

**STATE OF UTAH
COUNTY OF SEVIER
TOWN OF ANNABELLA**

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 11, 2026

Minutes from the Annabella Town Council Meeting held Thursday, June 11, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, located at 295 East 300 North, Annabella, Utah. Mayor John Chartier conducting.

1. **BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING.** Mayor John Chartier opened the budget public hearing. Tina Mitchell, Town Clerk, presented a budget overview.

2025/2026 Year in Review: Mitchell presented an overview of the Town's year-to-date financial activity, including the General Fund, Capital Projects, Culinary Water, Pressurized Irrigation, and Perpetual Care funds. Revenues, expenditures, fund balances, major equipment purchases, capital projects, depreciation, and funds reserved for future system needs were reviewed. Mitchell noted continued growth in sales and property tax revenues and reported on the annual Fraud Risk Assessment. Financial figures presented were preliminary and subject to year-end closing entries, final accounting adjustments, and audit-related reclassifications.

Recommended 2025/2026 Amendments: Mitchell reviewed proposed year-end adjustments, including correction of building rental revenue, an adjustment to Class C road revenue based on updated road mileage, a \$20,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund, and adjustments to accurately reflect equipment purchases and actual project costs.

Proposed 2026/2027 Budget: Mitchell presented the proposed budget along with the certified tax rate. The plan included a 2% base-rate increase for both culinary water and pressurized irrigation. Key expenditures outlined in the budget covered employee compensation and benefits—including the annual cost-of-living adjustment—equipment and building improvements, and upcoming culinary water and irrigation system projects. The Council also reviewed current fund balances and discussed anticipated capital needs for the coming year.

The Town's current Capital Projects Plan, which was included with the budget information presented to the Council, was reviewed and discussed.

Council members asked questions regarding unspent funds at fiscal year-end, Capital Projects Fund transfers, the road chip seal project, and insurance coverage for Town equipment.

Public comment was invited. Kent Poulson requested and was provided with a copy of the budget. No additional public comments were received.

Motion to close the first public hearing was made by Councilmember Brown at 6:14 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: Yes – 4 (Brown, Johns, Morgan, Nielson)

2. PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT BOARD WATER IMPROVEMENT FUNDING APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Chartier opened the second public hearing and provided a detailed overview of the Community Impact Board (CIB) application submitted by Annabella Town for culinary water system improvements.

The application is grounded in a culinary water master plan completed in 2025 by Jones & DeMille Engineering, which identified several needs. First, low water pressure on the south end of town falls below the state-required minimum of 40 PSI during peak day demand; the master plan recommends a booster pump station to create a new pressure zone for that area. Second, the existing distribution network lacks adequate fire flow in the west and southwest portions of town, falling below the desired 1,000 gallons per minute; a larger distribution line along 300 South is recommended to address this and improve fire hydrant coverage, with the expectation that improved fire flow could favorably impact homeowner insurance rates. Third, the town holds water rights that require ongoing paperwork, leasing activity, and proof of beneficial use filings to remain viable. Fourth, and most urgently, the town's two existing wells—the 600 South well and the 300 South well—have been experiencing declining aquifer levels due to prolonged drought. At previous pump rates, both wells were tripping their low-level safety shutoffs. As a mitigation measure, the town reduced pump rates using variable frequency drives already installed on both wells. However, Mayor Chartier expressed concern about continued aquifer decline, making the drilling of a new well the primary driver of the CIB application.

The CIB funding application was submitted June 1, 2026, requesting funding on an 80% grant / 20% loan basis for an estimated \$3,000,000 project—equating to \$2,400,000 in grant funds and a \$600,000 loan. Mayor Chartier noted that the town is tentatively scheduled to appear before the CIB board in September 2026, at which point the board will determine the actual funding split offered. He emphasized that submitting the application does not commit the town to accepting funding; any offer would be brought back to the Town Council and the public for further consideration. If funded at the 80/20 split, the estimated impact to residents would be approximately \$5.00 per month on water bills. A less favorable split would increase that figure proportionally. Mayor Chartier noted that the town's history of consistent 2% annual water rate increases positions Annabella favorably before the board compared to towns that have not incrementally adjusted their rates.

Mayor Chartier confirmed he had reviewed the required public hearing checklist for CIB compliance and that the minutes of these proceedings would be

submitted as part of the application. Public comment was invited. Kent Poulson stated his support for the project. No further public comments were received.

Motion to close the second public hearing at 6:26 p.m. was made by Councilmember Nielson and seconded by Councilmember Brown. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: Yes – 4 (Brown, Johns, Morgan, Nielson)

3. ROLL CALL. Mayor John Chartier confirmed the presence of a full Council: Councilmembers Louis Brown, Kelvin Johns, Christopher Nielson and Stephanie Morgan.

4. OPENING REMARKS. Councilmember Johns offered the prayer.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nielson.

6. CITIZEN INPUT. There was no citizen input.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. **Motion to approve the minutes as published was made by Councilmember Nielson and seconded by Councilmember Johns. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: Yes – 4 (Brown, Johns, Morgan, Nielson)**

8. APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER. **Motion to approve the warrant register was made by Councilmember Nielson and seconded by Councilmember Morgan. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: Yes – 4 (Brown, Johns, Morgan, Nielson)**

9. OPENING OF 2025/2026 BUDGET, BY RESOLUTION, FOR ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY. Tina Mitchell clarified that this action formally opens the current budget to allow the amendments presented during the public hearing. **Councilmember Brown made a motion, in the form of a resolution, to open the 2025/2026 budget and make necessary adjustments across all municipal funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Johns. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: Yes – 4 (Brown, Johns, Morgan, Nielson)**

10. BUDGET ADOPTION, BY RESOLUTION, OF THE 2026/2027 BUDGET AND CERTIFIED TAX RATE. **Motion to approve the proposed 2026/2027 budget and certified tax rate of 0.000368 by resolution was made by Councilmember Johns and seconded by Councilmember Brown. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: Yes – 4 (Brown, Johns, Morgan, Nielson)**

11. DISCUSS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE OPTIONS. Eric Nielsen, Maintenance Supervisor, reported that the priority for equipment purchase had shifted from a scissor lift (previously priced at approximately \$4,400) to a transport trailer to

haul the mini excavator to the Deep Lake reservoir area. He noted that a dam inspection is scheduled for June 30th, and significant work is required to address deadfall removal, dirt work, road repairs, and installation of a Forest Service-approved gate at Deep Lake. A bid for a gooseneck trailer had been received at \$13,000, but he noted he was exploring a bumper-pull option. The Council supported continuing to review available options and moving forward with the purchase if a favorable deal is identified. It was also noted that a rented lift may be needed in the interim.

12. WATER SUPPLY UPDATE & REVIEW OF CURRENT WATER

RESTRICTIONS. Eric Nielsen reported that the town's wells were being managed at reduced pump rates using variable frequency drives and were currently holding steady. Water restrictions remain in effect. Approximately 20 reminder notices had been issued to residents since the previous meeting, with most residents responding cooperatively.

Nielsen reported that the Annabella Reservoir is critically low, with only approximately two inches of water at the outflow gate; insufficient to release any meaningful flow to town. Deep Lake was similarly near the bottom of its gauge, with an estimated three to six days of usable water that, even if released, may not make it to the Annabella Reservoir given current flow rates. Nielsen reported that the natural spring flow feeding the system had declined ahead of its typical seasonal schedule, from approximately 1.6 units through April, to 1.3 through May, to 0.8 in June. The drought conditions at upper elevations were described as the driest observed in recent memory.

Nielsen discussed the condition of the ditches running to Deep Lake and Annabella Reservoir, noting that both were partially obstructed by fire-related deadfall. Nielsen reported having removed numerous trees from the ditches the prior year and estimated that twice that number remained. Councilmember Brown raised the question of whether federal rehabilitation funds associated with the recent wildfire might be available to assist with deadfall removal, but no definitive answer was available.

13. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

PARKS AND BUILDINGS

It was reported that the door installation to the table room in the Community Center is scheduled for the week of June 22nd. Plans are in progress to remove several small pine trees from the front of the pavilion.

ACTIVITIES

Councilmember Nielson reported on plans for the Fourth of July celebration. Events begin Friday evening (July 3rd) with bingo, kickball, and cornhole at the Community Center.

Councilmember Nielson noted the following would be needed for the event: extra trash carts, mosquito spraying, inflatable slide verified, and full propane

tanks. Additional volunteers are still needed for breakfast and lunch, and Council members will help recruit.

Councilmember Nielson requested approval to use the \$2,700 activities budget from the America250 grant for new cornhole boards and a small portable Bluetooth microphone for indoor bingo; the Council supported both. The 250th anniversary flags will be put up along the road, with American flags added on the 4th.

No July council meeting will be held unless business requires one.

CEMETERY

No discussion.

ROADS

Councilmember Brown confirmed that a chip seal project is still on track to be completed soon.

WATER

Covered during Council business

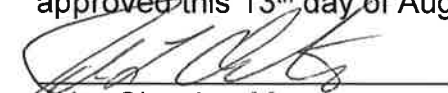
14. YOUTH COUNCIL BUSINESS. Youth Council member Owen Privett, presented the upcoming schedule of events. She noted that on August 1st, the Youth Council is planning a cardboard boat regatta, contingent on water levels cooperating. Yard flag subscriptions were discussed. Kaylon Johns, Youth Council Advisor, noted that food truck participation had decreased due to lower community event attendance and expressed a desire for greater community support.

15. OTHER BUSINESS. Tina Mitchell asked whether the Town planned to restrict personal fireworks for the Fourth of July. After brief discussion, the Council determined that no formal ban would be issued at that time. Instead, residents would be reminded to follow state law, use good judgment, and understand that individual liability rests with the person lighting the fireworks.

Note: Following increased wildfire activity and guidance from the State, Annabella Town ultimately implemented a fireworks ban prior to July 4th.

16. ADJOURN. **At 7:24 pm. a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Morgan and seconded by Councilmember Johns. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: Yes – 4 (Brown, Johns, Morgan, Nielson)**

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held Thursday, June 11, 2026 were approved this 13th day of August, 2026.


John Chartier, Mayor


Tina Mitchell, Town Clerk