

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
June 30, 2026

Special Meeting Attendance:

Moab City Council held a Special Meeting on the above date in City Council Chambers. Archived video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVDp6ru2pVA and audio is at www.utah.gov/pmn. Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Councilmembers Kaitlin Myers, Miles Loftin, Jason Taylor, Colin Topper and Tawny Knuteson-Boyd attended, as well as City Manager Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Attorney Nathan Bracken, Fire Chief T.J. Brewer and Police Chief Lex Bell.

Temporary Ban on Fireworks—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Mayor Langianese reviewed action at the last regular meeting of the City Council, at which she declared an emergency ban on fireworks within City limits with the affirmation of Council; she stated that, subsequent to that, Governor Cox declared a ban on fireworks throughout the state. She said the purpose of the meeting was consideration of repealing and replacing **Ordinance 2026-10** with **Ordinance 2026-14**, an ordinance imposing a temporary ban on the discharge of fireworks within City limits. She reported she met with Fire Chief Brewer to discuss justifications for a ban on fireworks within the City, and Chief Brewer provided her with a letter outlining the reasons for the ban. Afterward, she said City Attorney Bracken consulted on the revised language of the ordinance. She stated the municipal fireworks display would be exempt unless an issue arose that would cause the City to cancel the municipal display. Mayor Langianese added that a stage two fire status resulted in a ban on personal fireworks across the county. Chief Brewer explained that the dangerous fire conditions could tap out the local fire fighting resources and backup resources would likely not be available to assist with any fires that might arise due to the dry and windy conditions. Councilmember Myers asked about the resources available to protect the community from any mishaps resulting from the municipal show. Brewer explained that, in the event of high winds and a red flag warning, he was authorized to cancel the show. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd praised the firefighters for their service. Attorney Bracken explained the Governor's order superceded the Mayor's order, although the Governor's order covered only the July 4 period. He added that the City, in consultation with the Fire Chief, was authorized to extend the ban through the rest of July. Bracken clarified the whole City fits within the four categories which allow for fireworks bans and establishes the legal basis for such a ban by Council. He said further bans could be enacted for other holidays, including New Year's Eve and the Chinese New Year. Police Chief Bell explained more patrols would be assigned on July 4, and violations of the ban would carry a \$1,000 fine. He stated he instructed his officers to adopt a zero tolerance approach. Councilmember Myers asked for clarification for residents who witness illegal fireworks, and Chief Bell explained violations can be reported to dispatch [435-259-8115]. Councilmember Taylor asked for clarification regarding not only a fine for the illegal discharge of fireworks but also recovering the cost of fire suppression and reparations due to an illegally caused fire. City Manager Black explained others charges such as reckless endangerment could be imposed. Bracken clarified the ban also included open fires; he said the proposed City ordinance did not specify charges for damages as it was covered by state code. ***Motion and Vote:*** Councilmember Taylor moved to approve **Ordinance 2026-14** repealing and replacing **Ordinance 2026-10** to reaffirm prohibitions on the discharge of private fireworks in map areas of the City of Moab that are subject to historical hazardous environmental conditions and to prohibit the discharge of private fireworks and the use of open fires within City boundaries from July 1st through through July 31st, 2026 due to existing hazardous environmental conditions pursuant to Utah Code 15A-5-202.5(1)(b). Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Councilmember Loftin moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor Sommar Johnson, City Recorder