MINUTES
ENOCH CITY COUNCIL
July 15, 2026 at 6:00pm
City Council Chambers
City Offices, 900 E. Midvalley Road

MEMBERS PRESENT:	**STAFF PRESENT:**
Mayor Jim Rushton	**Ryan Robinson, City Manager**
Council Member David Harris	**Ashley Horton, Treasurer**
Council Member Shawn Stoor	**Lindsay Hildebrand, Recorder**
Council Member Debra Ley	**Jackson Ames, Police Chief**
Council Member Kimberlee Trower	**Justin Wayment, City Attorney**
Council Member Jacob Miner	**Hayden White, Public Works Director**

Public Present: Jonathan Wilson, Ivan Matheson, Delaine Finlay, and Linda Hahne

1. **CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING** by Mayor Rushton
   a. **Pledge of Allegiance-** Led by Ashley Horton
   b. **Invocation (2 min.)-Audience invited to participate-** Given by Police Chief Ames
   c. **Inspirational thought-** Given by Mayor Rushton
   d. **Approval of Agenda for July 15, 2026 – Council Member Harris made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the expenditures. Council Member Trower seconded and all voted in favor.**
   e. **Approval of Minutes for July 1, 2026 - Council Member Harris made a motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Miner seconded and all voted in favor.**
   f. **Conflict of Interest Declaration for this agenda-** None stated
   g. **Ratify Expenditures -** Council Member Trower asked about $45,000 going to electrical bills for pump stations for water. Ashley said yes that is the cost to keep them running. Trower asked if we did solar. Hayden said no, we don't even use generators. Mayor Rushton asked if that was something we had looked into. Hayden said solar is about $60,000 per well house. City Manager Robinson said it's $1.2 million to have all generators. Senator Maloy's office sent us a list of grants and this was one. Hayden said solar won't run the well but it takes the demand off starting it.

   Council Member Harris made a motion to approve the expenditures for the month. Council Member Trower seconded and all voted in favor.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

   Ivan Matheson and his wife Patricia, residents of Sarah Avenue, addressed the Council. Mr. Matheson described observing a large American flag atop a Yardley Tree Service boom truck near the roundabout on the 4th of July and suggested that the city consider installing a permanent flagpole in the center of the roundabout. Mayor Rushton expressed enthusiasm for the idea. He indicated it would be considered, though he acknowledged that approval from UDOT may be required given that the roundabout falls under a state highway. Mr. Matheson noted that the roundabout's landscaping is elevated enough that a flagpole would not obstruct sight lines in any direction.

3. CONSIDER LIMITATIONS REGARDING 24TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

The Council discussed fireworks limitations for the 24th of July holiday. City Manager Robinson reported that, as of the meeting date, the Governor had not issued a statewide fireworks ban for the 24th, though he noted the situation could change. He summarized that for the 4th of July, the city had restricted personal fireworks to the city hall parking lot area rather than imposing an outright ban, given that Utah law does not permit municipalities to unilaterally prohibit fireworks entirely.

Council Member Harris noted that in prior discussions the Council had concluded an outright ban was not within the city's authority and expressed the view that it was preferable to designate an approved area so that residents do not light fireworks covertly in less safe locations. Discussion touched on the possibility of including the adjacent school parking lot, but it was noted that the school district would require a formal indemnification agreement before allowing use of their property, which had not yet been finalized. The church nearby had been similarly unwilling to allow their property to be used. Public Works Director White confirmed that for the 4th of July, staff had placed water barrels on site, mowed down dry vegetation, and had a water truck and hoses available as precautionary measures.

It was confirmed that the existing restrictions, limiting personal fireworks to the city hall area, would remain in place for the 24th of July, with aerial fireworks being the restricted category and items such as sparklers remaining permitted. The professional fireworks display would be handled by an outside company, with the fire department present. No formal motion was required, as the Council was maintaining the existing policy.

4. CONSIDER JOINING THE SOUTHERN UTAH ECONOMIC ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP

City Manager Robinson presented the Southern Utah Economic Alliance (SUEA) for Council consideration. He explained that the organization had been recommended by the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GoEd) and that its primary purpose would be to help Enoch develop an economic development plan, specifically identifying what types of industries and businesses would be a good fit for the community, and then leveraging the Alliance's existing relationships to actively recruit those businesses. Robinson noted that membership would cost $10,000 annually and would include a seat on the Alliance's board.

Council Member Miner, who serves as the Council's representative over economic development, spoke in favor of the membership. He highlighted the Alliance's broad network of industry contacts across commercial, retail, and agricultural sectors, and noted that the annual membership could be cancelled with 30 days' notice, providing flexibility to reassess the return on investment each year. He emphasized that the Alliance would serve in an advisory and networking capacity. The Council would retain all final decision-making authority.

Council Member Ley expressed some reservations, questioning whether the Alliance's functions were similar with those of the Inland Port Authority. She raised concern about an industry being promoted by the Alliance, specifically, electric air vehicles and testing associated with NASA, as potentially incompatible with the proximity to residential areas. She also questioned whether adding another intermediary layer of organization was necessary to reach state-level contacts. Council Member Harris acknowledged the concern but suggested the overall value of the membership should not be judged solely by one industry area. He framed the membership as effectively "outsourcing" economic development for a city not yet large enough to staff that function internally.

Council Member Harris made a motion to approve joining the Southern Utah Economic Alliance Membership. Council Member Miner seconded and a roll call vote was held as follows:
Council Member Stoor: Yes **Council Member Harris: Yes**
Council Member Ley: No **Council Member Trower: Yes**
Council Member Miner: Yes

5. **CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07-15, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A TRANSIENT ROOM TAX**

City Manager Robinson introduced the proposed transient room tax, explaining that the recommendation came from the Iron County tourism bureau director following conversations related to funding for the city's prospective sports complex. The ordinance would impose a 1% tax on accommodations rented for fewer than 30 consecutive days — including short-term rentals, RV parks, Airbnb-type rentals, and any future hotel — with the tax to be collected and redistributed by the State Tax Commission and deposited into the city's general fund.

Robinson noted that based on projections from the State Tax Commission, the city would have received approximately $2,515 in revenue under this tax in the current year, acknowledging it would not be a significant revenue source immediately. However, Mayor Rushton had recommended establishing the tax now, before larger accommodations such as hotels were developed in the city, to avoid a more difficult political conversation at that stage. Robinson also noted there are two RV parks either built or proposed in Enoch, and that revenue would grow accordingly.

Council Member Ley raised a concern about the burden placed on home-based businesses such as bed and breakfasts, particularly around additional paperwork and reporting requirements. Council Member Harris clarified that for properties booked through platforms such as Airbnb or Vrbo, the collection and accounting would largely be handled electronically by the platform, with owners only needing to submit a tax report. He also noted that the tax would ultimately be paid by the guests rather than the property owners, and that there is a legitimate cost to the city — in police services, roads, and infrastructure — when visitors stay in Enoch. The tax would help compensate for those costs. Council Member Ley's concern about exempting owner-occupied bed and breakfasts was discussed, though it was noted that it was uncertain whether such a carve-out was permissible under the ordinance's structure. The ordinance, if adopted, would take effect January 1, 2027.

Council Member Stoor made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-07-15, an ordinance to adopt a transient room tax. Council Member Trower seconded and a roll call vote was held as follows:
Council Member Stoor: Yes **Council Member Harris: Yes**
Council Member Ley: No **Council Member Trower: Yes**
Council Member Miner: Yes

6. **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORT**

<u>Public Works Director Hayden White</u>

- The sandbag filling event originally planned for the evening of the meeting was cancelled due to rain; it was rescheduled for the following day (Thursday) from 6:00–8:00 PM at the Public Works building.
- Bark Avenue is being prepared for future chip-sealing, with grading and road base work underway.
- Several water line leaks had been repaired recently.

- Staff are continuing to program water meters for the new towers; the process is time-consuming due to meters located in residential backyards.
- New seasonal employees are being trained.
- The new well drilling project has been stalled for approximately two weeks due to equipment failure; Director White is working to determine a timeline for resumption. Once drilling is complete, the casing installation will require a continuous 24-hour operation. Staff may arrange temporary hotel accommodations for adjacent homeowners during that period to enable uninterrupted operations.
- A generator installed at Ravine well last year cost approximately $160,000, including $40,000 for gas line extension. The plan is to add one generator per year, though well repair needs have taken priority. Staff are exploring emergency funding and grant options, and Director White indicated he would solicit a solar bid from a contractor who currently services the city's sewer flow station.

<u>Police Chief Ames</u>

- The 4th of July was described as one of the quietest in recent memory in terms of incidents, citations, and compliance issues.
- Residents were broadly cooperative with fireworks restrictions.
- One citation was issued to an individual lighting off fireworks in violation of the restrictions.
- Reports from other law enforcement administrators across the region, including Brian Head, indicated extremely dry conditions and elevated fire risk.

<u>Treasurer Ashley Horton</u>

- End-of-year financial reporting is underway.
- The annual audit has been scheduled for August.

<u>City Manager Ryan Robinson</u>

- The city's Moderate Income Housing report was submitted to the state and the city was found to be in compliance, maintaining eligibility for Class C road funds.
- The 24th of July fireworks show will be a 15-minute professionally produced display with a synchronized music playlist that will be broadcast on a local radio frequency; details will be promoted on social media closer to the date.
- An SUU social media intern has been engaged to improve the city's social media presence and help direct residents to official city communications rather than unofficial community pages. Staff are developing a communications policy to support this effort.
- A photo contest open to residents is being considered to gather quality images of Enoch for use on the city's website and social media.
- Vision Iron County, a community feedback initiative, presented results from a University of Utah survey of Iron County residents. Approximately 67–75% of respondents indicated they prefer to get information from social media, reinforcing the city's focus on that channel. A draft document with compiled community comments is forthcoming and will be shared with the Council.
- Staff are planning a post-event debrief meeting following the 24th of July to review what worked well at the 4th of July celebration and identify improvements for future events.

- Thanks were extended to all staff and volunteers who contributed to the 4th of July event.

<u>City Recorder Lindsay Hildebrand</u>

- Business licensing data was compiled for the annual county report. In the current fiscal year (July 2025 to present), the city issued 14 new commercial business licenses, with approximately 11 of those issued since January 2026 — compared to only 8 commercial licenses issued in the prior full fiscal year.
- Home-based business licenses remained relatively stable at approximately 44–45 per year.

<u>Council Member Shawn Stoor</u>

- A Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening; Council members were invited to attend.

<u>Council Member David Harris</u>

- He was unable to attend the Washington County Water Conservancy District tour due to a prior commitment but noted a board meeting was scheduled for the following day and would report back at the next Council meeting.

<u>Council Member Deborah Ley</u>

- Thanked everyone who volunteered in the 4th of July celebration. She also thanked the public works employees.
- She would like a list of all of the businesses that contributed in the newsletter.
- There were about 120 people registered in the Freedom 5K run.

<u>Council Member Kimberlee Trower</u>

- The Planning and Zoning Commission met the previous evening and continued its review of the R-118 zoning ordinance, working zone-by-zone to correct errors similar to those previously found in the commercial zone section. Annexation-related matters are on hold pending completion of other priorities.
- She attended the Washington County Water Conservancy District tour along with Council Member Trower and City Manager Robinson, visiting three wastewater treatment facilities. Key takeaways included the district's long-range planning practices (planning 50 years forward with annual reviews), their triennial impact fee updates, and insights on regionalization and inter-municipal coordination.

<u>Council Member Jacob Miner</u>

- He attended the Economic Development Advisory Board meeting, where the board discussed allocation recommendations for an RCG grant of $200,000 and a larger RCOG grant of $600,000.
- Recommended recipients for the RCG grant included the Innovation Center, Women in Business program, facade enhancement grants, a Main Street Program, Iron Leaders Academy sponsorship, the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce, and the SUU Business Center.
- For the RCOG grant ($600,000), the Mayor and City Manager suggested exploring

pavement improvement projects as qualifying economic development infrastructure.

- Mayor Rushton noted that the Main Street Program funding could potentially inspire Enoch to develop its own "downtown" or commercial district program to support local businesses.

7. **CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING; PENDING OR REASONABLY IMMINENT LITIGATION, THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING ANY FORM OF WATER RIGHTS OR WATER SHARES; DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY PERSONNEL, DEVICES OR SYSTEMS; INVESTIGATIVE PROCEEDINGS REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT.**

Council Member Harris made a motion to close the regular meeting and convene in a closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, or personal matters. Council Member Trower seconded and a roll call vote was held as follows:

Council Member Stoor: Yes **Council Member Harris: Yes**
Council Member Ley: Yes **Council Member Trower: Yes**
Council Member Miner: Yes

8. **ACTION FROM CLOSED MEETING –**

Council Member Harris made a motion to direct city staff to proceed with negotiations on the discussed property during the closed session. Council Member Stoor seconded and all voted in favor.

Council Member Harris made a motion to close the regular meeting and convene in a closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, or personal matters. Council Member Stoor seconded and a roll call vote was held as follows:

Council Member Stoor: Yes **Council Member Harris: Yes**
Council Member Ley: Yes **Council Member Trower: Yes**
Council Member Miner: Yes

ACTION FROM CLOSED MEETING – No action taken

9. **ADJOURN**

Lindsay Hildebrand 08/06/2026

Lindsay Hildebrand, Recorder **Date**