



# MINUTES – City Council Workshop Meeting

July 17, 2026

City of Saratoga Springs City Offices

319 S. Saratoga Rd., Saratoga Springs, Utah 84045

## CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS

July 17, 2026 – 8:00 am

City of Saratoga Springs Council Chambers

319 South Saratoga Road, Saratoga Springs, UT 84045

**Friday July 17, 2026 – 8:05 a.m.**

### **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, City Recorder Nicolette Fike, Public Works Director Jeremy Lapin, Admin Asst. Tina Fairbourn, Fire Chief Kenny Johnson, PR Manager AnnElise Harrison, Finance Director Chelese Rawlings, Budget Administrator Spencer Quain,

**WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS** - *Council Members may discuss specific topics or issues they wish to have formally considered for inclusion on a future meeting agenda. No action will be taken.*

### **1. Welcome** - Mayor Carn welcomed Council and staff.

### **2. Fire Station Construction Update**

Assistant City Manager Owen Jackson gave an overview of the plans that are being reviewed for a new fire station building. Needed infrastructure and equipment was discussed. A training tower was discussed showing different designs and the types of things it contained, and the importance of how it will help the firefighters in our city and surrounding areas.

Estimated costs were discussed of the different elements including station costs, site, and training tower costs. Council shared their thoughts on the concept designs.

### **3. Council Goals**

Assistant City Manager Owen Jackson began the discussion on council priorities with direction based on previous workshops. Items discussed included small business & economic development, emergency preparedness & public safety, connectivity trails & transportation, governance & communication, recreation and Quality of Life

Council emphasized making data-driven decisions based on best practices rather than emotion or inexperience. Some priorities included updating emergency preparedness plans, maintaining public safety resources as the community grows, improving traffic signal coordination with UDOT, expanding transportation options, and reducing commute times. They also asked staff to ensure consistent communication across departments and supported programs like the Police Citizens Academy that strengthen resident understanding and engagement.

### **4. Vision for the City**

City Manager Mark J. Christensen introduced information about the vision for the City over the past several years, and led discussion on how to build on the strengths.

Council discussed the City's growth, highlighting proactive planning, fiscal sustainability, and strong core services like water and sewer. They noted that while residents may not yet see the results of long-term planning,

the City is well positioned for the future. Council also emphasized building on recreation, commerce, and transportation opportunities to support the City's long-term vision.

Mayor Carn expressed concern about incentivizing growth outside of what is already vested or what brings good value to the City. He looks at what should we be providing, and what should be from private sector, what is the proper role of government.

## 5. RAP tax projects

Assistant City Manager Owen Jackson led a discussion on projects that council would like to use the RAP tax money for. Some items included an amphitheater, benches and tables for the new marina, existing park improvements, recreation department equipment, library programming and equipment, and summer civic event activities.

Council shared some items they felt could be prioritized with available funds such as north marina picnic sites, library programing, teen film festival, Neptune Park improvements, art classes, soccer goals and concessions.

## 6. Administration and Staff Updates

City Manager Mark J. Christensen began staff update presentations assisted by staff:

- Traffic and Enforcement Plan
- Emergency preparation

~11:55 a.m. Lunch break, meeting continued about 12:30 p.m.

- Land Development processes and code updates
- Economic development
- Business License processes – Council wanted to be less restrictive in allowing
- Truth in Taxation remaining process
- Facility Rental policy - questions were brought up such as non-profit organizations and non-resident
- Water Use update – Public Works Director Lapin updated on the water rights the City owns and how they are used. It was noted that drinking water usage remains relatively constant while pressurized irrigation fluctuates based on drought messaging and water availability. He discussed parks irrigation efficiency practices.
- Cemetery – Public Works Director Lapin led discussion on fees and general operations. Saturday burials were discussed and what a fair way to handle those would be, taking into account employee time and staff shortage. New policy was suggested for funeral tents.
- Traffic Calming – staff shared how the processes for needs and requests are handled.
  - Safe Walking Routes – Public Works Director Lapin shared the process that is followed by schools and the city, following state processes to work on routes.

## 7. Council Comments: *Council Members may discuss specific topics or issues they wish to have formally considered for inclusion on a future meeting agenda. No action will be taken.*

The topic of the Inlet park FFSL improvements come in, how does that impact the city, maintenance etc. and is there beneficial trade off.

## 8. Closed Session

**Motion by Councilmember Taylor to enter into closed meeting for the purchase, exchange, or lease of property, discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; pending or reasonably imminent litigation, the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. 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

A short break was taken.

**Closed Session Meeting commenced at 4:14 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Chris Carn, Council: Audrey Barton, Edon Davenport, Robert Taylor, Lance Wadman, Emma Wilson.

Staff: City Manager Mark Christensen, Assistant City Manager Owen Jackson, Assistant City Manager Katie Olson, City Attorney Kevin Thurman, Public Works Director Lapin, City Recorder Nicolette Fike.

**Motion to end the closed session was made by Councilmember Wadman, seconded by Councilmember Taylor.**

**Yes: Audrey Barton, Edon Davenport, Robert Taylor, Lance Wadman, Emma Wilson.**

**No: None**

**Motion passed 5-0**

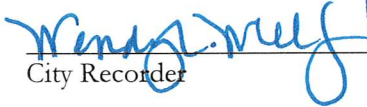
**Closed Meeting ended at 4:58 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

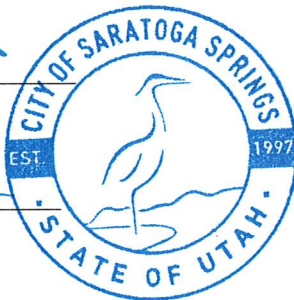
There being no further business, Mayor Chris Carn adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.



Mayor Chris Carn



City Recorder



08.04.2026

Date