

MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
August 11, 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=YALF7cyQSk8. Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Councilmembers Tawny Knutson-Boyd, Kaitlin Myers, Colin Topper, Jason Taylor and Miles Loftin attended. Also in attendance were City Manager Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Police Chief Lex Bell, Community Development Director Cory Shurtleff, Engineer Mark Jolissaint, Assistant Engineer Didar Charles, Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin and three members of the public. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Bill Agee spoke about harmful noise from road traffic and stated that slower All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are quieter ATVs. He said that for residents who live on or near ATV routes in Moab, the problem is constant. He said the cumulative effect of hundreds of daily ATV trips has profound health consequences, and he presented a chart illustrating how noise is amplified. He said noise is measured on a logarithmic scale and explained that every three decibels (dB), the energy level doubles; at six dB, it quadruples from that original number. He said air and water are similar, and when a pressure wave moves through water, its destructive powers are visible. He added that when sound moves through air, the effects are invisible, but they are equally destructive in some cases. He said that when the principles described in the chart are applied at his doorstep it is 78 dB with a maximum of 81 dB. He said that is two to four times the energy level above code limits. He encouraged the City to lower speed limits to 20 miles per hour (mph) on the proposed roads. He added that, on Mill Creek Drive, he encouraged the City to resticker speed limit signage from Off-highway Vehicles (OHV) to ATVs. He said this will clarify and make enforcement of the 15 mile per hour speed limit for ATVs legal. He proposed that the City should monitor noise measurements to determine the effectiveness of abatement efforts for noise. He said he was asking for reasonable remedies and encouraged Council to not fear possible repercussions from ATV activists. He said the City has legal authority and a legitimate evidence-based reason to take these steps. Agee concluded by stating excessive noise is a public health crisis and a quieter ATV greatly improves the quality of life for all of Moab and that is the objective.

Workshop—Speed Limits

Mayor Langianese stated the City had received information regarding speed from the Safe Streets for All group. Public Works Director Jones and Police Chief Bell presented an update on the City's approach to speed limits. Bell reminded Council of the prima facie (default) speed limit of 20 mph within City limits unless otherwise posted. He said staff recommended a change to 20 mph for Mill Creek Drive from 400 East to Sand Flats Road, and the entire length of 100 West. Councilmember Myers asked about the recommendation. Bell explained the previously recommended routes were main arteries. Councilmember Taylor agreed with the conclusion with the two recommendations. Mayor Langianese concurred. She brought up the 15 mph ATV limit and supported it. Councilmember Topper agreed with the 100 West limit. He said that Mill Creek Drive does not yet have a speed-reduction environment in place. He said it was a step in the right direction. City Manager Black agreed that street engineering needs to match the speed limit, by explaining wide, straight streets do not encourage slower travel speeds. He shared an image of a yellow ATV 15 mph advisory sign. Black mentioned a need for an educational program. Councilmember Topper stated his enthusiasm for the advisory sign. Jones said each sign would cost approximately \$400 per sign with manufacture of the signs, concrete work and installation. Black said sign locations would be proposed in the future. Taylor requested that ATV speed limit signs on highway 191 be removed. Taylor requested consideration of a 20 mph limit on 100 North near Main Street, as well as dispersed parking areas. Black explained those areas already have a 15 mph limit. He said the current discussion involved ATV routes. Councilmember Loftin stated the high pedestrian areas result in close

calls with pedestrians stepping into the lane of travel. Black explained the process related to a recent ordinance that establishes speed limits. He said any new signage would be paused until after the Council decision in September. Topper asked about progress on ATV routes. The mayor stated the Safe Streets for All open house would be held on August 31.

Presentations:

Noise Mitigation Considerations: Mayor Langianese opened a discussion on noise mitigation efforts. City Manager Black brought up highly modified vehicles that emit excessive noise. He spoke about noise cameras and cited cities currently using the technology. He said the technology was in its infancy, and state code could be a barrier to issuing citations. He said informing violators of their noise levels would be a likely outcome, and public education regarding noise would be needed. Councilmember Taylor spoke in favor of having a demonstration of the technology and establishing an end goal for lowering noise levels. The prospect of an ATV tour operator with clients passing a sound camera that displays the excessive dB and causing concern with the clients was discussed. He said that officers were already pulling over loud vehicles and operators did not care. Councilmember Topper said the educational piece is the goal; he said tour operators should be concerned about the optics of excessively loud vehicles. Topper said speed limit signage does have an educational impact. Taylor cited hot rod enthusiasts as a major part of the problem. Councilmember Loftin stated his interest in the technology. He said the goal should be the educational piece. He encouraged exploring enforceability. Councilmember Myers concurred. She brought up talking points for legislators. She said observed data would be helpful and encouraged a demonstration. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd agreed that a demonstration would be a great first step.

Cross Creeks Study: Engineer Jolissaint presented background that began with flooding of the area in 2024. He gave a brief overview of the timeline of studies and public engagement. City Manager Black said there were earlier engineering proposals to add gabion baskets to the creek bed, but the private landowners involved declined to allow them to be installed. He said the recent study alternatives cover the creek corridor from Main Street to 500 West. Jolissaint presented three alternatives based on 10, 50 and 100-year floods, and noted the floods break from the streambed well upstream from the cross creeks area. He explained that Alternative 1 added a 4 foot levee and said it was not recommended; Alternative 2 compromised between a levee and increasing the channel size. He said this model accommodates the 100-year flood and has a larger footprint than doing the channel only. He explained Alternative 3 is the preferred alternative and creates a much larger, deeper channel. He answered questions from Council and explained that the confluence with Pack Creek would add complexity to the project. He added that the alternatives would require acquisition of some private property. He went over trail realignments and reviewed public feedback from stakeholders. He said residents preferred narrower channels and did not unanimously support public pathways. He went over next steps. City Manager Black pointed out any channelization would reduce the creek bed significantly. Councilmember Topper stated that he felt residents preferred a non-paved path. Councilmember Loftin concurred. He asked how far the proposed trail realignment would be from existing homes. Councilmember Taylor asked for clarification regarding the \$7.8 million cost of Alternative 3 and the timeline. The involvement of the Army Corps of Engineers was discussed. Councilmember Taylor spoke in favor of Alternative 3, and Loftin pondered that Alternative 3 may have less impact on private property owners. Concrete bottoms and maintenance were discussed.

Quarterly Revenue Update: Councilmember Topper moved to amend the Consent Agenda to remove the quarterly revenue update and add it to presentations. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. City Manager Black presented the quarterly revenues, exhibiting 2026 actuals at \$17,877,981.73 and 2025 actuals at \$17,210,823.06. Black described the predicted slight increase in revenues from several tax sources, including sales, franchise, highway, transient rooms, resort community, Recreation, Arts and Parks (RAP), energy and property taxes. He pointed out the consistent trend since 2019. He said actual revenues reflect predicted levels.

Consent Agenda:

Councilmember Loftin moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows: approval of minutes for the July 28, 2026, Regular Meeting and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$244,550.06. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

General Business:**UDOT Statewide Utility License Agreement (SULA)—Approved**

Presentation and Discussion: Assistant Engineer Charles presented the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) statewide utility license agreement (SULA) which concerns City utilities on UDOT property. Storm drains and other utilities are in the highway 191 corridor. She said it was a five-year agreement.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Topper moved to approve the Statewide Utility License Agreement between the City of Moab and UDOT, as presented by staff, and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement. Councilmember Knutson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sanitary Sewer Master Plan Update—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Assistant Engineer Charles presented a proposal to engage Bowen Collins and Associates to update the sanitary sewer master plan. Mayor Langianese explained the update was required every five years. Charles explained the purpose of the plan, including determining future load on the system and sewer rates. Councilmember Taylor asked for a review of rates and accomplishments since the 2017 plan. Councilmember Topper asked for an overview of various master plans, including water, sewer and other plans.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the sanitary sewer master plan update task order with Bowen Collins & Associates in the amount of \$109,479.00, as presented by staff, and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

Contract with Straight Stripe Painting—Approved

Presentation and Discussion: Engineer Jolissaint presented the scope of the striping project which included thermoplastic crosswalks. He showed an illustration of green painted bicycle lanes which were in keeping with national standards. Councilmember Myers brought up concerns about the lane width and bicycle lane at Williams Way and 100 West. Councilmember Topper suggested a year-over-year schedule for striping across the City. Maintenance of the thermoplastics was discussed. Topper reminded staff of the transportation master plan, which he said includes direction for the striping, and brought up funding available for Safe Routes to Schools. Loftin brought up the staff ability to take on more of the work in-house.

Motion and Vote: Councilmember Knutson-Boyd moved to approve a contract with Straight Stripe Painting, Inc. in an amount not to Exceed \$200,000.00. Councilmember Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmembers Taylor, Knutson-Boyd, Topper, Myers and Loftin voting aye.

City Manager Update: City Manager Black reported the Youth Garden Project started development of a new community garden plot. He said several firms submitted qualifications for the updated downtown master plan and reported on various grant opportunities. He announced the retirement of police sergeant Gerri Neumeier, who served the City for more than two decades. Black concluded by stating he requested a traffic signal study for the intersection of Uranium and Main Street, and a pedestrian crossing signal at Dogwood and Main Street.

Mayor and Council Reports:

Councilmember Taylor reported on airport projects, including apron work and the commencement of flights to Salt Lake City and Denver starting in October. He mentioned the Office of Tourism and a September 8 kickoff event.

Councilmember Knutson-Boyd said she attended a Museum visioning workshop and reported on meetings with the Mayor and the Canyonlands Healthcare Special Service District.

Councilmember Topper reported he met with the Mayor as well as the TrailMix committee. He said wayfinding signs would be forthcoming and reported that Arches National Park visitation was down 12 percent in July compared to a year ago.

Councilmember Myers reported on a meeting concerning Moab Community Childcare, as well as a meeting with the Mayor, and she said she attended the grand opening of a new gelato shop. She brought up the housing task force and the housing town hall. She said she met with the homeless council.

Councilmember Loftin said he met with the Mayor and reported on his findings concerning the automated license plate readers in use by local law enforcement agencies.

Mayor Langianese reported she attended meetings of the healthcare district and updated Council on progress made regarding the water tank, including regarding a development agreement and bond funding. She mentioned grants made available to Moab nonprofits and a meeting with the County Commission chair regarding the launch of the Arches National Park shuttle service.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Topper moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Loftin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Joette Langianese, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder