Wasatch County Council Meeting Minutes
Minutes for May 20, 2026

The Wasatch County Council met in regular session live and on-line Wednesday, May 20, 2026, in the Wasatch County Chambers located in the Wasatch County Administrative Building at 25 North Main, Heber City, Utah 84032.

A video recording of the meeting may be viewed by using the Wasatch County Public Portal (https://wasatchcout.portal.civicclerk.com/) and selecting the desired meeting.

Agenda

Call to Order

1. Prayer/Remarks - Mike Murphy
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Colleen Bonner

Public Comment

Public comments will be accepted in-person or via Zoom Webinar. Please limit comments to three minutes. If action is necessary, the item will be listed on a future agenda. The Council may elect to discuss the item if it is an immediate matter of concern. Email public comments to publiccomment@wasatchcounty.gov.

Summary: No public comment

Call for Agenda Items

Summary: Councilmember Searle: The first week in June, a student group is part of the Natural Resources, Envirothon competition. They will be going to National and hoping to potentially ask for funds. **Councilmember Rowland:** So we can do this as part of that general overview of discretionary funds.
Councilmember Bonner: JW tennis group would like to come make a proposal for their tennis facility in one of the parks and have Dustin plan for them to come on a work meeting.

Consent Items

Summary: Councilmember Bonner: Chair, I'll make a motion, so what's on our Consent Agenda? **Approval of April 1st, 2026 minutes, April 8th, 2026 minutes and consideration of**

appointing John Brinkerhoff for Timber Lakes water board, so I'll make a motion to approve those three items.

Councilmember Nelson: I'll second the motion with one minor correction. It's Blickenstaff not Brinkerhoff,

Action Taken: Councilmember Bonner: made a motion for approval of **April 1st, 2026 and April 8th, 2026 minutes and consideration of appointing John Brinkerhoff for Timber Lakes water board**. Councilmember Nelson seconded the motion **with one minor correction: it's Blickenstaff, not Brinkerhoff**. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park
Voting Nay: None

1. Approval of April 1, 2026 Minutes - Clerk/Auditor

Summary:
Council reviewed the minutes from April 1, 2026, as presented. The motion to approve this item was made after review of item 3 under the consent item section.

2. Approval of April 8, 2026 Minutes - Clerk/Auditor

Summary: Council reviewed the minutes from April 8, 2026, as presented. The motion to approve this item was made after review of item 3 under the consent item section.

3. Consideration of appointing John Blickenstaff to the Timber Lakes Water Board - Dustin Grabau

Summary: Wasatch County posted the opening for a vacancy on the Timber Lakes water board that consists of 7 members, two of which are appointed by the Wasatch County Council. The county received only one application and is recommending the reappointment of John Blickenstaff to the Timber Lakes water board.

Action Taken: Councilmember Bonner: made a motion for **what's on our consent agenda for approval of April 1st, 2026 and approval of April 8th, 2026 minutes and consideration of appointing John Brinkerhoff to the Timber Lakes water board, so I'll make a motion to approve those three items. Councilmember Nelson** seconded the motion **with one minor correction: it's Blickenstaff, not Brinkerhoff**. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park
Voting Nay: None

Council Items

1. Heber Valley EIS Update - Craig Hancock

Summary: Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has provided updates to the

Wasatch County Council on a monthly basis as updates to the Heber Valley Corridor project has progressed. On January 7th, 2026 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released to the public. On January 27th, 2026, UDOT held a virtual public comment opportunity via Zoom. On January 28th, 2026, UDOT held an in-person open house and public comment opportunity at Wasatch High School. The public comment period ended on March 9th, 2026. UDOT received over 700 comments and has been reviewing them in preparation for the Final EIS which is tentatively scheduled for release towards the end of 2026.

2. Corridor Preservation Fund Update and Discussion - Richard Breitenbeker

Summary: Council has been collecting the vehicle registration fee associated with the Local Highway and Transportation Corridor Preservation Fund since 2006. Some parcels have been purchased using these funds. The funds were last discussed in July 2024 and Councilmember Crittenden asked that the topic be revisited.

Action Taken: Councilmember Park made a motion to **continue to a date uncertain or the next one available**. **Councilmember Bonner** seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

3. Second Reading of Ordinance 26-07 considering the enactment of livestock amendments - Dustin Grabau & Scott Sweat

Summary: Members of the public have requested clarification and adjustments to certain provisions of the county Code. Section 8.03.12 allows an affirmative defense for regular livestock practices and the adjustments there further clarify that position.

Some communities adopt standards that require people to keep other's livestock off of their property, known as "fence-out" laws. Wasatch County's current regulations require property owners to keep their livestock contained within their permitted property, known as "fence-in" laws. The proposed change would adjust certain properties adjacent to public lands instead of being fenced—in that they would be required to fence out livestock. This has a benefit to some users but also affects culpability of those property owners who fail to contain their livestock adjacent to public lands.

Bud Remund, resident of Center Creek, stated concerns that livestock owners should be responsible for their own animals and stay on their permits. Mark Christensen, property owner on east side, concerned that this could make livestock owners not responsible for their animals. Duane Vance, attorney and manager for Christensen properties, states this could affect his clients and that the historical law is much more efficient to fence in and keep the responsibility with the livestock owners. Tate Berg, family member of property owners trying to keep this law from passing, believes the law put in place years ago should

stay. Troy Berg mentioned that the leash law is in effect and essentially should apply to all animals. Cheryl Christensen Bethers, property owners, states that their property is private for a reason and does not want livestock to be going onto the property. Nacia Franco, representing Wasatch Chapter of Farm Bureau, the State Farm Bureau, Utah Public Lands Council, Utah Cattlemen's Association, Utah Wool Growers Association, Utah Dept. of Agriculture, and Wasatch County Conservation District all support this language and support the continued conversation with council. Lew Giles, county resident and livestock owner is not in favor of changing the law. Dustin points out that there is another issue in the affirmative defense portion and we may want to revise the ordinance. Councilmember Searle asked the attorney to explain public vs private. Attorney Scott Sweat explains the change and the liability factor.

Action Taken: Councilmember Park made a motion to **go ahead and table this item for a future meeting with the legal department modifying the affirmative defense as we are presenting but remove the livestock portion of section 2.**

Councilmember Nelson: seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park

Voting Nay: None

4. Discussion and direction on facilitating improvements to the bridge on Woodland View Drive - Dustin Grabau

Summary: Members of the Woodland Estates 3 community have raised concerns around the long-term stability of the bridge that was installed by unknown parties in or around 1973. The bridge was built as part of a UDOT project in 1914 on Highway 189 and relocated when the Deer Creek Reservoir was built in the early 1940s. Staff have met with council subcommittee members to discuss the options for the improvement and maintenance of the bridge.

The recommendation before the council is to facilitate a grant that would potentially fund 75% of the reconstruction costs of the bridge and include the bridge on the county's B&C road map for maintenance. That facilitation would be to collect the 25% matching funds from the private residences serviced by the road.

No motion needed at this time but council provided guidance for Dustin to continue working with the residents and to move forward with the grant application.

5. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the execution of a supplement to the Tri-Valley Watershed Agreement - Dustin Grabau

Summary: Wasatch County has been working with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to facilitate improvements to Daniel Town's water system. The county's role in this approval is as a facilitator, with the Town agreeing to the performance of the work and any associated liability.

Action Taken: Councilmember Park: made a motion **that we approve resolution 26–07**

authorizing the execution of the supplemental to the Tri Valley Watershed agreement.
Councilmember Nelson: seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park
Voting Nay: None

6. Discussion and Consideration of a second reading for Ordinance 26-06 Amending the current impact fee ordinance to add impact fees for parks & trails facilities in Wasatch County, State of Utah - Dustin Grabau, County Manager

Summary: Wasatch County has conducted an impact fee facility plan and impact fee analysis with the aid of Zions Public Finance. The analysis justifies up to $3,515.99 for a single-family residence. This first reading is to consider if the council would prefer to adopt something less than the amount justified here. This fee applies to residential development in the unincorporated portion of the county.
This is the second reading of the ordinance.

Action Taken: Councilmember Nelson: made a motion to **approve Ordinance 26-06 amending the current impact fee ordinance to add impact fees for parks and trails and facilities in Wasatch County, State of Utah as proposed.**
Councilmember Bonner: seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park
Voting Nay: None

7. First reading and consideration of an Ordinance enacting changes to Title 17 Government Records Access and Management Act - Dustin Grabau

Summary: Wasatch County has made changes to the Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA) process to better track and manage the increasing volume of public information requests. This includes the hiring of a staff member in 2025 in the attorney's office to act as a facilitator for these duties. The proposed code change would codify the operational changes made over the last year. This is the first reading of the ordinance.

Action Taken: Councilmember Searle: Made a motion to **accept the first reading and move it to a second reading, consideration for ordinance 26-08.**
Councilmember Nelson: seconded the motion.
The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park
Voting Nay: None

Council/Board Reports

Councilmember Nelson: There was a Memorial Hill committee meetingand there was a proposal by Midway City, specifically Andrew Osborne, to put 250 special American flags on the one-mile road going up Memorial Hill, so basically every 20 ft. there would be a flag with a solar light on top. Midway City Public Works will be responsible for the maintenance. They would be put up from June 15 until Saturday after July 4th.
Councilmember Bonner: A couple of things: the railroad we received a $700,000 loan from the state of Utah for the infrastructure to repair the retaining wall 1.5 miles from Deer Creek dam. Repairs will be done in June. Polar Express is going on sale on June 8th. There will be 90 trains and will hold 54,000 passengers.
Councilmember Park: I've had a couple of thoughts about whether there are any benefits to inviting the Lieutenant Governor to come visit with us to look at some of the preliminary subdivisions. Also, at a work meeting or a special meeting talking about affordable housing, I've been on this responsibility for 10 years, and we talked about affordable housing, and we never made any benefit of it. So I would like to do an advisory board with people in this valley.

Manager's Report

Summary:

1. Summary of Employee Retirement Plans offered through Utah Retirement System (URS) - Dustin Grabau, County Manager

Summary: During the May 6, 2026, County Council Meeting, Council approved two resolutions authorizing the county to continue its current practice of paying 100% of any state-required employee retirement contribution. As part of the meeting, Council members asked staff to prepare a presentation summarizing the 6 retirement plans offered to Wasatch County employees and to provide more details regarding the components of the plans' Total Contribution Rates (the percentage of an employee's salary that is paid into the URS system to fund the employee's retirement benefits).

This agenda item and its presentation are intended to provide Council with the information requested.

Closed Session - as needed

Closed sessions may be held in accordance with Utah State Code 52-4-205 to discuss the following: Purchase, Exchange or Lease of Property; Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation; The Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

Summary:
No need for closed session.

Adjournment

Action Taken: Councilmember Bonner: made a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Nelson: seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park

Voting Nay: None

Erik Rowland/Interim Chair	Joey D. Granger/Clerk/Auditor