



**Minutes of the City of West Jordan
Emergency City Council Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Approved August 25, 2026
8000 S Redwood Road, 3rd Floor
West Jordan, UT 84088**

1. Call to Order

- Council:** Chair Jessica Wignall, Vice Chair Kent Shelton, Bob Bedore, Annette Harris, Zach Jacob, Chad Lamb
- Staff:** Senior Assistant City Attorney Patrick Boice, Mayor Dirk Burton, City Attorney Josh Chandler, City Administrator Korban Lee, Fire Chief Derek Maxfield, Council Office Clerk Cindy Quick, Police Chief Jeremy Robertson, Policy Analyst Walter Schmidt

Chair Wignall called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and excused Council Member Whitelock

2. Public Comment

a. Receive Public Input and Consider Approval of Resolution No. 26-036 Expressing the Will of the Council Regarding the 24th of July Fireworks Restrictions

Council Member Zach Jacob explained that the Governor had delegated fireworks restriction decisions to local jurisdictions and that the emergency meeting was called because the City had until 1:00 p.m. the following day to notify the Governor of its decision. He added that he felt the City should hear from residents before making a decision. He then invited the Fire Chief or Mayor to present their recommendation.

Mayor Dirk Burton reported attending a meeting earlier that day where the Governor gave the authority to the State Forester who gave four options:

1. Default to existing maps: utilize maps adopted by their legislative body in the spring; no submission or approval necessary.
2. Partial ban/extended map: Make a new firework-restricted area map and submit to the State Forester for approval;
3. Entire ban: Request entire firework ban within municipal boundaries and submit to the State Forester for approval; or
4. Dates & times: Request the dates and times when fireworks may be discharged within municipal boundaries and submit to the State Forester for approval.

Municipalities must make request by July 21st at 1:00 pm

Mayor Dirk Burton reported that state law currently allows fireworks two days before and one day after the holiday. He said Fire Chief Derek Maxfield had recommended maintaining the restricted areas approved earlier in the year based on current conditions. The Mayor adopted that recommendation after consulting with Council Members, who expressed differing opinions, including maintaining the existing restrictions or implementing a citywide ban. At Council Member Zach Jacob's request, the emergency meeting was called to gather

additional public and Council input before the Mayor made his final decision.

In response to a question from Council Member Jacob, Mayor Burton said several neighboring cities, including Herriman and West Valley City, planned to maintain their existing restriction maps, while Sandy and Draper were implementing citywide bans.

Fire Chief Derek Maxfield explained that the City's restriction map was developed in the spring using state guidance and was intended to provide a safety buffer while complying with state law. He said the Fire Department would support and prepare for whichever decision was made and had scheduled additional staffing for the holiday. He cautioned that changing restrictions could create public confusion and noted that weather conditions had not changed enough since the Fourth of July to warrant a different recommendation. He added that West Jordan's geography and fuel conditions required balancing public safety with holiday celebrations.

Chair Wignall opened public comment at 7:14 pm

Comments:

Taylor Bryant, a West Jordan resident, spoke in support of additional fireworks restrictions. She described fire concerns in the rural residential area, noting that livestock are easily frightened by fireworks and referenced recent fires, including one at a golf course and another near her property along the canal. She believed neighboring fireworks pose a risk to her property, where hay is stored, despite efforts to reduce fire hazards. She asked the City to consider the needs of West Jordan's rural areas when making its decision.

Reed Scharman, a West Jordan resident of 40 years, urged the City to recognize the unique fire conditions this year. He noted reduced watering, dry vegetation near homes and businesses, and the increased fire risk. Drawing on his experience as a former Fire Marshal, he acknowledged the difficulty of the decision and emphasized the risks to firefighters, nearby communities, and critical infrastructure if a wildfire were to occur. He encouraged the City to exercise caution.

Barbara Wolf, owner of Wild Wolf Fireworks, shared a business perspective on the impact of fireworks restrictions. She and her husband have owned their company for 11 years, operate nine locations, including two in West Jordan, and employ seasonal workers. She shared examples of employees who rely on holiday fireworks sales for supplemental income and noted that reduced sales significantly impacted their expected earnings. She asked the Council to consider the financial impact on local families and seasonal businesses while balancing public safety concerns.

Kathleen Masitch, a West Jordan resident of 29 years, spoke in support of a citywide fireworks ban due to concerns about dry vegetation and fire risk. She referenced photos of dead yards, trees, and landscaping in her neighborhood and expressed concern that surrounding fields and vegetation could contribute to a residential fire. She acknowledged the impact restrictions may have on residents and businesses but felt the current conditions created a significant safety concern. She also encouraged the City to address broader concerns regarding declining landscaping and tree health.

Lisa Davis, a West Valley resident who operates a fireworks stand in West Jordan, spoke in opposition to a citywide ban. She said her family business has operated responsibly and that fireworks sales provide their primary income for the year. She acknowledged the fire risks but felt a total ban would negatively impact responsible businesses and families. She encouraged alternatives such as enforcement, education, and safe-use practices, and recognized the West Jordan Fire Department for providing free buckets to promote fireworks safety.

Kelvin Green, a West Jordan resident, spoke in support of maintaining the existing fireworks restrictions. He encouraged the Council to rely on the expertise of City staff and the Fire Chief's recommendation. He stated that the City had already exercised its authority by establishing restriction maps and expressed concern that emergency meetings may not provide sufficient time for thorough discussion. He suggested broader policy discussions regarding drought, water use, and fireworks should occur at the state level.

Jay Wolf, a Saratoga Springs resident, asked whether a firework ignited in a legal area had resulted in an evacuation or significant fire. Fire Chief Derek Maxfield responded that he was not aware of any such incidents.

Bart Hammoc, a West Jordan resident, spoke in opposition to a citywide fireworks ban. He shared that a bush near his home caught fire from fireworks a few years ago but felt a complete ban was an overreach. He stated that the City's existing restriction map was a reasonable approach and emphasized personal responsibility when using fireworks. He also expressed concern about the impact of restrictions on local fireworks businesses.

Drew Howells, a candidate for the West Jordan House District, thanked the Mayor for holding the meeting and allowing additional discussion. He stated that, while he enjoys fireworks, he felt the current conditions presented too great a safety risk and supported a temporary citywide ban. He emphasized the importance of considering the Fire Chief's recommendation and taking a cautious approach focused on public safety.

Chair Wignall closed the public comment at 7:38 pm

Council Member Zach Jacob thanked residents for attending and sharing their comments. He clarified his reason for holding this meeting was based on concern with the decision-making process rather than a specific outcome. He believed the decision affected residents beyond holiday traditions and personal preferences and felt additional public input should have been considered. He expressed support for relying on staff expertise while also recognizing the importance of hearing from the community.

Council Member Jacob explained the resolution for consideration included three options: maintaining the current restrictions, implementing additional restrictions, or enacting a citywide ban. He noted options for changing dates or restricting specific areas not included in the resolution. He asked whether Council wanted to take a formal vote or allow the Mayor to make the final decision.

Council Member Lamb agreed that public input was important but felt the decision ultimately belonged to the Mayor. Having already shared his opinion with the Mayor, he said he would

vote against the resolution because he did not want to direct the Mayor's decision.

Council Member Bedore mentioned winning a state debate championship by arguing for a fireworks ban using emotional appeals. He said the experience reinforced his preference to rely on the expertise of City staff and the Fire Chief rather than emotion. He supported allowing the Mayor to make the decision and would vote against the resolution.

Vice Chair Shelton acknowledged the many perspectives shared, including concerns about pets and livestock, and said she trusted the recommendation of City staff and supported the Mayor's decision.

Council Member Harris asked whether the Mayor had already notified the Governor of his decision. Mayor Burton responded that he had only consulted with staff and the Council and explained that if no action was taken, the City's existing restriction map would remain in effect. If he chose a different option, it would require approval from the State Forester.

Council Member Jacob noted that an informal poll of the Council indicated there was not sufficient support to recommend a change to the Mayor's planned course of action. He was comfortable adjourning the meeting and allow the Mayor to make the final decision.

Chair Wignall said she trusted the recommendations of City staff, the Fire Chief, and the Mayor and supported allowing the Mayor to proceed with his decision.

Council Members agreed the meeting provided an opportunity for public input and expressed appreciation to those who attended on short notice. Several members stated they trusted the recommendations of City staff and the Fire Chief and supported allowing the Mayor to make the final decision. The Council then declined to approve the proposed resolution, leaving the City's existing process in place for the Mayor's determination.

3. Adjourn

Chair Wignall adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent an accurate summary of what occurred at the meeting held on July 20, 2026. This document constitutes the official minutes for the West Jordan Emergency City Council meeting.

/s/ Cindy M. Quick, MMC
Council Office Clerk

Approved this 25th day of August 2026