

IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 22, 2026

Minutes of the Special Iron County Commission meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. June 22, 2026, in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Kenneth Robinson	Commission Chair-Excused
Michael Bleak	Commissioner
Paul Cozzens	Commissioner
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

George Colson	Emergency Management
Richard Wilson	Engineer
Jennifer Bradbury	Human Resources
Bruce Anderson	Public Works

Others in Attendance:

Bobby Alaniz	Cadan Evans	Bruce McDonald
Blaine Nay	Bruce Washburn	

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Commissioner Michael Bleak, Iron County Commission Chair Pro-Tem, excused Commissioner Robinson from today’s meeting.

INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Bruce McDonald.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Blaine Nay.

STATEMENT

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, read a statement regarding actions during the June 8, 2026, Commission meeting. “Understand that approving minutes does not mean endorsing every statement made. It simply means the minutes accurately reflect what occurred in the meeting. For that reason, I will vote to approve them. However, I do not accept as truth every statement made, and I want the record to reflect my response. During the previous meeting, it was alleged that I forced my way into the jail. That statement is false, and I reject it. To say someone forced their way into a jail suggests they overcame security, entered without authorization, breached a secure facility, or committed a serious security violation. If that had happened, there would have been an immediate response, such as detention, arrest, charges, incident reports, or a formal investigation. None of that happened because no forced entry or security violation occurred. What actually happened is simple. I entered through the normal public access area and rang the doorbell in an effort to deliver a gallon of distilled water for my son’s medical device. I did not breach security, bypass security in a restricted area without authorization, or force my way anywhere. I question if Mr. Whittaker actually viewed the video from that night, since he admitted to a mutual friend that “forced” was a poor choice of words. It has now been nearly two weeks since I requested the video and all communications related to this so-called incident. To date, I still have not received the records I lawfully requested through GRAMA. I also want the record to reflect that I do not approve of the personal attacks that occurred during that discussion. Unfortunately, a precedent was established where we tell the public that personal attacks are not allowed during public comments. Disagreement among elected officials is expected, but personal attacks do not help us conduct the public’s business fairly or respectfully. I acknowledge my own role as well. The discussion became heated, and I used language I should not have used. I regret that and take responsibility for my words, but taking responsibility for my conduct does not require me to accept false statements about my conduct. For those reasons, I will vote to approve the minutes as a record of what was said, but I do not concede the truth of every statement made.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the minutes of the Iron County Commission meeting held on June 8, 2026. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Absent.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

Michael Bleak made a motion to approve Claims for Payment from June 8, 2026, to June 21, 2026. Second by Paul Cozzens. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Absent.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Bruce Anderson, Iron County Public Works, reported on roads. Bruce was working on road materials bidding, the Survey for Gold Springs, on 5600 West in Beryl, and bladed the infield at the Fairground. He noted that crushing at the Parowan Landfill was complete, and there would be more crushing in the fall from Summit to the Gap. The east frontage at the Buckhorn was ready to chip from Hwy 20 to Paragonah. He would have a crew begin Skim patching on Old Hwy 91 within the next month. The road crew would be chipping in Kanarraville in the Bumblebee subdivision, and roads in Newcastle would be completed. Future road projects were chipping and maintaining dirt roads on Cedar Mountain and throughout Iron County. Bruce reported on the Landfill. Numbers have been staying consistent since 2025. In 2025, there were 48,304 tons, and in 2026, there were 45,567 tons. Bruce noted that the equipment was all working and the budget was on track. They mulched trees and sold out at the Iron Springs, and still have a little in Parowan. The metal recyclers were currently at the landfill, with approximately 600 tons to recycle, and the tire recyclers should be here this month. Spencer Rollo bull-hogged a lot of trees on approximately 25 to 30 acres. He reported that the landfill continues to clean up areas in Iron County for tires and trash left around. Bruce was working

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with Mel Clark Construction for material for Iron Springs Road, and continued working on the gate at the Beryl Transfer Station.

Richard Wilson, Iron County Engineer, reported that the intersection on Iron Springs Road was almost complete. They were waiting for Layton Electric to come and put the lights up. Western Rock was awarded the bid for building and reconstruction of the Iron Springs Road out to the Desert Mound. He noted that he would be coordinating with them, and they would like to begin on July 7th on Iron Springs Road. The Engineering Department signed an MOU with BZI for their portion of that project, and that would offset Iron County's responsibility by quite a bit, which was a big positive for Iron County. Brian Nichols, Sign Department, has been just a go-getter and really positive when it comes to sign-making. Wade Adams has come over and helped him, which has been greatly appreciated by Brian. We're interviewing 5 applicants for a second sign position on Thursday. Richard reported that a 36-inch culvert was placed across 4800 E by Peak View with the Road Department's help, which was greatly appreciated. About two and a half weeks ago, there was a big rainstorm, and no water was standing in the street on 2525. The culvert actually did what he expected it to do. Richard expressed his appreciation to Merilee Wilson for keeping the office running smoothly. Commissioner Bleak explained that there had been an ordinance passed regarding restricting engine brakes through Newcastle, and he asked Richard if he knew anything about the signs being put up. Richard reported that the only thing that was left was to install the signs.

Paul Cozzens, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he continued to attend the Tuesday meetings regarding the Jail, which was making great progress. Paul attended the 5 County meetings. He noted that Dr. Blodgett, Director of the 5 County Board of Health, continues to be an amazing director. There was a Steering Committee meeting, and on the July 13th Commission meeting, the new director for the Five County AOG, Darin Bushman, would come and explain their bylaws. The bylaws had always stated that the School Districts and cities would help contribute monetarily to the overhead to pay the 5 County's bills, but it had only been the counties contributing. Paul continued to explain the 5 Counties' Bylaws and what would be presented at the commission meeting. He noted that he went to Washington DC to his niece's wedding, and visited George Washington's Estate by the Potomac River in Mount Vernon. The George Washington Mansion had become quite dilapidated in the 1800s. A woman named Ann Pamela Cunningham was going down the Potomac River on a riverboat and noticed that the house was in disrepair and falling apart. She bought the George Washington Estate with 13 other women, for approximately \$200,000, and refurbished it, and it is now a Museum. The 14 ladies formed a nonprofit organization called the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commissioner, reported that he attended a ribbon-cutting at Southwest Technical College for their STEC Training Advancement Center (STAC) project. Mike explained the different sections and uses of the facility. As Commissioner Cozzens mentioned, the jail continued to move forward without many issues. Mike noted that he had attended the Airport Board Meeting, where they continued to discuss an Air Traffic Control Tower in our area, which was very important to have. The Cedar City Airport was the second busiest airport in the state, behind the Salt Lake Airport. The Cedar City Airport did break a record with air tanker refueling and takeoffs over the last week with the Sawmill fire. Layton Construction reached out, and a group would be formed to visit the project that was under construction with their Air Traffic Control Tower on July 1st. He spoke at a Healthcare Committee meeting, which included all the local Five County Emergency Management, Intermountain Representatives from the tribe, and Care Center facilities through the Department of Health throughout the state, to talk about Iron County's disaster response readiness in conjunction with body recovery. Mike reported on the areas he spoke about in the meeting. Mike expressed his sincere appreciation to the local first responders for how they responded and worked together with two very tragic, terrible crashes in the Paragonah area. There was a young lady who was killed in a four-wheeler or an ATV side-by-side crash, and one little girl was critically injured trying to rescue her friend. He had the opportunity to watch our first responders in action. Our Sheriff's Department, Gold Cross Ambulance, and the Parowan and Paragonah

Fire Departments. What struck me in the middle of that mess was the number of folks who rushed in, who ran towards the fire with no hesitation, who ran towards what they knew was not going to be pleasant. Not only to take care of the victims, but to take care of the families, and then to watch the aftermath as those responders took care of each other. It was really very inspiring, and I'm grateful. We've worked really hard to build a team out of our fire departments, our EMS, and our law enforcement, and to watch that come together was amazing. A couple of days later we had a very severe crash up by Yankee Meadow and the same thing happened. Fire, Law Enforcement, and EMS rushed to that scene and were able to get the patient stabilized by the grace of God. There was a flight nurse out of Vegas who was taking his family to Yankee Meadow to go fishing, and this crash happened right in front of them. He was able to stabilize the patient somewhat. We were able to get a landing zone, get a helicopter in there, and to get that patient extricated out of there. Commissioner Bleak reported that there the Sawmill fire ignited in the Hamlin Valley area, which quickly went from a small fire to ultimately almost 4000 acres, and our local resources, including our road department, responded, and officially that fire shows about 15% containment. They have a good line around it, and it was not going anywhere. He stated that he just wanted to say how grateful he was to our first responders, the training, the dedication, and everything that they do. We hate to see these types of things, but when events become dangerous, these folks really step up, and not only address of the scene, but the aftermath as well. The outpouring of charity and love to the community in Paragonah and Parowan has been amazing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were offered.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR SEEKING A FILMING PERMIT TO CAPTURE PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL. FILMING LOCATION WILL BE ON THE PUBLIC ROAD, SOUTH BRAFFITS CREEK ROAD/3200 SUBDIVISION PHASE 2 ON SEPTEMBER 11TH AND 12TH, 2026

Cadan Evans, Ultimate Drifting Challenge, LLC, reported that the Ultimate Drifting Challenge was a motorsports organization. Cadan explained that Ultimate Drifting Challenge was seeking a filming permit to capture some promotional material on September 11th and 12th. The filming location would be on the public road only, South Braffits Creek Road, 3200 Subdivision Phase 2 Road. He reported that he had talked with Sheriff Carpenter requesting his Volunteer Posse help with security and any road issues.

Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the Filming Permit to capture promotional material, as presented. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Absent.

PERSONNEL

Jennifer Bradbury, Iron County Human Resource (HR) Director, presented the new hire of Eric Martin as a Part-Time Assistant Cook for Council on Aging, effective June 23rd. This was a backfill of a vacant position.

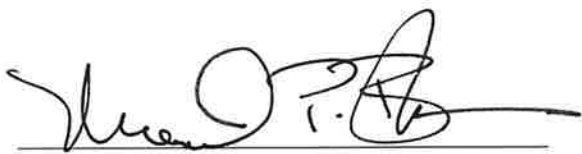
Paul Cozzens made a motion to approve the personnel changes as presented by Jennifer Bradbury. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye; Kenneth Robinson, Absent.

NON-DELEGATED ITEMS

No Non-Delegated Items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commission Chair Pro-Temp, declared adjournment.



Signed: Michael Bleak, Chair Pro-Tem



Attest Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk

