

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 23, 2026

Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at www.utah.gov/pmn and video is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ym4jhDWB88. Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Councilmembers Jason Taylor, Tawny Knutson-Boyd, Kaitlin Myers, Colin Topper and Miles Loftin attended; Loftin attended via electronic means. Also in attendance were City Manager Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm, Sustainability and Grant Coordinator Val Villeux, Treasurer Marcy Mason, Associate Planner Johanna Blanco, Police Chief Lex Bell, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton, Jr., Community Development Director Cory Shurtleff, Deputy Recorder Yvonne Hatathly, Junior Planner Kate Poynter, Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin and eight members of the public. Councilmember Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Pete Gross referenced a comment made by Councilmember Topper at the last meeting regarding bicyclists impacted by new street work. He agreed with Topper's assessment that streets can be dangerous for bikes and cited the street realignment on 400 East bordering the high school, where bicyclists are squeezed by the lane of vehicle travel.

Water Conservation Plan—Workshop

Staff members Lamm and Villeux presented the draft Water Conservation Plan. Villeux described the purpose, history and timeline for the state-required update, and said a draft was due to the state by mid-July with a public hearing in September. He presented statistics based on gallons of culinary water used per capita per day (GPCD), and showed a reduction from 2005 to 2025 that nearly meets the goal of 20 percent reduction by 2030; he clarified that the target number is arguably 250 GPCD based on a starting level, rather than the goal of 267 which has been the established target. He explained current usage is 269 GPCD and covers residential, commercial and institutional users. Recent sustainability initiatives were discussed as well as the water shortage response matrix. Mayor Langianese asked how local farms were designated. Voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures were discussed as they relate to the water shortage response, including restrictions on fountains and water features, washing vehicles, a tiered billing structure, use of misters, water re-use incentives such as gray water systems, internal water audits, and a wastewater plant retrofit to recycle water. Councilmember Topper asked for regular reporting on the City's water shortage situation and trends in usage. Councilmember Myers mentioned enforcement, warnings, and fines. Topper urged a public information program as a first step, and the Mayor concurred that the public needs to know what to expect. A requirement for commercial carwashes to use recycled water was not viewed favorably, due to the age of existing local facilities. Councilmember Loftin questioned how water customers would know how to reduce use of misters by the suggested 15 percent. Councilmember Myers suggested the City needs to address community feedback and sentiment about water usage at the golf course and parks. Mayor Langianese suggested staff work on code adjustments regarding such topics as hours for watering lawns and hotel laundry.

Department Update:

Sustainability staff Lamm and Villeux presented a report on the proposed community garden at Old City Park, which Lamm said was several years in preparation and was a collaborative effort with the Youth Garden Project. Councilmember Topper asked if the City had a financial obligation to the project, and it was explained that the City was providing irrigation and a little-used plot of land at the park.

Consent Agenda—Approved

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: confirmation letter for a funding match for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant application, letter of

support for a Glass Recycling Foundation grant application, approval of minutes for the June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$308,414.38. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

General Business:

Public Hearing regarding amending the fiscal year budget—Cancelled

Mayor Langianese explained there was no need to amend the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget, and therefore the public hearing was cancelled.

Residential Utility Assistance Program—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Treasurer Mason presented a proposal to convert a pilot utility relief program to permanent status. She explained there were 20 City utility customers enrolled in the program, and she described efforts to recruit more enrollees. The budget was discussed and Councilmember Taylor thanked her for her explanation of how the program works.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Taylor moved to approve **Ordinance 2026-13**: an ordinance amending the City of Moab Residential Utility Assistance Program Policy to become a permanent policy. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Moab Valley Fire Department—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability Director Lamm presented an ILA with local fire protection agencies. She explained the agreement was required by state statute to ensure interagency assistance with firefighting efforts at the local level. She mentioned recent projects such as the community wildfire preparedness plan. Discussion ensued regarding definitions in the agreement, such as initial attack and catastrophic fire, as well as the need for state support and ongoing fire risk within City limits.

Motion and Discussion: Councilmember Myers moved to adopt **Resolution 07-2026** approving the Interlocal Agreement with Moab Valley Fire Protection District for fire protection services and authorizing the Mayor to sign it. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. Councilmembers praised the fire department for their work. **An emergency declaration banning fireworks** within City limits was brought up by the Mayor in response to a designated stage two fire danger. Attorney Watts Baskin stated the Mayor was empowered to make such an emergency declaration without a vote of the Council. Councilmembers unanimously supported such a declaration.

Vote: The motion to adopt **Resolution 07-2026** passed unanimously.

Cooperative Wildfire System Agreement with Forestry, Fire and State Lands—Approved

Motion and Discussion: Councilmember Topper moved to adopt **Resolution 08-2026** approving the Cooperative Wildfire System Agreement with Utah forestry, fire and state lands and authorizing the Mayor to sign it. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Councilmember Myers asked about any financial commitment required by the City. It was explained that the City's contribution of work provided by Rim To Rim Restoration far exceeded the participation requirements.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to Neighborhood Commercial Zone—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Associate Planner Blanco and Junior Planner Kate Poynter presented a proposed text amendment to the municipal code regarding permitted uses in the C-5 commercial zone. It was explained that the Planning Commission forwarded a unanimous recommendation for approval. Blanco clarified that a current business, without expanding their building, wished to expand services to fit the definition of medical clinic, which was not currently an allowed use in the zone. Councilmember Myers requested an amendment to all commercial zones to allow medical clinics. City Manager Black explained that such a request would trigger a need for an additional public hearing and the matter was already slated for correction in the code re-write. Councilmember Loftin explained the Planning Commission gave the matter a thorough review and recommended approval.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Topper moved to approve **Ordinance 2026-11:** an ordinance amending Moab Municipal Code, Title 17, Chapter 17.30 Neighborhood Commercial Zone, Section 17.30.020 Permitted Uses and Regulations, to include medical clinic as a permitted use. Councilmember Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Report:

City Manager Black reported the annual water quality report would be published in the *Moab Times-Independent*. He said business license renewals were underway. Black reported on work regarding flood preparedness in local creeks, riparian corridors and detention basins. He mentioned he attended the Cross Creeks Park open house to discuss the corridor between 100 West and 500 West. He mentioned his leadership team discussed a book entitled *Shackleton's Way*. Black reported two police officers had been hired, a police sergeant position was open, and a new junior planner joined the staff.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Taylor reported he attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting with other stakeholders to plan for the winter holiday festivities.

Councilmember Knutson-Boyd reported she attended meetings with the Canyonlands Health Care Special Service District and with Museum staff. She praised Public Works Director Levi Jones and his staff for the substantial work completed improving the Kane Creek Boulevard.

Councilmember Topper commented on a meeting regarding bicycle access to Arches National Park. He said the proposed plan would be revealed to the public at the July 14 TrailMix meeting. He added he attended the Cross Creeks open house.

Councilmember Myers reported she attended a meeting of the homeless council, Arts & Ag, and a Pride pool party at the aquatic center.

Councilmember Loftin reported he attended a meeting of the Planning Commission, and he praised the work of the Commission. He said the medical clinic definition in the commercial zones, as discussed earlier in the meeting, was determined to be an oversight in the current code. He stated he attended a meeting of the Grand Water and Sewer Services Agency (GWSSA).

Mayor Langianese reported she attended a meeting of the Utah League of Cities and Towns resort caucus, as well as meetings with the healthcare special service district, the City lobbyists, a special service district training, the Cross Creeks open house, and the Arches shuttle working group. She reported there were two open positions on the Planning Commission, and she wished all a happy Fourth of July.

Executive (Closed) Session:

Councilmember Taylor moved to enter an executive session to discuss reasonably imminent and/or pending litigation. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese convened the closed session at 8:16 p.m. Councilmember Topper moved to end the closed session. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese ended the closed session at 8:33 p.m.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Topper moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder