



**EMIGRATION
CANYON**

**EMIGRATION CANYON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2026**

Unified Fire Authority Station 119
5025 E Emigration Canyon Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

Council Members Present: Mayor David Brems, Council Member Nicholas Griffith, Council Member Jennifer Hawkes, Council Member Robert Pinon

Council Members Absent: Council Member Catherine Harris

Staff Present: Diana Baun – City Recorder, Daniel Hoffman – Accounting Manager, Tamaran Woodland – Assistant City Engineer, Cameron Platt – City Attorney, Claire Gillmor – Land Use Legal Counsel, Det. Dawn Larsen – UPD, Chief Roger Beckman – UFA

Others Present: Janet Haskell, Corrine Garcia, HG Kunzler, Stacey Adams

1. Call to Order and Determine Quorum
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognize Visiting Officials

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per person)**

Public Comments should be limited to no more than three (3) minutes per person unless additional time is authorized by the Governing Body.

Janet Haskell thanked the Council for providing detailed budget information and expressed support for the proposed wildfire management program. She voiced concerns regarding the proposed cooperative agreement with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL), stating that it appeared to place significant responsibilities on the City while limiting the State's liability. She encouraged the Council to review the agreement carefully before approval. She also expressed concern that the proposed budget included too many new initiatives at one time, noting that administrative costs had increased from 19% to a proposed 34% of expenditures. She questioned whether some expenditures could be delayed while acknowledging the Mayor's efforts to modernize City operations. Mayor David Brems responded that both the agreement and the budget would be discussed later in the meeting.

Corinne Garcia spoke in support of improving roadway safety while protecting the canyon's natural environment. She described concerns with speeding and unsafe passing, explained that she regularly traveled the canyon by bicycle with her children, and encouraged roadway improvements that safely accommodated motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. She also supported a collaborative public process and asked what efforts were being made to address roadside weed management.

5. **STAKEHOLDER REPORTS**

A. Unified Police Department (UPD)

Detective Dawn Larsen reported that the Unified Police Department responded to 62 calls for service during May. She highlighted a stalking case that resulted in an arrest and criminal charges, an assault that resulted in an arrest, and a vehicle collision involving a deer. She also reported that motorcycle traffic enforcement had resulted in numerous traffic stops and announced that a bicycle education event would be held on June 27 at Rotary Glen Park to educate residents about the City's new bicycle regulations..

B. Unified Fire Authority (UFA)

Chief Roger Beckman reported that the previous month included routine medical, fire, carbon monoxide, and fire alarm calls with no major incidents. He stated that more detailed statistics would be provided in future reports. He also advised that Salt Lake County had not yet implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions but that restrictions were anticipated in early July, and he would notify the Council when additional information became available.

C. Salt Lake County Animal Services

Gary Bowen had no updates.

D. Land Use Updates – *Claire Gillmor, Land Use Attorney*

Claire Gillmor reported that the Planning Commission recommended approval of two ordinances, one creating a development agreement option and another substantially revising the City's conditional use ordinance. She also reported that negotiations regarding pending litigation were progressing and that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

6. **PROJECT UPDATES** (Discussion Only)

A. Road Improvement Project Updates – *Avenue Associates*

(Attachment A)

HG Kunzler of Avenue Consultants presented an update on the Emigration Canyon Road Safety Improvement Project. He reviewed the project's background, including the approved \$6.5 million in federal safety funding, the Municipal Services District's project management role, and oversight by UDOT and the Wasatch Front Regional Council. He explained that the 1.8-mile project remained in the environmental review phase and that potential improvements under evaluation included bicycle lanes, updated striping and signage, barrier replacement, drainage improvements, and slope stabilization.

Mr. Kunzler explained that preliminary design and environmental review were progressing together and that approximately 30% design would be completed as part of the environmental process. The Council would later determine whether to proceed with final design following completion of the environmental review.

Mr. Kunzler described the June 30 public open house, explaining that it would provide information about the project, environmental process, project schedule, and conceptual improvement alternatives. He encouraged residents to provide comments identifying local conditions and concerns that could assist the project team during environmental review.

The project team reported that work completed since the previous update included safety evaluations, geotechnical investigations, drainage analysis, utility coordination, right-of-way research, environmental studies, development of the project website and newsletters, and the initial Community Engagement Group meeting. Future milestones include the June 30 public open house, continued public outreach, additional Community Engagement Group meetings, preparation of the environmental document, and a future Council decision regarding final design.

Council members discussed public involvement, availability of Community Engagement Group information, coordination among participating agencies, and opportunities for Council input during project development. Council Member Jennifer Hawkes emphasized the importance of incorporating the Council's institutional knowledge early in the process. Mr. Kunzler acknowledged the concern and committed to improving communication with the Council throughout the project. Stacey Adams also encouraged council members to provide information directly to the project team at any time.

Mr. Kunzler concluded by encouraging residents to subscribe to project updates, visit the project website, attend the June 30 open house, and participate in the public involvement process.

B. Engineering Updates

Chief Roger Beckman was invited to share some new information from a previous discussion for the council and reviewed fire restrictions.

(Attachment B)

Tamaran Woodland provided updates on several engineering projects.

She reported that completion of the Municipal Services District (MSD) Transportation Master Plan had been delayed because pavement condition assessments still needed to be completed in Lambs Canyon and Butterfield Canyon. A draft Transportation Master Plan is now expected by the end of 2026.

Regarding the Emigration Canyon Road Safety Project, Ms. Woodland stated that the project remains in the investigative and environmental review phase and that many project details cannot yet be determined until approximately 30% design is complete. She explained that research has identified more relevant 1934 right-of-way records than those originally referenced in the consultant contract and that additional historical research is continuing. She also clarified that the City's intern has been assisting only with locating historical records and is not making engineering or right-of-way determinations.

Ms. Woodland encouraged residents to attend the June 30 open house to identify important site conditions such as springs, septic systems, and other features that may affect project design. She also reported that weekly summaries of public comments submitted through the project website would begin being distributed to the Council.

Ms. Woodland reported that the Emigration Creek culvert project is approximately 95% designed. Final plans are expected soon, although temporary construction easements remain under legal review and could affect the anticipated fall construction schedule.

Ms. Woodland also presented a preliminary engineering evaluation of the Freeze Creek wall reconstruction project. The consultant identified six locations requiring additional evaluation, including three privately owned structures and three publicly owned gabion retaining walls. Preliminary repair cost estimates range from approximately \$3,000 for minor repairs to approximately \$325,000 for more extensive stabilization work. Council members discussed ownership responsibilities, historic easements, previous geotechnical investigations, and the consultant's recommendations. Staff will continue evaluating ownership, legal responsibilities, and repair alternatives before returning with additional recommendations.

Finally, Ms. Woodland reported that there were no significant updates regarding the FEMA flood map revision. She explained that the City must continue administering permits under the currently adopted flood maps while also considering the proposed maps as the best available technical information until the revision process is completed.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA** (Discussion/Motion)

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. May 19, 2026 City Council Meeting

Council Member Hawkes noted the minutes were still too long and too detailed, council has asked to try a more summarized version for next month and Recorder will create a shorter version for the next meeting as an experiment.

Council Member Griffith moved to approve the May 19, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes as published. Council Member Pinon seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

8. PRESENTATION ITEMS (Discussion Only) – None

9. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS (Discussion/Motion)

A. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Ordinance 2026-O-06, An Ordinance Adopting the City of Emigration Canyon's 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget

Daniel Hoffman reviewed revisions made since the tentative budget, including funding for a community well-being survey, the Unified Fire Authority wildfire management program, and repair and purchase of speed trailers. Council members discussed the speed trailer funding, storage location, and government pricing.

Mayor David Brems explained that the proposed \$25,000 community center allocation was intended to begin evaluating the City's existing facilities and property, conduct public outreach, develop conceptual plans, and identify potential funding sources. Daniel Hoffman noted that additional funding could be added through future budget amendments if necessary.

The Council discussed restroom maintenance funding, with Council Member Jennifer Hawkes recommending restoring the previous \$12,000 annual budget because of pumping costs associated with the restroom holding tanks.

Council members also discussed the possibility of acquiring noise enforcement equipment in the future. Mayor Brems reported that staff would continue exploring opportunities to partner with neighboring jurisdictions or borrow equipment before considering a purchase.

Daniel Hoffman reminded the Council that the budget had to be adopted before June 30 and noted that future amendments could be made as needed.

Council members discussed the proposed administrative budget, including questions raised during public comment regarding administrative costs. Daniel Hoffman explained that much of the increase reflected one-time Council-directed initiatives, including wildfire mitigation, facilitation services, speed trailer purchases, and the community center study, rather than ongoing operating expenses.

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes reported that the budget did not include funding for an electronic single-file traffic sign required for enforcement under state law. She stated that she would research costs and bring the matter back to the Council.

Mayor David Brems responded to a public question regarding remaining CARES Act funds, stating that the funds remain in the City's fund balance and no decision has yet been made regarding their future use.

Council Member Griffith moved to open the public hearing for Ordinance 2026-O-06. Council Member Hawkes seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

Janet Haskell reiterated her concerns that the proposed budget significantly increased recurring expenditures and urged the Council to develop and publicly share a multi-year financial plan before making substantial investments in a future community center. She also encouraged the City to survey residents early in the planning process to determine community support. Mayor David Brems and Council Member Robert Pinon agreed that long-term planning, public engagement, and evaluation of operating costs would be part of the process.

Council Member Pinon moved to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2026-O-06. Council Member Griffith seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

Council Member Robert Pinon asked whether the budget remained balanced after the Council's revisions. Daniel Hoffman explained that the budget automatically remained balanced through adjustments to contributions from the General Fund.

Before the vote, an audience member expressed opposition to the proposed budget and stated that elected officials supporting the budget would face opposition during the next election.

Council Member Pinon moved to approve Ordinance 2026-O-06, Approving the FY2027 City Budget. Council Member Griffith seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

10. COUNCIL BUSINESS: (Discussion/Motion)

A. Discussion and Potential Action Regarding Resolution R2026-11, Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Cooperative Agreement with the Utah Division of Fire, Forestry and State Lands

Cameron Platt reported that the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) had revised its interpretation of House Bill 48 and now requires every municipality, including those served by the Unified Fire Authority (UFA), to execute a cooperative agreement. He explained that although the agreement is favorable to FFSL, it provides the significant benefit of state coverage for wildfire suppression costs. Without the agreement, Emigration Canyon would be responsible for all wildfire suppression expenses.

Mr. Platt reported that the City currently meets the agreement's requirements through its partnership with UFA, which administers annual reporting and wildfire mitigation activities including Firewise events and chipper days. He stated that the City's risk under the agreement is minimal provided those requirements continue to be met.

Council Member Robert Pinon asked about additional mitigation requirements and commented that projects such as undergrounding Rocky Mountain Power lines also improve wildfire safety. Chief Roger Beckman added that Emigration Canyon consistently exceeds the minimum wildfire mitigation requirements through Firewise activities, Community Wildfire Stewardship projects, chipper days, and strong resident participation.

Council Member Griffith moved to approve Resolution R2026-11, Authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement discussed above. Council Member Pinon seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

B. Healthy Utah Designation Updates

Council Member Pinon had no updates

C. City Design Standards and Design Guidelines

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes reported that she had completed a draft of the City's design standards and guidelines and would distribute it to the Council following the meeting for review and comment.

11. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATES

None

12. COUNCIL REPORTS

A. Mayor Brems

1. Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD)
2. Emigration Canyon Planning Commission

Mayor David Brems reported that the Municipal Services District approved a new weighted voting formula for 2027 based on population (10%), revenue (60%), and road miles (30%). Under the new formula, Emigration Canyon's voting percentage will be approximately 2.36%. Mayor Brems then announced that Planning Commissioner Jim Karkut would be leaving the Planning Commission after many years of service because he is moving from the canyon. He thanked Jim Karkut for his contributions and suggested recognizing his service at a future meeting. He also reported that the City is

accepting applications for a new Planning Commission member and intends to appoint one permanent member along with two alternates. Mayor Brems noted that an application had already been received from a qualified resident and expressed appreciation for the quality and dedication of the City's Planning Commission.

B. Council Member Griffith

1. Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (WFWRD)

Council Member Nicholas Griffith reported that WFWRD has begun mailing utility bills in postcard format, reducing annual costs by approximately \$200,000. He noted that the savings help offset increased operating costs and encouraged residents to recognize sanitation workers during National Waste and Recycling Workers Week. Council Member Griffith also reported that 56 trailers were used during the May trailer program, representing approximately 10% participation by Emigration Canyon households. He said WFWRD is considering offering an additional trailer program later in the year and welcomed community suggestions. He clarified that the report referred to the trailer reservation program rather than the community cleanup event.

C. Council Member Harris

1. Unified Fire Authority (UFA) & Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA)
2. HB 48 – Wildland Risks
3. Watershed Plan

No updates at this time

D. Council Member Hawkes

1. Website (www.emigration.utah.gov)
2. CodeRED
3. Utah League of Cities and Towns

Council Member Jennifer Hawkes reported that information regarding upcoming chipper days had been added to the City's website and that a newsletter would be distributed announcing the bicycle education event, June 30 road project open house, chipper days, and anticipated fire restrictions. The Council discussed using both the City's email distribution list and CodeRED notifications to improve communication with residents. Council Member Hawkes also offered to provide email engagement statistics and encouraged additional outreach to increase CodeRED participation. She reported that an electronic message sign was needed to improve public communication and support enforcement of the State's single-file traffic law. She requested that approval of the approximately \$17,000 purchase be placed on the next meeting agenda. Council members discussed having the Unified Police Department review the proposed sign before purchase. Cameron Platt advised that, because the sign is available through a State purchasing contract and is below the competitive bidding threshold, it could be purchased without a separate bidding process once approved by the Council. He also reported that revisions to the City's purchasing ordinance would be presented in the coming months. Council Member Hawkes reported that the City still needed to appoint a representative to the Association of Municipal Governments and encouraged interested council members to participate. She also informed the Council of upcoming Utah League of Cities and Towns training opportunities. Cameron Platt clarified that no property tax action was required because Emigration Canyon does not levy a property tax.

E. Council Member Pinon

1. Unified Police Department (UPD) & Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA)
1. Utah Broadband
2. Update on Possible High-Density Development

Council Member Robert Pinon reported on the recent Unified Police Department Governing Board meeting, noting that the proposed budget increased approximately 3.5%, below the originally projected 5.21%. He commended Chief Jason Mazuran and department staff for maintaining fiscally responsible operations. He summarized several planned capital purchases and reported that Emigration Canyon's assessment increased approximately 4.01%, reflecting additional

resources directed toward the community. Detective Dawn Larsen agreed with the report.

There were no updates regarding Utah Broadband or possible high-density development.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

July - Approval of purchase for electronic signs (Council Member Hawkes sending the information). Less than \$50k can use state purchasing contract or three telephone bids. Sounds like it's already on the government Contract.

August – revision of purchasing policy

Council Member Pinon moved to recess the City Council meeting and move to Closed Session for the reasons highlighted below. Council Member Hawkes seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

14. CLOSED SESSIONS IF NEEDED AS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE §52-4-205

- A. Discussion of the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual.
- B. **Strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.**
- C. **Strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property.**
- D. Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and
- E. Other lawful purposes as listed in Utah Code §52-4-205

Council Member Pinon moved to recess the City Council meeting again to go into Closed Session at 9:37 p.m. for the discussion of the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual. Council Member Hawkes seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

15. ADJOURN

Council Member Pinon moved to adjourn the June 16, 2026 City Council Meeting at 9:59 p.m. Council Member Griffith seconded the motion; vote was 4-0, unanimous in favor with Council Member Harris absent from the vote.

This is a true and correct copy of the June 16, 2026 Emigration Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes, approved by the Emigration Canyon City Council on July 21, 2026.

ATTEST:

Signed by:

C6506EA198954E3

David Brems, Mayor

Signed by:

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Diana Baun, City Recorder