

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
July 28, 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=MLCzjFmX-oY. Mayor Pro Tem Jason Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Mayor Joette Langianese participated via electronic means. Councilmembers Tawny Knutson-Boyd, Kaitlin Myers, Colin Topper and Miles Loftin attended. Also in attendance were City Manager Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm, Human Resources Director Dani Guerrero, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton, Jr., Community Development Director Cory Shurtleff, Attorney Nathan Bracken and 10 members of the public. Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Patrick Trim attended via electronic means. Councilmember Loftin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Utah State University (USU) Extension Update—Presentation

Maria Jose Velasco Burgos, a faculty member at USU-Grand County, gave an update on the USU Extension agency, including the home and community department. She described a youth 4-H career exploration program, awards USU has received for their work with youth, and described health career opportunities and pathways to college for local youth. She described the Be Epic Escape the Vape prevention program, the Roots Youth Outdoor Initiative and the youth health ambassador program. She introduced Extension programs for food preservation and emergency preparedness. She concluded by describing the Connect, Unite, Build, Engage (CUBE) program. She said many language interpreters from the Extension's certificate program are employed locally.

Department Update: Public Works

Public Works Director Jones presented information about the City's flood preparation, status of detention and retention basins and status of debris removal from Mill Creek and Pack Creek. Jones mentioned the installation of flood warning signs, sandbag locations and volunteer efforts, and tips for sandbags. He said a City sandbag stockpile for flood mitigation had been purloined along with signage and tarps.

Consent Agenda—Approved

Councilmember Topper moved to approve the consent agenda, as follows: flood mitigation assistance grant program match letter, approval of minutes for the June 23, 2026, Regular Meeting and the June 30, 2026, Special Meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$1,358,516.94. 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:

Mayor Pro Tem Taylor opened a Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. for **Resolution 12-2026**: a resolution amending the fiscal year 2026-2027 final budget. City Manager Black introduced the results of a state review of the budget with suggestions for improvement. He described corrections that involved terminology definitions and reflected inconsistencies in the enterprise funds. There were no comments and Taylor closed the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Amendments to the 2026-2027 Final Budget—Approved

Vote: Councilmember Myers moved to approve **Resolution 12-2026**: a resolution amending the fiscal year 2026-2027 final budget as presented by staff. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission Appointments—Approved

Discussion: Mayor Langianese stated she received four applications for two open seats. She explained

the appointees would be completing vacated terms for two years. She recommended Robin Vinson and Matt Heber. Vinson introduced herself to Council. Mayor Langianese stated she reviewed the nominees with Planning staff and the Planning Commission Chair.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Loftin moved to approve the appointments of Robin Vinson and Matt Heber to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Manual Updates—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Human Resources Director Guerrero explained the updated personnel manual, which features a separate section that consolidates all employee benefits. Councilmember Topper praised the work. Councilmember Myers commented that some of the policies appeared to be codified for the first time. She asked about premium pay codes. Myers stated her preference for all employees to be treated equally rather than prioritizing law enforcement. Mayor Langianese clarified that the policy decisions had already been determined and could be revisited by Council later.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Topper moved to approve the 2026 Personnel Manual Update. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper and Loftin voting aye and Councilmember Myers voting nay.

Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center (MRAC) Retrofits Change Order—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Recreation, Parks and Trails Director Trim participated via electronic means and outlined the anticipated retrofits for the MRAC facility. Representatives from McKinstry Essention presented their team, their accomplishments regarding energy savings to date, and additional scopes of work. A team member presented the proposed facility improvement measures for plumbing, heating, lighting upgrades, and controls. The timeline and budget were discussed. Councilmember Taylor asked about the warranty. Councilmember Loftin stated his interest in examining the budget numbers more carefully. Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability Director Lamm clarified that the consolidation of the projects under the contract rather than completing the work in-house would condense the timeline by months or years. Discussion ensued regarding the state cooperative procurement process and the competitive bid process. City Manager Black stated that consideration of a new contract versus a change order was discussed with the City Attorney. Attorney Bracken explained it was simpler, easier and legally defensible to complete the work with a change order. Councilmember Topper asked about the overall status of the MRAC building. The McKinstry team explained the building was found to be structurally sound and some of the mechanical issues needed repair, replacement or upgrade, as discussed with the maintenance staff. Black summarized that the proposed scope had been determined to be needed and the state's procurement process is dependable. He said the City had a good relationship with McKinstry. He explained to Councilmember Myers the nature of the procurement process and pricing policies. Myers expressed concern about what she perceived as a new contract presented as a change order. Loftin expressed concern about the process as well. Black reiterated the state procurement process is an approved process, and it lessens the workload for staff. Attorney Bracken noted that the City code explicitly authorizes purchasing using the state procurement process.

Motion and Discussion: Councilmember Taylor moved to approve a change order contract for McKinstry Essention in the amount of \$1,206,621.00 for phased retrofits for the mechanical, building automation controls, and lighting at the Moab Recreation and Aquatic Center (MRAC). Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. Taylor defended the staff effort to go through the state procurement process for pricing the change order. Knutson-Boyd said the state procurement process had been utilized in the past, and she said the good relationship with the McKinstry team was worth it. Councilmember Loftin advocated for putting the project out to bid. Councilmember Topper said staff had worked hard on the project and worked well with McKinstry, and the cost is high, but he was enthusiastic about getting the MRAC back in top condition. Councilmember Myers stated she wanted a new contract rather than a change order. She brought up that the shower head replacement scope of work should be changed to a power exhaust fan.

Vote: The motion passed 3-2 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd and Topper voting aye and

Councilmembers Myers and Loftin voting nay.

Water Conservation Ordinance—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability Director Lamm presented water restriction options. She reviewed the drought conditions and presented options for water restrictions as requested by Council. She discussed an ordinance, outreach, and declaration of a water shortage. Lamm showed data suggesting water consumption has dropped across municipal, commercial and residential categories. She reviewed language for a proposed ordinance that would restrict irrigation times between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Attorney Bracken described existing code and his recommendation to add in the night watering amendment and exceptions language. He said enforcement measures were already in the code. Myers suggested tabling so the language could be cleaned up for the next meeting. Councilmember Taylor pointed out that delay would exacerbate the water shortage problem. Mayor Langianese stated that outreach to the public would give time to educate the public about the immediacy of the issue. Attorney Bracken said that he had already drafted the amendments and presented them to Council. He recommended renaming the ordinance to address daytime irrigation restriction and placing it in section 13.20.030. Discussion ensued regarding the separate water service providers such as the Moab Irrigation Company and the school district wells; it was clarified that the proposed City ordinance only applied to Moab City's water service. Councilmember Topper suggested a public education effort regarding the City's jurisdiction. He also suggested the quantity of water available from the City's aquifers is uncertain. Mayor Langianese expressed her hope that other water utilities would follow the City's example. Councilmember Taylor expressed his interest in changing the time to 10 a.m. to accommodate older users. Councilmember Loftin mentioned his interest in public education about water sources and discussed watering hours and expressed concern about recharge of the aquifer. The Mayor said the hours could be piloted for a year to see if it works as intended. Myers suggested restricted hours of 10am to 6pm. Loftin brought up a rebate for sprinkler timers.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Loftin moved to approve **Ordinance 2026-15**, repealing and replacing Moab Municipal Code section 13.20.030 implementing daytime watering restrictions with text revisions presented by the City Attorney. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. Loftin suggested revisiting the ordinance next year to determine if conservation is occurring. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Shortage Declaration—No action

Presentation and Discussion: City Manager Black stated there is a stage three level of water shortage. Strategic Initiatives & Sustainability Director Lamm described mandatory restrictions. She said staff recommended no action on a proposed resolution to declare a water shortage. Councilmember Loftin appreciated the public participation. Ken Meyer, president of the Moab Irrigation Company, spoke about his agency's measures and outreach. Councilmember Topper stated the City is actively working on increasing capacity. Lamm also presented an example of a public education postcard to be sent to City water customers.

City Manager Report: City Manager Black mentioned a donation from the Moab Free Health Clinic for public exercise equipment. He said the City was pursuing grants for various projects, and he described several opportunities. He said business license renewals are overdue. He mentioned the ice cream social and praised the public works department.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Loftin reported on the planning commission and a meeting with the Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency (GWSSA). He said he was grateful for the rain. He said he attended the concert series and was grateful the community heeded the fireworks ban.

Councilmember Myers reported she met with the Mayor, participated in the July 4th parade, attended the free concert series, and attended a meeting of the housing task force.

Councilmember Topper said he met with the Mayor and attended meetings with TrailMix, the Arches bike access group, the solid waste district, and the tailings pile steering committee.

Councilmember Knutson-Boyd reported she attended meetings with the Mayor, the museum staff, and the healthcare special service district.

Councilmember Taylor said he met with the Mayor, participated in the July 4th parade, and attended the free concert series as well as meetings with the airport board and TrailMix.

Mayor Langianese announced the Smithsonian exhibit “Voices and Votes” would be ending. She reported she spoke with Senator Curtis about appropriations for Moab’s flood mitigation projects, and she stated she was working on the request for proposals for housing planning for the Moab Area Project for Seniors (MAPS).

Executive (Closed) Session:

Councilmember Knutson-Boyd moved to enter an executive session to discuss reasonably imminent and/or pending litigation and/or to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property.

Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor convened the closed session at 8:49 p.m. Councilmember Loftin moved to end the closed session.

Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Taylor ended the closed session at 9:21 p.m.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Knutson-Boyd moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder