



Council Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2026

Council Chambers

5:30 PM

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jared Hamner called the Council Meeting to order at 05:30 PM. The time, place, and agenda of the meeting had been provided to the Tooele Transcript Bulletin and to each member of the governing body by posting the notice and agenda at least two days before on the Tooele County website and emailing them a link.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nicole Rash, Chief Deputy Clerk

3. Roll Call

Council Member Roll call as follows:

Erik Stromberg: Present

Jared Hamner: Present

Tye Hoffmann: Present

Scott Wardle: Present

Kendall Thomas: Present

Also, present were Scott Broadhead- Attorney, Andy Welch- County Manager, Brittany Lopez- Assistant County Manager, and Nicole Rash- Chief Deputy Clerk.

Staff in attendance were Nathan Harris- Deputy Attorney, Alison McCoy- Auditor, Joy Peters- Assessor, Corey Bullock- Parks & Recreation Director, Bucky Whitehouse- EOC Director, Jason

Sparks- Facilities Director. Jamie Zwerin- Health Department, Amy Hoftiezer- Aging Director, Mili Piquinto- Planner, Rachelle Custer- Community Development Director, Jerry Houghton- Recorder /Surveyor and Jed Bell- Roads Director.

Guests in attendance were Chris Sloan, Sheldon Birch, Scott Degelbeck, and multiple Tooele County residents.

4. Public Comments

Jake McArthur- rezone applicant. He thanked the Planning and Zoning staff for their work and stated he hopes to come to a resolution after a long process.

5. Minutes

a. June 2, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes

Attachments

1. 06.02.2026.Business.Draft

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the June 2, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

6. Contracts

a. Contract with Sage Construction for Construction of Ibapah Well House, Jed Bell

An IFB was publicly issued to solicit bids for construction of a well house at the location of the County's Ibapah well. Four bids were received. Sage Construction was selected in the amount of \$169,476, was determined to be a responsible offeror, and was resultantly selected for award.

Attachments

1. Ibapah Well House Construction Contract_signed.pdf

Jed Bell, Roads Director, presented this item as outlined above. Director Bell stated this solicitation was out on the website for 3 weeks. Four bids were received and graded. Sage Construction was the most responsible offer and was also the lowest bid. This project is to build the Ibapah well house which will provide a housing structure, a fence, some water tanks and culinary service in Ibapah. This project pairs with Phase I, which was the well that was drilled earlier this year. The bid came in under the approved budget. The budget for this project is part of the Water Smart Grant offered by the Bureau of Reclamation which was awarded in May 2024. County Manager, Andy Welch, clarified that this well will not be the primary water source for Ibapah. Rather, it is a back-up water supply, and will be primarily used for construction and maintenance activities and fire water supply.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve the contract with Sage Construction for construction of the Ibapah Well House. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

b. Contract with Stout for Partial Jail Demolition, Jason Sparks

An IFB was issued for partial demolition and repair of the old jail building. Nine bids were received. Stout was selected for award in the amount of \$472,272.00 as the lowest responsible bid.

Attachments

1. Jail Demolition Contract with Stout Building Contractors LLC - Stout Signed.pdf

Jason Sparks, Facilities Director, presented this item as outlined above. Director Sparks advised this contract is for a partial demolition of the old jail, as well as a rebuild for the part of the old jail that will remain.

County Manager, Andy Welch, clarified that the State of Utah will provide a check for \$1.5 million this year, along with more funding next year, as part of the purchase of the property that the Courthouse sits on. Director Sparks also advised that the lowest bid received did not meet requirements. Work will start in August.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve the contract with Stout for Partial Jail Demolition. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

c. 2026-2027 Grant Agreement with the State of Utah Indigent Defense Commission for Public Defender Funding, Scott Broadhead

Tooele County has been awarded \$306,126 from the IDC for the 2026-2027 grant year. This is the same amount we received for the current year. The new grant year begins July 1, 2026.

Attachments

1. Tooele County - IDC Grant Agreement 2026-27.pdf

Scott Broadhead, Attorney, presented this item as outlined above. Attorney Broadhead stated this is for the annual agreement with the Indigent Defense Commission that helps to fund the public defender program. He advised this is the exact same contract as the previous 2 years.

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the 2026-2027 Grant Agreement with the State of Utah Indigent Defense Commission for Public Defender Funding. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

d. State Of Utah Contract for Court Security Services, Paul Wimmer

This contract establishes the terms and the amount the State of Utah will pay Tooele County for court security services.

Attachments

1. Tooele_FY27_B_S Contract_Updated - 6-4-26.pdf

Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney presented this item on behalf of Sheriff Wimmer. Attorney Harris advised that the State of Utah provides funds for bailiff services. He advised that the State is not required to provide these funds and the county is very appreciative of it. The amount is just over \$295,000.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve the State Of Utah Contract for Court Security Services. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

e. Contract with Strong for The Peak Phase IV Construction, Bid Package 1, Corey Bullock

A two-part IFB consisting of bid package 1 and bid package 2 was issued for construction of Phase IV of The Peak. Bid package 1 includes site preparation, earthwork, utilities, paving, and RV park improvements. Four bids were received. After a qualifications review and determination of responsibility, Strong Construction was selected for Bid Package 1 award in the amount of \$7,281,751.09 as the lowest priced offeror.

Attachments

1. Peak Phase IV Construction Bid Package 1 Contract with Strong.pdf

Corey Bullock, Parks and Recreation Director, presented this item as outlined above. Director Bullock explained this is part of phase IV of the Peak Master Plan. The project has been broken into 2 bids. This is bid package 1, which includes earthwork, utility work, and underground work. Strong Excavation was awarded this contract at a price of \$7,281,751.00. Council Member Scott Wardle motioned to approve the Contract with Strong for The Peak Phase IV Construction, Bid Package 1. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

f. Contract with B H, Inc. for The Peak Phase IV Construction, Bid Package 2, Corey Bullock

A two-part IFB consisting of bid package 1 and bid package 2 was issued for construction of Phase IV of The Peak. Bid package 2 includes horse barns, restroom building, shower building, and turf sports fields. Three bids were received for bid package 2. After a qualifications review and determination of responsibility, B H, Inc. was selected for bid package 2 award in the amount of \$12,201,157.00 as the lowest priced offeror.

Attachments

1. The Peak Phase IV Construction Contract with BHI_BHI Signed.pdf

Corey Bullock, Parks and Recreation Director, presented this item as outlined above. Director Bullock explained this is part of phase IV of the Peak Master Plan. This is bid package 2 and includes 4 new natural turf fields, 4 synthetic fields, horse stalls, RV parking lot, and a shower and restroom building. He advised that BH, Inc was awarded this bid at \$12,201,157.00. Council Member Erik Stromberg advised it is important to make sure the synthetic fields are protected from fireworks and no camping is allowed in those fields. County Manager, Andy Welch, stated there will be about \$8 million needed to finish up the Peak project in 2027's budget. Council Member Scott Wardle motioned to approve the contract with B H, Inc. for The Peak Phase IV Construction, Bid Package 2. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

7. Resolutions/Ordinances

a. **Resolution 2026-19 - Amending (Increasing) the 2026 Tooele County Budget, Alison McCoy - PUBLIC HEARING**

This resolution increases the General Fund by \$368,000.

Attachments

1. UNDEFINED

Alison McCoy, Auditor, presented this item as outlined above. Auditor McCoy advised of 3 budget adjustments: the first is for the Attorneys Office for the US Magnesium bankruptcy case for \$100,000. The second is for Parks and Recreation for \$68,000 for repairs on a loader. The last is for some grant funding received by the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) for \$200,000.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to open a Public Hearing. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

No comment

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to close the Public Hearing. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve Resolution 2026-19. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

b. **Resolution 2026-20 - Declaration By the Tooele County Council Declaring That an Emergency Drought Exists in Tooele County, Utah, Bucky Whitehouse**

This resolution is a declaration that an emergency drought exists in Tooele County due to drought conditions that have created a threat to human health and safety, the environment, the agricultural industry, culinary water supplies, secondary water supplies, agricultural water supplies, increased wildfire risk, public infrastructure, public recreation, wildlife and natural resources, and the general economy of Tooele County.

Attachments

1. UNDEFINED

Bucky Whitehouse, EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Director, presented this item as outlined above. He presented a slideshow, stating that 80% of the county is in extreme drought. This means that the county is at less than 25% of normal precipitation and 5 degrees above normal in temperature, which puts the county at an enhanced risk for wildfires. Director Whitehouse stated Settlement Canyon Reservoir is at 61% capacity, 19% below the median for this time of year. Grantsville reservoir is at 67% capacity, 17% below the median for this time of year. This indicates both reservoirs are at a "drawdown" status, when they are normally still filling at this time of year. South Willow Creek is experiencing the lowest flow on record. The Cherry fire has already burned 34,000 acres and is only 69% contained. Director Whitehouse explained that fire and drought are a very tough situation for grazing cattle.

Director Whitehouse explained that this declaration allows businesses and property owners to apply for grants to help with drought. He also described another looming challenge, stating that when the soil is this dry, it will not absorb the monsoon rains that are expected in August.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked if any livestock had been lost in the Cherry fire.

Director Whitehouse stated yes, but is unsure of how many at this time. His Department will be meeting with owners and the State Department of Agriculture to determine what to do. He stated they are working with areas in southern Utah that have grain space available to help with grazing needs for displaced herds.

Council Member Kendall Thomas stated he attended a community meeting in Vernon. He complimented the EOC and the Sheriff's Office for their teamwork in helping with the fire in Eureka. Director Whitehouse stated the staff is tremendous, both the regular staff and volunteer staff. He advised the fire incident management team had 420 firefighters working on the Cherry fire, and 300 still working on the Iron fire.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve Resolution 2026-20. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

c. Ordinance 2026-04 - Rezoning Land Located East of Rush Valley and Southwest of Stockton, Mili Pioquinto

This ordinance was tabled on May 19, 2026 and has been revised. There are two different versions for consideration. Version A, the Applicant's revised request, rezones 13 parcels totaling 554.85 acres from MU-40 to A-5. Version B, Planning Staff's recommendation, rezones five parcels totaling 163.14 acres from MU-40 to A-10. The Planning Commission voted in favor of the rezone.

Attachments

1. UNDEFINED
2. UNDEFINED
3. Ord 2026-04 - Planning and Zoning Paperwork - Updated for 6-30-26.pdf

Mili Pioquinto, Planner, presented this item as outlined above. This item was discussed in a previous meeting and was tabled. Since then, a revised request was submitted by the applicant, and Planning staff also created a recommended version. The applicant's revision rezones 13 parcels, totaling 554.85 acres from MU-40 to A-5, with an exclusion of a 7.15 acre parcel. The staff recommends a rezone of 163.14 acres from MU-40 to A-10, with an addition of 2 parcels that equal approximately 73 acres. Some of the parcels are in a FEMA and State of Utah Special Flood Hazard Area and the westernmost parcel already has a home on it. The owner had to go through extensive permits and make improvements to the site to build their home. Similarly, the other parcels would have to go through the same improvements and permits to build.

Council Member Kendall Thomas asked for clarification on how the property owners will be able to build. Planner Pioquinto advised they must go through subdivision process and then apply for building permits.

Council Member Scott Wardle thanked the applicants for their patience and thanked the Planning staff for their thoroughness. He pointed out that much of this land is a dry lakebed and asked what happens in 10 years when the cycle switches and the lake potentially fills again. He doesn't want the applicant's future generations to be negatively impacted by this decision.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-04, version B. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

d. **Ordinance 2026-06 - Amending Section 24-5-1, Table 24-8-5, Section 24-9-1, and Table 24-9-4 of Chapter 24, Sign Regulations, of the Tooele County Land Use Ordinance, Mili Pioquinto**

This ordinance makes changes to Chapter 24, Sign Regulations, of the Tooele County Land Use Ordinance, primarily to allow on-premises freestanding signs in industrial zoning districts as a permitted use, as well as smaller detailed changes to the signage code. The Planning Commission voted in favor of the amendments.

Attachments

1. UNDEFINED
2. Ord 2026-06 - Planning and Zoning Paperwork.pdf

Mili Pioquinto, Planner, presented this item as outlined above. She explained that this is part of the Inland Port Area project. The applicant is trying to attract a Love's Travel Stop to the location, but the current code does not permit freestanding signs in industrial districts. In order to accommodate the proposed sign package from Love's, this proposed ordinance amendment will allow free-standing signs in industrial districts. This change will benefit future applicants as well.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-06.

Council Member Kendall Thomas requested that the applicant be allowed to speak.

Charles Ackerlow, applicant, explained that Love's Truck Stops use signs on the interstate to promote safety, allowing truckers to change lanes far in advance of the exit. They also use signage in the truck stop area to keep trucks and cars separated. He stated this ordinance is satisfactory to himself and Love's representatives.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann's motion was seconded by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

e. **Ordinance 2026-07 - Amending Section 2-2, Definitions, and Enacting Chapter 36, Water Efficiency Standards, of the Tooele County Land Use Ordinance, Mili Pioquinto**

This ordinance amends the Tooele County Land Use Ordinance by adopting new definitions in Chapter 2 and enacting Chapter 36, Water Efficiency Standards, which modernizes Tooele County's water efficiency standards to align with the County General Plan Water Element and current Utah law. The ordinance establishes clear, enforceable requirements for indoor fixtures, outdoor landscaping, and car wash facilities to promote long-term water conservation. The Planning Commission voted in favor of the amendments.

Attachments

1. UNDEFINED

2. Ord 2026-07 - Planning and Zoning Paperwork.pdf

Mili Pioquinto, Planner, presented this item as outlined above. She explained that residents of unincorporated areas of Tooele County have been looking for ways to conserve water and qualify for the Slow the Flow rebate program, but up until now they have not qualified as the county does not have an ordinance in place that addresses the 4 elements required by the State. This ordinance remedies that. She advised it is consistent with the Tooele County General Plan and is more specific and caters to Tooele County.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann stated that since cycles of weather change, he proposes that verbiage be included in the ordinance that states that if the weather changes, the Council won't enforce. Rachelle Custer, Community Development Director, stated that residents would not qualify for rebates if that type of verbiage was included. She suggested that if the Council decides to go a different route, the Council can suspend the ordinance if needed.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-07. Second by Chairman Jared Hamner. All in favor. The motion passed.

f. **Ordinance 2026-08 - Enacting Chapter 9, County Energy Excise Tax, of Title 2, Taxation, of the Tooele County Code, and Adopting a County Energy Excise Tax at the Rate of 6% of the Delivered Value of Energy as Authorized by Utah Code § 59-37-201, Nathan Harris**

This ordinance amends the County Code and enacts a 6% county energy excise tax under Utah Code Title 59, Chapter 37, upon the delivered value of energy to each high-impact consumer located within Tooele County and on unincorporated land.

Attachments

1. UNDEFINED

Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney, presented this item as outlined above. Attorney Harris stated the Council briefly touched on this a few weeks ago. He explained that cities have been able to impose an energy excise tax for quite some time, and new law now allows counties to impose an energy excise tax as well. He explained this proposed ordinance allows the county to impose a tax on high-impact consumers at a maximum rate of 6%. He advised that this rate can be used to incentivize businesses into the county and the rate can be set by the Council.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked if this tax will be passed down to the taxpayers. Attorney Harris stated that it is likely.

Council Member Erik Stromberg clarified that the end user may not necessarily be local residents and could be anyone purchasing the product. Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked what has happened to other entities who have imposed this tax. Council Member Scott Wardle stated this was discussed at a UAC (Utah Association of Counties) meeting several weeks ago. Other counties reported substantial returns to local entities.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-08 at a 6% rate. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

8. **Boards & Committees**

a. **Board Vacancies**

The Council on Aging has 2 vacancies.

The Historic Preservation Commission has 2 vacancies.

The Housing Authority has a vacancy for an Attorney and a vacancy for a Financial Services Representative.

The Planning Commission has 1 vacancy for an alternate.

The Recreation Special Service District has 1 vacancy for an alternate.

The Rush Valley Water Conservation District has 1 vacancy.

The Lake Point Cemetery and Parks Special Service District has 1 vacancy.

9. Council Update

Council Member Scott Wardle stated that he witnessed a fire start in Lake Point, and he saw the response firsthand. He thanked local firefighters, their families, public safety officers, including the Sheriff's officers, wildlife officers, and Department of Public Safety Employees. He recognized that they have worked very hard over the past 3 weeks.

Chairman Jared Hamner did not have an update.

Council Member Erik Stromberg also expressed thanks to EOC (Emergency Operations Center) for keeping the Council updated on fires. He also spoke about Pat Hearty from Grantsville, who served on the Council on Aging. Mr. Hearty recently passed and Council Member Erik Stromberg shared a statement from Amy Hoftiezer, the Aging Department Director, about Mr. Hearty. He also shared a personal memory of Mr. Hearty and his work with the Pony Express.

Council Member Kendall Thomas spoke about the Nation's 250th Anniversary and stated that on July 16th, the Tooele Senior Center is being recognized for their "One Kind Act a Day" program.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann also thanked local emergency responders for their efforts with the recent fires, stating, "They're the heroes and need to be recognized and thanked."

10. Manager Update

Andy Welch, County Manager, congratulated Assistant Manager Brittany Lopez for getting 70% of employees through The Trust's 7 Habits program to get a \$300,000 discount.

11. Informational - Public Transparency

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[Boards and Committees](#)

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[GRAMA Request](#)

[Public Meetings](#)

[Resolution and Ordinances](#)

12. Manager Update: Ratifications

a. 2 MVA's

Refund on motor vehicle

Attachments

1. 2 MVA's.pdf

b. Approval for Mike Jensen to sign Zions Bank Checking Account Agreement

Zions Checking Account for Clerks Office for processing passports.

Attachments

1. Clerks Checking Account Disclosures.pdf

c. 24/7 Sobriety Program

This is a new agreement between the Utah Department of Public Safety and Tooele County that allows us to continue administering the 24/7 Sobriety Program. The program provides individuals arrested for DUI the opportunity to maintain their driving privileges while participating in the program, provided they wear an alcohol-monitoring ankle device and comply with all program requirements.

Attachments

1. 24-7 Sobriety Program 2026 Tooele County Signed.pdf

d. Dispatch Agreement Between Tooele County and BLM

This contract is for the dispatch services we provide for the Bureau of Land Management.

Attachments

1. 140L5723P0032 P00006_Tooele Co Dispatch Serv.pdf

e. Ratification of Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Agreement with Tooele County Weeds

One-Year Grant Agreement between Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and Tooele County Weed Board for Invasive Species Mitigation.

Attachments

1. 2026 UDAF - Weed Board Invasive Species.pdf

f. Dispatch Agreement with North Tooele Fire Department

Attachments

1. Dispatch Agreement with NTFD.pdf

g. Dispatch Service Agreement with Wendover Ambulance Service

Attachments

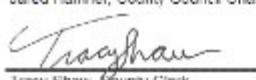
1. Dispatch agreement with Wendover Ambulance Service.pdf

13. Adjournment - Closed Session if needed

Council Member Scott Wardle motioned to adjourn at 6:29 pm. All in favor. The motion passed.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE APPROVED:


Jared Hamner, County Council Chairman


Tracy Shaw, County Clerk



