MINUTES – City Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
City of Saratoga Springs City Offices
319 S. Saratoga Rd., Saratoga Springs, Utah 84045

POLICY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER
6:00 p.m. by Mayor Chris Carn

1. **Roll Call** – A quorum was present.
   Present:
   Mayor Chris Carn, Council: Audrey Barton, Edon Davenport, Robert Taylor, Lance Wadman, Emma Wilson.
   Staff: City Manager Mark Christensen, City Attorney Kevin Thurman, Assistant City Manager Owen Jackson, Assistant City Manager Katie Olson, PR Manager AnnElise Harrison, City Recorder Nicolette Fike, Assistant City Engineer Daniel McRae, Civic Events: Corrine Prestwich; Lexi Christopherson; Rashelle Mousley, Finance Director Chelese Rawlings, Budget Administrator Spencer Quain, Library Director Melissa Grygla, Fire Chief Kenny Johnson, Assistant Chief of Police Bill Robertson.
   Others: Chris Haertel, Colton Miles, David Spencer, Eric Nilson.

2. **Moment of Reflection** – given by Councilmember Wilson.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – led by Mayor Carn.
4. **Presentation**: Recognition of outgoing Planning Commissioner Colton Miles was given by Planning Director Sarah Carroll. The Mayor thanked him for his time with the City.
5. **Public Input**
   David Spencer, running for county commission office, introduced himself.

REPORTS

1. **Mayor.**
   Mayor Carn noted that Splash did a phenomenal job, the events were great. He went to all nights including Monday Fundays and noted the numbers were way up at all the events.

2. **City Council.**
   Councilmember Davenport thanked the first responders for all they had done over the past weeks with all the fires and events that required a lot of coordination with the state and all involved.
   Councilmember Wilson echoed and thanked all the staff involved as first responders, not just fire and police.
   Councilmember Barton felt the Splash events were great and she was so proud to be a resident of Saratoga.
   Councilmember Taylor echoed the previous comments and recognized the police for what they are doing with the lights and traffic enforcement.

3. **Administration.**
   City Manager Mark J. Christensen received notice from Republic (trash) that the routes will be adjusted in a few months. There was also notice that rates will be going up.

4. **Department Reports: Library, Recreation, Public Relations/Community Outreach.** – in packet materials.

5. **Other: Civic Events – Report of Splash**
   Director Corrine Prestwich gave a recap of the events at Splash the previous week. The events were all very well attended. The Splash Bash moved to the Marina and seemed well received there. She noted about the teen events such as the chalk wars. She noted the Cars movie night was the biggest ever, as were most events. They

work hard to have free events alongside the carnival. The drone show was a great finale. The parade was very packed. There were many community partners helping to make it a true community event.

Councilmember Wadman joined the meeting in person at this time.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. **Appointing Whitney Child to the Library Advisory Board. Resolution R26-32 (06-16-26).**
2. **Appointing Jim Miller to the North Point Solid Waste Special Service District Control Board. Resolution R26-33 (06-16-26).**
3. **Award of Contract to Kilgore Contracting for the Providence Dr. Rehabilitation Project. Resolution R26-34 (06-16-26).**
4. **Approval of Minutes: June 2, 2025.**

Motion by Councilmember Barton to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. Seconded by Councilmember Wadman.
Vote:

Council Member Barton	**Yes**
Council Member Davenport	**Yes**
Council Member Taylor	**Yes**
Council Member Wadman	**Yes**
Council Member Wilson	**Yes**

No: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 5-0

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Development Agreement Major Amendment for the North Cove development. Located 1967 E. Pony Express Parkway, Jen Hall and Chris Haertel - GH Enterprise LLC as applicant. Ordinance 26-28 (06-16-26).**
Planning Director Sarah Carroll presented the item. The applicant is seeking to update the order and boundaries of the phases and proposes the amendments below. These changes allow more flexibility with the phasing and reshape the boundaries of the phases. Additionally, they are requesting footprint development standards and zero-lot-line standards for the mixed-use buildings to allow the structures shown in the DA. While this proposal does not specify the exact timing of the commercial, it does ensure that the commercial lots will be improved and the Land Development Code and Development Agreement will safeguard the Mixed Waterfront nature of the development over time.

Applicant Chris Haertel was present to answer any questions needed.

Councilmember Wilson received clarification from staff that this would break up the phasing differently with commercial in every phase. The phases could go in any order, phase 1 is planned first with the main road down the middle and will allow more flexibility. Phase 3 would be the hardest.

Councilmember Wadman received clarification from Planning Director Sarah Carroll that this allows residential to move ahead of commercial, the zoning and Development Agreement would both help to encourage the commercial development. The timing was more unknown.

Councilmember Davenport noted it was a past concern that commercial would lag far behind the residential.

Planning Director Sarah Carroll advised on similar developments with varied timing.

Applicant Chris Haertel related that they had been through multiple builders that didn't want to meet all the plans. They felt the new mechanisms would help move things along. Some commercial mixed-use users want to see what's happening first before they make final decisions. He noted an expected timeline of about a year for roads and house.

In response to questions from Councilmember Taylor, Chris Haertel responded that condos were harder to get financing on and these would be townhomes and with the patios above the retail, they will be part of the HOA, 25% would be limited common area. The retail would only own to the roof, no access between them.

Councilmember Barton liked the project and embracing the Utah Lake and Mixed Waterfront zone and the developer being willing to do this project here.

Motion made by Councilmember Barton to approve the Development Agreement Major Amendment for the North Cove development, located 1967 E. Pony Express Parkway, Ordinance 26-28 (06-16-26), with any staff findings and conditions. Seconded by Councilmember Wadman.
Vote:
Council Member Barton Yes
Council Member Davenport Yes
Council Member Taylor Yes
Council Member Wadman Yes
Council Member Wilson Yes
No: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 5-0

2. **Reimbursement Agreement for Rider's Station with BlackSpire Capital Group, LLC. Resolution R26-35 (06-16-26).**
Assistant City Engineer Dan McRae explained the various product that would be installed as City system improvements. The bulk would be a drinking water line, and then an upsized storm drain line, and a new signal intersection leg.

Applicant Adam Hurd was present as applicant to answer any questions and felt this benefitted both parties.

Motion made by Councilmember Taylor to approve the Reimbursement Agreement for Rider's Station with BlackSpire Capital Group, LLC. Resolution R26-35 (06-16-26). Seconded by Councilmember Wilson.
Vote:
Council Member Barton Yes
Council Member Davenport Yes
Council Member Taylor Yes
Council Member Wadman Yes
Council Member Wilson Yes
No: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 5-0

Budget Discussions began ~ 6:42 p.m.

3. **Presentation from a budget officer or executive officer of a proposed property tax impact schedule as a separate document from other budget documents.**
City Manager/Budget Officer Mark J. Christensen presented the proposed property tax impact schedule to those in attendance, it was also made available electronically and physically at the place of the meeting. He noted the changes due to the tax rate given us by the County.

4. **Adoption of an Interim Budget, including a proposed property tax rate increase for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, and compensation schedule for appointed and elected municipal officers, which will be in effect from July 1, 2026, until the date before September 1, 2026, on which the City will adopt a final budget, subject to the requirements of Utah Code Subsection 59-2-919. Ordinance 26-27 (06-16-26).**
Budget Administrator Spencer Quain explained that the budget had not changed since the last presentation. It is noted the Public Hearing was held previously on June 2, 2026; the item was tabled for decision.

City Manager Christensen noted an interim budget was a required step due to new legislation.

Motion made by Councilmember Taylor to approve business item 4 and Ordinance 26-27 (06-16-26) with the direction to the city administration to implement no more than a total 4% merit increase on average for all city employees for fiscal year 2026-2027. Seconded by Councilmember Davenport.
Vote:
Council Member Barton Yes
Council Member Davenport Yes
Council Member Taylor Yes
Council Member Wadman Yes
Council Member Wilson Yes
No: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 5-0

5. **Consideration of Resolution R26-36 (06-16-26) authorizing the City of Saratoga Springs to participate in the employer pick up of public safety and firefighter employee retirement contributions.**
City Manager Mark J. Christensen related that we are only allowed to pick this up for tier II public safety employees, it was not picked up at the last opportunity. Public Safety does a great job for the community and helps take care of the ever-increasing costs of retirement. the combined rate between the one that we did not pick up in previous years and this year's is 3.39%.

Mayor Carn felt that picking this up keeps us on more equal footing and was happy to take care of them.

Councilmember Taylor thought it would be helpful and asked staff to explain what a pick up was to those in attendance. He felt this would be helpful to be competitive and attract experienced officers.

City Manager Mark J. Christensen explained that years ago the State Legislature changed the retirement system because of the recession, creating the Tier II with the Utah Retirement System. It reduced benefits that future employees would receive. We are seeing a large percentage of employees in the Tier II system currently. Because of recent rate increases, Tier II has actually become more expensive, and while state code allows the city to "pick up" these cost increases for public safety employees, but not for other employees, it has skipped doing so recently. This has created a competitive disadvantage with neighboring cities that do cover the costs; if the city doesn't choose to pay the latest increase, it will effectively cut employees' take-home pay and hurt recruitment.

The Council discussed how this would help to be competitive in the field.

Motion made by Councilmember Wilson to approve Resolution R26-36 (06-16-26) authorizing the City of Saratoga Springs to participate in the employer pick up of public safety and firefighter employee retirement contributions. Seconded by Councilmember Davenport.
Vote:
Council Member Barton Yes
Council Member Davenport Yes
Council Member Taylor Yes
Council Member Wadman Yes
Council Member Wilson Yes
No: None
Absent: None
Motion passed 5-0

6. **Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Certified Tax Rate; Resolution R26-37 (06-16-26).**
Budget Administrator Spencer Quain related that because city assessed values dropped slightly, the property tax rate is adjusting from 0.000976 to 0.000978, even without any actual tax changes. Additionally, new growth this past year has brought in about $420,000 in extra revenue. This is just a temporary, interim tax rate to keep the City operating until the August 11th, final budget meeting.

<u>Motion made by Councilmember Davenport to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Certified Tax Rate; Resolution R26-37 (06-16-26). Seconded by Councilmember Taylor.</u>
<u>Vote:</u>
<u>Council Member Barton Yes</u>
<u>Council Member Davenport Yes</u>
<u>Council Member Taylor Yes</u>
<u>Council Member Wadman Yes</u>
<u>Council Member Wilson Yes</u>
<u>No: None</u>
<u>Absent: None</u>
<u>Motion passed 5-0</u>

Mayor Carn re-opened the Council Report portion of the agenda.

Councilmember Wilson recounted that staff had been looking into signage and messaging for fire safety and where fireworks were not allowed in the City, and other ways to communicate the restrictions. It was clear with state conversations that the City could not ban all fireworks except certain aerials in specific areas.

City Manager Mark J. Christensen advised that with the recent annexation a lot of the hills that had been used for target shooting were now within the city limits and all shooting was prohibited in city limits. There had been several fires since the last meeting and with City Council approval they could move forward with additional messaging. He noted police would be doing some extra patrols and education in the area. He reiterated that even in built out neighborhoods there are portions that abut wildlands or natural areas that fireworks are prohibited.

Council members shared their approval to move forward with the messaging.

Councilmember Taylor shared his approval to move forward with the additional messaging, mentioning personal experience as a victim with fires caused by fireworks.

Councilmember Wadman encouraged target shooters to be smart and that people should be held accountable for starting fires and urged residents to stay out of the way during fires and not to fly drones.

Councilmember Wilson felt it was a good reminder to residents for messaging and maybe didn't need to happen every year.

Councilmember Davenport asked for information on the recent fires the importance of self-reporting.

Mayor Carn commented that a lot of the area that had been public was now private. He liked mailers and felt signs may not be as effective and would become vandalized.

City Manager Mark J. Christensen noted the signs would also help to see where city boundaries were. He advised that it was doubly irresponsible and cost time when people flee a scene. He urged those inappropriate actions should be reported as soon as possible.

Councilmember Taylor reported that the steering committee for the new fire station was moving along and hoped the firms involved with the planning could bring some ideas.

Councilmember Barton shared information from the Utah Lake Authority it was safe to eat the carp from the lake.

WORK SESSION

1. Live Steamers – Shay Park

Eric Nilson with the Live Steamers club shared a multi-purpose engine house concept featuring an educational space, a volunteer area, a storage and maintenance shed, raised steaming bays, and a decorative water tank. The proposed project aims to enhance the community by adding features like a picnic pavilion, a concrete sidewalk with safety fencing to manage long queue lines, and a loading platform. To support these ideas, the club presented a fully funded kiosk sign proposal for historical and club information and noted they already have tracks and switches ready for use. The club is seeking the City's support to continue planning, pursue donors and sponsors, and explore future participation opportunities. Additionally, he highlighted growing interest driven by a patron's media posts and a new dedicated social media manager. He shared the donation suggestions and proposed fee structure. He proposed placing a short-term storage unit, such as a conex container perhaps painted with a mural, on an existing pad originally meant for a potential caboose.

Council members shared thoughts including: The historically an old train track which ran through the area and was a good historical tie; They liked the water tower design; Questions were raised about funding, maintenance and length of an agreement, noting structures would be turned over to the City; It was felt this park set us apart as a City, was a good draw and opportunity for people to stay in the city for shopping etc.; Parking was an issue; They liked the buildings and plans and thought it would help with lines and enhance the experience; It was suggested food trucks may do well here during rides; Ideas were shared such as holiday themed rides; There were liability issues but some felt they could be surmounted; There may be something they could also offer to adults, not just kids; They felt there could be a possibility of a temporary conex shed.

City Manager Mark J. Christensen advised that parties could work on a phasing plan based on priorities and a strategy that would align City Council vision with the Club's goals, while keeping an eye on costs, logistics, and parking concerns mentioned. Initial steps, for example, could focus on installing the kiosk and obtaining a storage container. Then you could discuss the next priorities such as a pavilion area or structure for boarding and standing in line. The master facility could be scheduled so it starts at the end of the season and hopefully ready by spring. It is a question of how does council want us to work with the club and come up with what those steps might look like moving forward.

Councilmembers Wadman and Wilson would be working with staff and the club to work though vision and goals.

CLOSED MEETING – No closed meeting was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned Without Objection at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Chris Carn.

________________________ 7-7-2026 ____________
Mayor ProTem Lance Wadman Date

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City Recorder

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