

Minutes of the Hurricane City Council special meeting held on July 30, 2026, in the Council Chambers at 147 North 870 West, Hurricane, Utah at 5 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Clark Fawcett and **Council Members:** Joseph Prete, Dave Imlay, Lynn Excell, and Amy Werrett.

Also Present: City Manager Kaden DeMille, City Attorney Dayton Hall, Police Chief Kurt Yates, Assistant Public Works Director Weston Walker, Streets Superintendent Hayden Roberts, Water Superintendent Kory Wright, Power Director Mike Johns, City Engineer Arthur LeBaron, and City Recorder Cindy Beteag.

AGENDA

5:00 p.m. Call to Order

Mayor Fawcett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He thanked all the candidates who applied to fill the vacancy on the City Council, noting that there are many strong candidates. He expressed his appreciation for their willingness to serve the community.

Prayer: Dayton Hall

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Imlay

Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting for July 2, 2026, and July 16, 2026

Amy Werrett motioned to approve the July 2, 2026, and July 16, 2026, minutes as written. Seconded by Dave Imlay. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration and possible approval of Procedures for Filling a Vacancy on the Hurricane City Council

Dayton Hall explained that a set of rules had been provided in the Council's packet and distributed to each candidate. He reviewed the rules and stated the Council would need to officially adopt them before proceeding. He then explained the procedures that would be followed in the event of a tie and how a tie would be broken. He stated that Council Members would write down their votes and pass them to Mayor Fawcett, who would read them aloud.

Lynn Excell motioned to approve the procedures for filling a vacancy on the Hurricane City Council. Seconded by Dave Imlay. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Interview candidates that have applied to fill the vacancy of the Hurricane City Council

The candidates were asked to leave the room, after which the Council invited each candidate back individually and allowed fifteen minutes for their presentation and interview in the following order.

Rick Crow
Emily Butler
Chad Edmond Reynolds
Cody K. Spendlove

Council took a fifteen-minute break.

Robert Merlin Spendlove (goes by Merlin)
Dena Humphries
Katheryn Knight

3. Appointment of a candidate to fill a vacancy on the Hurricane City Council

Each Council Member expressed appreciation to all of the candidates, noting there were many qualified individuals and that it was difficult to choose just one. Mayor Fawcett gave the Council a moment to consider their votes before calling for the first round of voting.

The votes were as follows: Amy Werrett voted for Dena Humphries, Lynn Excell voted for Merlin Spendlove, Dave Imlay voted for Chad Reynolds, and Joseph Prete voted for Merlin Spendlove. With two votes, Merlin Spendlove received the most votes and advanced to the second round of voting. Dena Humphries and Chad Reynolds each received one vote, resulting in a tie for second place. Mayor Fawcett cast the tie-breaking vote for Dena Humphries, advancing her to the second round of voting.

Mayor Fawcett called for a vote between the two remaining candidates. The Council Members voted as follows: Lynn Excell voted for Merlin Spendlove, Amy Werrett voted for Dena Humphries, Dave Imlay voted for Merlin Spendlove, and Joseph Prete voted for Merlin Spendlove. With three votes, Merlin Spendlove received the majority of the votes and was appointed to fill the vacant City Council seat.

4. Swearing-In of the new Council member

Merlin Spendlove was sworn in by City Recorder Cindy Beteag.

Cindy Beteag stated that last year the Council amended the City Code to no longer allow vacation rentals in commercial zones. Mayor Fawcett had been approached by an individual who asked if the Council would consider changing the code to allow them again. She explained that because the deadline to place an item on the agenda had passed, two Council Members would need to approve adding it as a discussion item. Dayton Hall clarified that this would be a discussion item only, as the Planning Commission must first make a recommendation on any proposed land use code amendment before the Council can consider approval. Councilmen Excell and Imlay agreed to add the item to the agenda. Mrs. Beteag asked the Council to dress nicely for the next meeting, as a new group photo would be taken.

Adjournment: Joseph Prete motioned to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Lynn Excell. Motion carried unanimously.