

City of Taylorsville
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
Wednesday, August 19, 2026
Council Chambers – Room No. 140
2600 W Taylorsville Blvd
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

ATTENDANCE

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Kristie S. Overson
Council Chair Robert Knudsen
Council Vice Chair Curt Cochran
Council Member Anna Barbieri
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Meredith Harker

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Dina Blaes, Chief of Strategic Engagement
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Chief Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Kim Horiuchi, Communications Dir.
Brittany Kempff, Deputy Recorder
Richard Rich, UFA Battalion Chief
Ben White, City Engineer

Excused: Scott Harrington, Asst. City Administrator/CFO

Others Present: B. Murphy and several unidentified first responders

6:05 P.M. BRIEFING SESSION

Chair Knudsen conducted the briefing session which convened at 6:08 p.m. following a meeting of the Redevelopment Agency Board. A roll call took place, and all council members were present.

1. Review Agenda

Chair Knudsen reviewed the agenda for the 6:30 p.m. regular meeting.

Council Member Burgess raised a concern regarding the condition on the south side of 3900 South between Redwood Road and the Jordan River. He noted the presence of trash, overgrowth, and a general lack of upkeep along that corridor and requested that staff address the matter.

Council Member Cochran mentioned upcoming fundraisers for Taylorsville High School football team who needed support to purchase equipment.

Council Member Harker shared a commendation she had received from a young resident who praised the quality of Taylorsville's parks. She also noted the new Taylorsville Park sign and expressed enthusiasm for the progress of the Summit Park bike skills course.

2. Adjourn

The briefing session adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

6:30 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Kristie S. Overson
Council Chair Robert Knudsen
Council Vice Chair Curt Cochran
Council Member Anna Barbieri
Council Member Ernest Burgess
Council Member Meredith Harker

Staff Present

John Taylor, City Administrator
Jamie Brooks, City Recorder
Brady Chief Cottam, Police Chief
Tracy Cowdell, City Attorney
Richard Rich, Unified Fire Battalion Chief
Elena Sanderson, Police Records Specialist

Excused: Scott Harrington, Asst. City Administrator/CFO

Others Present: Dean Paynter, and numerous first responders

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chair Knudsen called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance & Reverence – *Council Member Harker*

Council Member Harker led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance before offering a prayer.

1.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Kristie S. Overson spoke of the ongoing success of the Starry Nights summer concert series, held each Friday evening at Centennial Plaza, noting that the event had become a beloved community tradition. She gave particular recognition to the prior week's *Night Out Against Crime*, which was held in conjunction with Starry Nights, and thanked the vendors, the police department, and the public safety committee for their contributions to that event. Starry Nights would continue for approximately six more weeks.

Overson reported on a ribbon cutting held at Legacy House of Taylorsville, a senior care facility providing assisted living and memory care services that had refreshed its common areas after more than twenty years in the community. Council Members Burgess and Barbieri were recognized for their attendance.

The Mayor reported that the Arts Council Board of Trustees had been reviewing and updating its bylaws, and that the proposed changes would be reviewed by the city attorney before being presented to the Council for consideration. She also called the Council's attention to the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement Board packet that had been distributed, noting that West Nile virus counts in the valley were elevated and encouraged residents to use insect repellent and eliminate standing water on their properties.

Regarding park progress, Overson noted that the new Taylorsville Park sign had been installed at the corner of Redwood Road and 4700 South. Sidewalks had been poured, and the park continued to see heavy use despite ongoing Phase 2 construction. Summit Park was also progressing well, with adventure biking ramps installed, trees planted, and hydroseeding completed. Both parks were expected to celebrate their openings in the fall, with the dog park portion of Summit Park actively under construction.

Regarding school safety, the Mayor noted that city staff had been working to ensure sidewalks were safe and ADA-compliant, that trees obstructing school zone signage had been trimmed, and that the police department had directed patrol officers to be present in school zones during morning and afternoon hours.

Overson also acknowledged that the police department had experienced a demanding week, offering her sincere gratitude to the officers for their service. She expressed anticipation for both the police and fire department reports later in the evening.

The Mayor concluded by noting that the Unified Fire pancake breakfast was scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd. She also shared an update on the Youth Council, reporting that the seven current members had brought nine prospective recruits to a meeting earlier that day. Applications for Youth Council were due by September 18th.

1.3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed a list of upcoming city events.

1.4 Public Comments

There was no one who expressed a desire to speak during the public comment period.

2. APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments on the agenda.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Swearing-In Ceremony and Police Department – Chief Cottam

Following the administration of the Oath of Office to Craig Christiansen, his badge was pinned to his chest by his wife Lana.

Chief Cottam then recognized several police employees of the month, acknowledging a period during which the department had fallen behind on formal presentations.

- January 2026: Officer Tate Goodson
- February 2026: Records Specialist Elena Sanderson
- March 2026: Officer Spencer Stone
- April 2026: Officer Alex Ipsen
- May 2026: Sgt. Ryan Carver

Following the recognitions, Chief Cottam presented the department's quarterly statistical report, covering calls for service, offense trends, and citation data. He noted that while crime continued to occur, no particularly alarming trends were observed. He highlighted that the city had four of the five busiest intersections in the state of Utah — including 5400 South and Redwood Road, the state's busiest intersection at approximately 500,000 daily passings — which he noted made direct comparisons with neighboring cities difficult. He observed that certain crime categories, including stolen vehicles, appeared to be declining not only locally but statewide and, to some degree, nationally.

Council Member Barbieri raised a question regarding the volume of fleeing incidents shown in the statistics. Chief Cottam clarified that not every instance of fleeing involved a vehicle pursuit; officers frequently exercised discretion and chose not to engage in pursuit when safety considerations warranted. He used the occasion to speak more broadly about a concerning trend of noncompliance among residents, particularly youth, and appealed to the community to comply with officer instructions during encounters, expressing confidence in the justice system's ability to address legitimate grievances through proper channels. Barbieri affirmed the observation, noting that the relative absence of serious accidents in such a densely populated area likely reflected the sound judgment of the department's officers. Council Member Cochran added that fleeing incidents could also involve individuals on foot, which Chief Cottam confirmed.

Chief Cottam then provided an overview of Taylorsville Days, held July 25th through 27th. The event involved a broad coalition of participating law enforcement agencies, including Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, West Valley City Police, West Jordan Police, Cottonwood Heights Police, Murray City Police, Granite School District Police, University of Utah Police, Salt Lake City Police, Metro and Salt Lake County Gang units, and Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Emergency Management. Approximately 24 juveniles were reported missing during the three-day event, all of whom were reunited with their families, the longest separation lasting approximately one and a half hours. Notably, officers recorded no use of force during the entirety of the event — a first in Chief Cottam's recollection — and no significant injuries were reported. One recorded altercation occurred in the parking lot across from City Hall involving intoxicated individuals.

Chief Cottam closed his report with a message directed at parents, urging them to remain engaged in their children's activities, particularly regarding the use of e-bikes and associations with peers. He noted that recent legislative changes had begun to address parental accountability regarding electric bikes and scooters and that further legislation was anticipated.

Council Member Burgess asked whether legislation might address insurance and licensing requirements for e-bike operators. Chief Cottam acknowledged the question, noting that related legislation had already been passed and that additional regulatory developments were likely in the coming period.

3.2 Unified Fire Authority – Battalion Chief Richard Rich

Battalion Chief Richard Rich of Unified Fire Authority presented the quarterly reports for the first two quarters of calendar year 2026, covering January through June. He noted that call volumes remained statistically stable across both quarters, with a difference of just over 100 calls between the two three-month periods. The types of calls received were consistent with prior years, with no category showing unusual growth that would indicate a need for targeted public education campaigns. Chief Rich acknowledged a possible data-reporting error affecting the emergent call figures due to a recent transition to a new reporting system and noted that the department's internal tracking indicated emergent calls remained in the historically consistent 40% -50% range.

Chief Rich reported that the three fire stations serving Taylorsville continued to handle over 90% of calls within their first-in areas, and that ambulance units assigned to the area remained capable of managing current call volumes. Council Member Cochran inquired whether outside ambulance services were being used, and the Chief clarified that automatic aid agreements were in place with neighboring agencies, ensuring that the closest available ambulance responded to critical calls, while non-priority calls could be handled by units from a greater distance. He noted that the system was continuously evaluated for balance across agencies.

Response times continued to perform well, with the 90th percentile benchmark being met with units arriving within seven minutes on emergent calls.

Chief Rich reported that on May 6th, seven part-time staff members successfully completed the full-time firefighter academy and were now serving as probationary firefighters. A new recruit school of fourteen firefighters had recently commenced and was in its third week, with the graduates expected to join Class 61 in approximately twelve weeks.

Chief Rich provided an update on wildland fire deployments, noting it had been an exceptionally active season. UFA's dedicated Salt Lake 1 hand crew had deployed continuously throughout the Intermountain West. Strike teams and task forces had responded to the Babylon Fire along the Colorado-Utah border, the Rocky Canyon Fire near Henefer, and had been deployed via EMAC agreements (Emergency Management Assistance Compact) to fires in Oregon and around Spokane, Washington. Chief Rich emphasized that these deployments were reimbursed, making the cost to the agency near neutral, while the experience gained by firefighters proved invaluable. He also noted that two fires had occurred in Taylorsville's Tanner Park, both managed efficiently due in part to that accumulated experience.

Chief Rich announced that a SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges) strategic planning survey would be distributed to Council Members and other community stakeholders within the following week or two and encouraged recipients to complete it and identify additional leaders who should participate.

The Chief presented data from the National CARES Report on cardiac arrest outcomes. He reported that UFA's Utstein survival rate — measuring meaningful recovery among patients with survivable cardiac events — stood at approximately 41-42%, representing a 7.2% improvement over the state average and a 9% improvement over the national average. Chief Rich credited the quality of training and the team-based approach employed by UFA's field personnel.

The Chief confirmed that the UFA pancake breakfast would be held on October 3rd at Station 118 on Centennial Plaza. He also introduced the annual Utah Firefighters Chili Cook-Off, scheduled for October 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at America First Field in Sandy. The event, which brings together eighteen fire departments in the region, serves as a fundraiser for the University of Utah Burn Center and its associated youth burn camp programs. Chief Rich noted that the prior year's event raised approximately \$77,000. A video about the event was shared with the Council.

The Chief concluded with a summer safety message regarding barbecue fire prevention, noting that the National Fire Protection Association records over 10,000 fires annually attributable to grills and barbecues, with nearly 20,000 emergency room visits per year. He advised residents not to leave grills unattended, to maintain proper clearance from combustibles, to never use barbecues indoors due to carbon monoxide risk, and to ensure coals were fully extinguished before disposal. Chair Knudsen added a recommendation that residents clean their grills regularly to prevent grease buildup, and Chief Rich agreed.

Council Member Burgess shared an account of a neighbor who had improperly disposed of hot charcoal near his home, and Chair Knudsen related a similar story involving coals igniting beneath a parked vehicle. Council Member Cochran noted the same concern applied to Dutch ovens and inquired whether Council Members might be able to participate in a wildland fire training day. Rich indicated he would explore options to facilitate such an experience, and the Council expressed enthusiasm for the idea.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2026

MOTION: Council Member Cochran moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2026 meeting.
The motion was seconded by Council Member Harker.

Council Member Burgess	Yes
Council Member Cochran	Yes
Council Chair Knudsen	Yes
Council Member Harker	Yes
Council Member Barbieri	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

5. PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters on the agenda.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

There were no financial matters on the agenda.

7. OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters on the agenda.

8. NEW ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSIDERATION (No Action)

There were no items for subsequent consideration.

9. NOTICE OF FUTURE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Chair Knudsen briefly reviewed the dates and times of upcoming public meetings.

10. CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Council Member Barbieri moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cochran and Chair Knudsen declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Jamie Brooks, MMC
City Recorder

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