

City of La Verkin

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La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 6:00 pm. Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, La Verkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Kelly Wilson; Council Members: Darren Prince, Micah Gubler, Scot Pectol, Amanda Barr, John Valenti; Staff: Kyle Gubler, Fay Reber, Derek Imlay, Maridee Johnson, and Nancy Cline.

A. Called to Order – John Valenti gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 pm.

B. Presentation:

1. HVFD

Nick Wright discussed the statics for July.

C. Consent Agenda: (Items on the consent agenda may not require discussion. These items will be a single motion unless removed at the request of the Mayor or City Council.)

1. Declarations of conflict of interest
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Minutes: July 1, 2026, work and regular meeting.
4. Checks & Invoices: \$ 654,599.33

The motion was made by Councilman Pectol to approve the consent agenda as written. Meeting minutes for July 1, 2026, work and regular meeting. Checks and invoices in the amount \$654,599.33, second by Councilman Valenti. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Business

1. Consideration and possible action to approve the retirement increase of 1.25% to public safety tier II employees.

Kyle explained that the retirement contributions for Tier 2 public safety employees. A 1.25% retirement increase was proposed, with the city's potential pickup cost at 5.98%. This affects Tier 2 public safety staff which there are three staff.

Councilman Prince asked if this was something cities usually agree to.

Kyle responded he didn't know what other cities contributed. They agreed in the past to cover the increase.

Councilman Valenti asked where in the budget did this come out of.

Kyle replied it is out of the general budget in the salary and wages line for the police.

The motion was made by Councilman Valenti to approve the retirement increase of 1.25% to public safety tier II employees, second by Councilman Gubler. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration and possible action to approve an Interlocal agreement between Washington County and the city of La Verkin funding lighting on a portion of the Zion Corridor Trail.

Derek explained that they built the wall on the trail to give privacy to the homeowners on the trail. There are a few places that are really dark and part of the block wall has already been broken. The county found the money

to install the lights through a grant. La Verkin will not have to contribute any money. The lights will be along the entire trail. They have electrical already wired by the fence so it will be easy to hook into it.

Councilman Valenti added that the city will have to maintain them.

Councilman Gubler asked if the homeowners can see the kids gathering at the wall.

Derek replied they can't see them because the wall is eight feet, but they could hear them.

The motion was made by Councilman Prince to approve an Interlocal agreement between Washington county and the city of La Verkin funding lighting on a portion of the Zion Corridor Trail, second by Councilman Pectol. Roll Call Vote: Barr-yes, Valenti-yes, Gubler-yes, Pectol-yes, Prince-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion regarding Placer.ai.

Kyle explained a proposal for an AI-driven data analytics subscription (\$15,000 annually) that uses cell phone app data to gauge visitor origins, stay durations, and movement patterns (e.g., geofencing the hot springs and tracing subsequent visits to businesses). While such insights could aid business recruitment and marketing, for example, demonstrating demand for certain restaurants. He noted that several nearby jurisdictions (Washington City, Hilldale, Cedar City) and Southern Utah Economic Alliance have used or are pursuing region-wide subscriptions.

Councilman Prince informed them that they should not subscribe, there could be potential county-wide access through the regional alliance.

The council agreed to not subscribe until there was a greater need when the Topside develops.

4. Discussion regarding Zion Regional Collaborative (ZRC).

Councilman Valenti explained the ZRC lost funding and could no longer pay their assistant but would like to keep the organization still running. They would ask each city to host a meeting at a small cost. They want to keep meeting to share information about each city and upcoming projects and ideas to work together. He offered to continue being the La Verkin city representative.

Councilman Prince asked if they no longer need to donate the money that has been added to the budget for this organization could they transfer that money to the trail budget.

Kyle replied they could move the money in the budget amendment if the council agreed to it.

Mayor Wilson agreed with councilman Valenti that they should stay a member since they already are and keep up on what the sister cities are planning.

E. Mayor & Council Reports:

Mayor Wilson: Reported that they had the groundbreaking yesterday for the pond project. It will improve the irrigation waters quality to the citizens.

Kyle Gubler: Reported that the bridge fencing project is delayed; the awarded contractor is designing their own fencing solution. IT services: The city issued a 30-day termination notice to Tech Legion (effective August) due to inadequate service and billed travel costs. The city is transitioning to Computech, which has a St. George office and existing relationships with nearby municipalities; the new contract is under legal review and will be presented at the next council meeting. Wanless Park vandalism: Mediation concluded. One of the youth guardians paid \$700 and the youth has 20 service hours to be completed in Southern California (to be tracked and reported). The second youth, whose guardian cannot pay, will complete 40 local community service hours; compliance will be enforced. Water Days is scheduled for

Saturday, August 8, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Council members received a ballot to vote for two names for a working group and were asked to return selections to the mayor.

Fay: Nothing to report.

Pectol: Reported that St. George's underpass project (connecting two exits) is out for bid, including utility/traffic integration and widening I-15 to three lanes in each direction. Additional I-15 work is planned between exits 15 and 20, plus truck/passing lanes on Black Ridge, signaling substantial near-term traffic impacts.

Barr: Reported that the solid waste district had four drivers quit in one day and Hurricane cities' garbage did not get picked up. They have got it all worked out now. The next meeting is in November.

Valenti: Reported on the Planning Commission meeting on July 8, 2026.

Gubler: Recreation Department hired Michael Shirley part-time. Thirteen youth council members attended sessions at Utah State—reported as the largest group present. Princess tea and pageant activities are underway, with preparations for Peach Days (royalty float, seed display) and Winter Fest continuing. Fireworks for Winter Fest were previously approved and purchased; the city intends to deploy them at that event.

Prince: Reported the new hospital across from Walmart in Hurricane—managed by the Co Action Group and operated by Ovation Healthcare (which operates ~400 hospitals nationally)—is progressing but awaits adequate power and road infrastructure before construction can start.

F. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

No comments made.

G. Adjourn:

The mayor closed the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

August 19, 2026
Date Approved

ATTEST:

Nancy Cline
Nancy Cline
City Recorder

Kelly B. Wilson
Mayor Kelly B. Wilson

