

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF UTAH
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES COMMISSION

HELD THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026
MULTI-AGENCY STATE OFFICE BUILDING
195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah

Commissioners' present:

Chair, Stephen Handy
Vice Chair, Jennifer Tarazon
Jacquelyn Orton
Christopher Conabee
Juliette Tennert
Falyn Owens

Commissioner absent:

Tara Thue

Staff present:

Department Commissioner, Ericka Evans
Managing Director of Operations, Jeremy Sommerlath
Alcohol Education Director, Doug Murakami
Finance Manager Tammy Bolte
Compliance Administrator, Craig Warr

Also present:

Assistant Attorney General, Samuel McHenry
Office of the Utah Auditor, Audit Supervisor,
Jordan Kattelman
Office of the Utah Auditor, Financial Audit Office
Nate Johansen

Note: A copy of related material and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.abs.utah.gov

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Stephen Handy called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Program Manager Rob Hansen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Stephen Handy introduced the commissioners and staff members that assist with the commission meetings. He noted Commissioner Tara Thue was excused and made the following announcements.

- a. Proposed Future Meeting Schedule: *(subject to change)*
 - Thursday, August 27, 2026 - MASOB
 - Thursday, September 24, 2026 - MASOB
- b. Holiday Closure:

State liquor store and the DABS administrative office and warehouse will be closed:

- Monday, September 07, 2026 (*Labor Day*)

c. Public Comments:

- Those present, please complete the form located at the front entrance to the room.
- Those participating virtually, please email your name, city, topic, and affiliation (if applicable) to hotline@utah.gov by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, July 29, 2026.
- Comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Chair Stephen Handy opened the Special Acknowledgement item to formally recognize and thank the Utah Department of Public Safety officer and Department of Alcoholic Beverage Service staff for their heroic response during the February 27, 2026, shooting incident at the Taylorsville state liquor store. Chair Handy shared a timeline of the incident and noted that Sergeant Matthews was off duty when he defused the situation, preventing physical harm to any employees. On behalf of the commission, Chair Handy presented Store manager Synira Ingersoll-Bowen and Sergeant Jeremy Matthews with a letter of appreciation signed by all commissioners.

AUDIT REPORT FOR FY2026:

a. Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services Agreed-Upon Procedures

Jordan Kattelman, audit supervisor with the Office of the Utah State Auditor, introduced team members Nate Johansen and Rahn Rampton to the commission. He noted that the office conducts the statutory audit annually under Utah Code Section 32B-2-302 to evaluate financials, and this year's review included performance and operational measures. He explained the statutory audit is required because the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services generates about \$500 million in annual liquor proceeds which support important state programs, including public safety, school lunch and underage drinking prevention, with the remaining balance going to the general fund.

Jordan Kattelman and Nate Johansen presented an overview of the findings and recommendations outlined in the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services agreed upon procedures for fiscal year 2026. Jordan Kattelman noted that this year showed significant improvement over previous years and publicly thanked the department staff for their hard work.

The commissioners, Department Commissioner Ericka Evans, and Jordan Kattelman discussed the findings and the specific actions being taken by the department.

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans expressed her appreciation for the department team and Auditor Cannon. She praised the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services team for their dedication over the past year, noting their hard work significantly improved the audit finding compared to the previous year.

MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to approve the audit report findings and response from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay

Absent

Tara Thue

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

a. Vice-Chair Election

Chair Stephen Handy introduced the Commission Business item a. Vice Chair Election. He noted that the governor reappointed him as the commission chair for the year and explained that the commission must elect a vice chair for the year.

MOTION: Tennert moved to elect Commissioner Jennifer Tarazon as our vice chair this year, with a recommendation that she be appointed chair in the next year. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay

Absent

Tara Thue

PARENTS EMPOWERED UPDATE:

Doug Murakami, alcohol education director, updated the commission on the Parents Empowered campaign for fiscal year 2027. He reported the campaign is on track to improve statewide within budget and explained the support the 13 local prevention districts provide.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Tammy Bolte, finance manager, delivered the fiscal year 2026 period 12 financial update and noted the final year-end report will be presented at the August commission meeting. She noted that revenue totaled approximately \$20 million, an increase of 5% from the previous year, expenses were \$5.5 million, a decrease of about 9% from the previous year and in June, customers generated \$150,993 for the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Fund. The department will return \$9.5 million to the general fund. Tammy Bolte reported that the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services expects to return approximately \$100 million to the general fund for fiscal year 2026.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans updated the commission on the newly created internal audit working group subcommittee. She noted this subcommittee will be chaired by Vice Chair Tarazon and will include Commissioner Tennert and Commissioner Thue, and Internal Audit Director Mary Watson.

Managing Director of Operations, Jeremy Sommerlath provided an update on operations, highlighting a 95% retail product in-stock rate. He thanked the merchandising, warehouse distribution center, and retail enterprise for collaborating to maintain product availability for customers. He concluded with an update on the e-commerce platform.

Commissioner Orton noted this was her last meeting as an Alcoholic Beverage Services Commissioner. She praised the Operations Division for its outstanding progress in transparency and communication since she joined the commission in 2018. She credited Jeremy Sommerlath's leadership with giving commissioners the data they need to guide the agency. She also thanked Department Commission Ericka Evans and the operations team for their creative and dedicated support.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE:

- (1) Administrative Code, R82-9, Event Permits

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans presented the Administrative Code, R82-9, Event Permits. She explained that the amendment aligns with internal process updates made during the 2026 legislative session. Department Commissioner Evans reported that the department filed the rule with the Office of Administrative Rules for a 30-day public comment period, and the rule completed the public comment period without receiving any comments.

MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to approve the Administrative Code, R82-9, Event Permits with an effective date of August 6th, 2026. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay

Absent

Tara Thue

VIOLATIONS: *Referral Sources – Kaysville Police Department (KPD), State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)

[The following Consent Calendar items include uncontested letters of admonishment (written warnings) and settlement agreements that have been agreed to and accepted by the licensees. They are considered as a block with one vote unless one of the commissioners requests that any item be removed for individual discussion.]

- a. Consent Calendar

(1)	Hot Pot X, Sandy and Kaiya Kersh (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RL)
(2)	Rodizio Grill, Sandy and Zane Ponce and Luis Abel Del Solar (<i>employees</i>)	*SBI	(RF)
(3)	Wild Rose, South Jordan and Gerald Cornick (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RF)
(4)	Red 8 Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar, Spanish Fork	*SBI	(RL)
(5)	Smith's Food & Drug #277, Kaysville and Michael Sibley	*KPD	(OP)
(6)	Spedelli's (3300 S), Millcreek	*SBI	(RF)
(7)	Ombu HotPot 2, South Jordan	*SBI	(RL)
(8)	Aguachiles Y Clamatos El Pariente, Ogden	*SBI	(RB)
(9)	Roberts Restaurant and Deli, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(RF)
(10)	Tapatio, South Ogden and Judith Mitre Flores (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RB)
(11)	The Highlander Pub Inc., Murray	*SBI	(BAR)
(12)	Hallpass, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(RF)
(13)	Sofa's Corner, Garland	*SBI	(BAR)
(14)	Maxwell's East Coast Eatery, Summit County	*SBI	(LB)
(15)	Maxwell's East Coast Eatery, Summit County	*SBI	(RF)
(16)	Quarters Arcade Bar, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(BAR)
(17)	Gas Me Up Convenience, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(OP)

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry gave an overview of the items on the consent calendar noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

MOTION: Vice Chair Tarazon moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay

Absent

Tara Thue

b. Order to Show Cause

- (1) UMC Motorsports Campus, Grantsville (BC) and (BE)

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry presented the order to show cause for item 1 UMC Motorsports Campus in Grantsville. He noted under Utah Code Section 32B-5-309 that if a licensee fails to notify the department within 10 days of ceasing operations, the commission may suspend, revoke, or forfeit the license.

MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to forfeit the license of item 1 UMC Motorsports Campus in Grantsville. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton

Nay

Absent

Tara Thue

LICENSEE RECOGNITIONS:

- a. Passed Utah Public Safety, SBI Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) Inspections

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans reported that 194 licensees passed the State Bureau of Investigation CUB safety inspections. Dept Commissioner Evans congratulated the licensees who passed and thanked them for following alcohol laws safely. She noted that the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services licensing and compliance division staff focused on education during their annual audits of 1,000's of licensees across the state.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of the Minutes

- (1) June 25, 2026 Commission Meeting

- b. Off-Premise Beer Retailer State License

License Changes of Ownership:

- (1) 7-Eleven Store #33982C, South Jordan *(conditional) (purchase agreement June 22, 2026)*
- (2) Baba Nanak LLC, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (purchase agreement June 17, 2026)*
- (3) TCS Awesome LLC, Park City *(purchase agreement April 28, 2026)*
- (4) Empire Vape and Smoke, Salt Lake City *(purchase agreement May 22, 2026)*
- (5) Fuelio, Hooper *(conditional) (purchase agreement June 12, 2026)*
- (6) Jakes Brookside 3, Payson *(purchase agreement July 15, 2026)*
- (7) Korner Mart #12, Apple Valley *(purchase agreement May 13, 2026)*
- (8) Peak Stop, Logan *(conditional) (purchase agreement July 7, 2026)*
- (9) Walgreens #5875 West Jordan *(purchase agreement February 26, 2026)*

New Applicants:

- (1) 7Even Days, Inc., Murray
- (2) Fast Stop 1106, Clearfield
- (3) Friends #4, Midvale *(conditional)*
- (4) Hotel DeNovo, Springdale
- (5) JM Seafood Distribution, West Valley City
- (6) Market Mi Lindo Guanajuato, Santaquin
- (7) Maverik #769, Park City *(conditional)*
- (8) Thind Petroleum 1, Ogden *(conditional)*
- (9) Thind Petroleum 2, Ogden *(conditional)*
- (10) Trader Joe's, West Jordan *(conditional)*

- c. Beer Wholesaler
New Applicant:
 - (1) ID Beer Company LLC, West Valley City

- d. Package Agency
New Applicants:
 - (1) TCS Awesome LLC, Park City *(type 1)*
 - (2) Marriott SLC University Park, Salt Lake City *(type 1)*

- e. Hotel
New Applicant:
 - (1) Canopy by Hilton Deer Valley, Park City *(conditional)*

- f. Special Use Permit
New Applicants:
 - (1) Jade Bloom, Draper *(industrial)*
 - (2) Nusano, Inc., West Valley City *(industrial)*

- g. Restaurant Beer-Only
New Applicant:
 - (1) Creole and Sliders Cafe, South Salt Lake *(conditional)*

- h. Restaurant Limited-Service
License Changes of Ownership:
 - (1) La Vaca Steakhouse, Provo *(conditional) (purchase agreement July 10, 2026)*
 - (2) Hank's Bistro and Brew, Weber County *(purchase agreement May 15, 2026)**New Applicants:*
 - (1) India House, Sandy
 - (2) Misti Maki Sushi Bar Restaurant, Pleasant Grove *(conditional)*
 - (3) Tokyo Tower, Ogden *(conditional)*
 - (4) Old Bull Kitchen, Escalante *(conditional) (summer seasonal)*
 - (5) Akari Japanese, Washington City *(conditional)*
 - (6) Ginza Japanese Shabu Shabu, Sandy *(conditional) (violation history)*
 - (7) Thai Express, Park City *(conditional) (violation history)*

- i. Restaurant Full-Service
License Change of Ownership:
 - (1) TCS Awesome LLC, Park City *(purchase agreement April 28, 2026)**New Applicants:*
 - (1) The Wall Cafè, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*
 - (2) Bar W Steakhouse LLC, Nephi *(will surrender their restaurant limited - service license upon approval)*
 - (3) Back Porch, St George *(conditional)*

Compliance Administrator Craig Warr gave an overview of the items on the consent agenda noting that the applicants meet the statutory requirements as needed and are ready for action by the commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the consent agenda. Vice Chair Jennifer Tarazon seconded the motion. Chair Handy as for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay

Absent

Tara Thue

LICENSE APPLICATIONS CONSIDERATION ITEMS:

a. **Bar Establishment**

License Changes of Ownership:

- (1) Black Jacks, Spanish Fork (*purchase agreement June 24, 2026*)
- (2) TCS Awesome LLC, Park City (*purchase agreement April 28, 2026*)

Program Manager Rob Hansen presented the change of ownership applications.

MOTION: Vice Chair Jennifer Tarazon moved to approve the license change of ownerships for 1 Black Jack in Spanish Fork and TCS Awesome LLC in Park City. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay

Absent

Tara Thue

New Applicants:

- (1) Lindsay's Sports Bar and Grill, Orem
- (2) Curley's Lounge, Delta (*conditional*)

Rob Hansen gave an overview of the remaining Bar Establishment new applicants noting there are 47 bar establishment licenses available by quota.

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the bar establishment, new applicants item 1 Lindsay's Sports Bar and Grill in Orem and a conditional bar establishment license for Curley's Lounge in Delta. Vice Chair Jennifer Tarazon seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay**Absent**

Tara Thue

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC:

Chair Stephen Handy opened the floor for comment from commissioners and the public. Chair Handy and the commissioners recognized Commissioner Orton for her 8 years of dedicated service on the Alcoholic Beverage Services Commission, marking the end of her 2 terms. Chair Handy presented her with a letter of appreciation from Governor Cox and an appreciation plaque, praising her deep experience, knowledge, and valuable insights.

Vice Chair Tarazon, Commissioner Tennert, Dept Commissioner Evans, and Managing Director of Operations Jeremy Sommerlath, expressed their deep gratitude, highlighting her mentorship, her deep institutional knowledge, and her dedicated support during licensing and compliance changes.

Commissioner Orton thanked the governors, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services staff, and her fellow commissioners, reflecting on her service as an unexpected gift and praising the commission's collaborative focus on listening and serving the public.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Commissioner Orton moved to close the July 30, 2026 commission meeting. Chair Handy called for a vote the motion passed unanimously.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Jacquelyn Orton
Juliette Tennert
Christopher Conabee

Nay**Absent**

Tara Thue

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.