the financial statements for May 2026 as shown. Andy Efstratis **SECONDED** the motion,

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

Motion PASSED unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE NON-ACTION ITEMS

Reports of Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Pam Leach reminded those in attendance the 4th of July holiday is coming up. The Town has put up new banners and flags. New America 250 flags will also be placed along SR 9 with the regular flags. There is a pancake breakfast that morning at Springdale Elementary sponsored by the Lions Club and will be followed by a parade through Springdale. If anyone would like to enter a float or something in the parade or have a group that would like to march in the parade that celebration is encouraged. That night there is a benefit concert at the O.C. Tanner Theater with Luke Grimes benefiting the Zion Forever Project. Jan Fasselin informed the Council that the flag holders along the sidewalk in front of his property have caused him to fall. He said he tripped over the rebar. Jeff Ballard said he is replacing all the flag holders which should help, as no rebar will be protruding from the ground. Mayor Leach reported the date for Rockville Daze should be decided soon. It will be held in the fall, late September or early October.

Megan Honer-Orton had nothing to report.

Andy Efstratis reported at the Washington County Solid Waste Board meeting there was discussion in regards to the transfer centers and the rules about transfer centers. He said the rule states that if you have curbside trash pickup service, you are not eligible to use the drop off garbage transfer centers when you have large trash items or too much trash. For large trash pick-ups a resident needs to call for a bulk load pickup. The Solid Waste District says the issue is their budgets and amount that each town is allocated a specific amount. He said when taking advantage of the trash transfer center is really no different than if you have irrigated water and you're just taking someone else's water it's a double dip and puts a strain on the program. He said it's happening all over the country. The District said they are trying to tolerate it until they can't absorb the cost anymore. Then they would start charging people when they come to use the transfer center. The closest to

Rockville is the one in Virgin. Andy Efstratis said the extra cost comes when the extra bins at the transfer stations are full which causes extra runs from the transfer station to the main dump site. He said currently Solid Waste is just under 2.5% of the budget for the year. He said the Solid Waste District runs a very tight ship with costs and revenues.

Andy Efstratis reported for Mosquito abatement and a flyer was provided in regards to a specific mosquito that has only been found in 12 states so far, and they are keeping a close eye on because it can cause death. He said to be aware of standing water as it provides nesting grounds for mosquitoes. He said residents should call mosquito abatement, to come and service that area. They are not using spray anymore as they're using a chemical that is put in the water, and when this chemical is in the water, the mosquitoes can no longer float, and they just drown. He said it is an effective way of getting rid of the mosquitoes without reducing the other insects that provide value. The chemical is not hazardous to animals and birds, that drink from the water nor is it harmful to the soil.

Jeff Ballard reported the South Mesa Road was graded since last month's meeting.

Jeff said in reviewing the proposed 5-year improvement plan for the Town he has been working with Budd Lee and Sons on possible costs. One of these projects would be to improve the turn off on East Main to the Cemetery. It has a drainage problem that would need to be addressed and then improved. Jeff said the area needs to be drained and if a bore could be done under the road it would be less costly. A bid has not been received nor discussed but it would be beneficial to do.

STAFF REPORT AS NEEDED:

Clerk Cox said the Council packets have an outline of proposed Capital Improvement Projects listed for the next 5-years. The State requires the Town to outline what possible improvements are planned over the next 5 years. She asked the Council to review this and if they would like to add more, please do so. The list includes projects discussed in past meetings. Mayor Leach explained the list includes repairs to the historic ditch along SR 9 by Dennett Lane. Possible improvement to the turn out accessing the Cemetery off SR 9. Extending the pavement on Grafton Road from where it ends currently down to the cattle guard. Re-sealing and restripe the parking lot at the Community Center. Striping the intersection at Bridge Road at SR 9. Replacing the jersey barriers on either side of the Rockville Bridge that will tie into the bridge and look nicer. The project list also has road surface improvements on Silver Tip Lane.

ADJOURNMENT: Jeff Ballard **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. Andy Efstratis **SECONDED** the motion.

VOTE on Motion:

Andy Efstratis: Aye
Megan Honer-Orton: Aye
Mayor Leach: Aye
Jeff Ballard: Aye

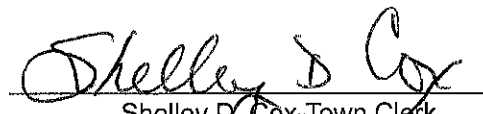
Motion PASSED unanimously.

Minutes prepared by
Shelley D. Cox
Town Clerk



Mayor Pam Leach

Attest:


Shelley D. Cox-Town Clerk

The foregoing notice was posted in the cabinet of the Rockville Town Office by Shelley D Cox at approximately 1:30 AM/PM on 7-17-26, on the Rockville website and the Utah Public Notice website. Emailed to The Spectrum 7-17-26.

