MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, August 4, 2026
Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Poplar Meeting Room, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1
Pam Cotter	District #2
Clark Bullen	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4 – Council Vice Chair
Adam Hock	District #5 – Council Chair

Others**:**

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administrator
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Joey Mittleman	Fire Chief	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Econ. Devel. Director
Aron Frisk	Water Superintendent	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Josh Hill	Streets Superintendent	Jeff Puls	Fire Marshal
Chris Zawislak	City Engineer	Jeff Martin	Parks Director
Travis Neeley	City Engineer	Greg Bellon	Power Director
Kayson Shurtz	Hansen, Allen & Luce	Ryan Madsen	IT Director
Citizens & Guests		Ethan Runyan	IT Support

Conducting: Council Chair Hock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole July 7, 2026. Ms. Turner moved to approve and Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Discussion Items:

- **Murray City 2026 Storm Drainage Master Plan Update**. Streets Superintendent Josh Hill introduced City Engineer Travis Neeley and Professional Engineer Kayson Shurtz with Hansen, Allen & Luce to review the updated Stormwater Master Plan. Mr. Neeley discussed six completed storm drain projects from the 2019 Storm Drainage Master Plan, located on Walden Meadows Drive, Vine Street, Anderson Avenue, Clover Meadow, 5750 South, and Cherry Street. The final 2019 storm drain project was still underway, extending west from 900 East along Oakwood Street to connect storm drain pipelines to Mick Riley Golf Course. Mr. Neeley noted that the project would enable the City to complete a future project identified in the updated 2026 Stormwater Master Plan.

  Mr. Shurtz said that storm water runoff was more difficult to manage than wastewater and culinary water, and that best practices was to stay ahead of deficiencies and update the master plan frequently to accommodate natural changes in drainage patterns, road configurations, storm locations, and storm intensities. He reviewed the purpose of updating the master plan, explained the criteria for upgrades, and shared a map of the model study area, primarily within Murray, noting that storm water also flows into the City from surrounding communities. He explained how the model was used to simulate water movement, timing, and flow of water from one subbasin to the next, which helped to predict peak flows at specific locations in the City.

  Mr. Shurtz said the City kept good records of its storm water infrastructure within its Geographic Information System database, which was also used to determine whether existing pipe networks could handle the peak flows predicted by the model. As a result, several deficiencies were identified, and he would continue to work closely with City staff to determine which areas needed infrastructure upgrades and which areas should be monitored. Targeted Capital Improvement projects were also identified, along with the necessary improvements.

Mr. Shurtz stated that various methods were used to determine costs for each project based on several factors, including previous master plans, inflation, and recent contractor bids for similar projects. After meeting with staff, the projects were prioritized as follows: Priority A – to be constructed within 0 to 5 years; Priority B – to be constructed within 5 to 10 years; and Priority C – to be constructed beyond 10 years. In summary, Mr. Shurtz noted that the total estimated cost for all projects was approximately $72 million.

In Summary, Priority A projects, totaled approximately $3 million, Priority B projects approximately $22 million, and Priority C projects approximately $46 million. Mr. Shurtz displayed a list of Priority A projects, which are expected to be completed within the next five years, including their locations and estimated costs. He also mentioned that City staff always worked hard to secure grant funding for capital improvement projects, which significantly helped to pay for them.

- **An ordinance related to new land uses and classification requests.** Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson explained that the State of Utah required the City to amend its Code to establish a legislative process for evaluating and classifying new or unlisted uses. He reminded Council Members about a recent application for a veterinary dentistry business that came before City planners. The proposal required the City to classify a new land use, and the request was approved by the Council because it was appropriate under new legislation. Mr. Wilkinson believed the State recognized a need for the legislation because of emerging technologies and new business activities that were not anticipated when many city laws were originally adopted.

  Mr. Wilkinson said new legislation also required cities to adopt a formal process within their City Codes for reviewing new land uses and classification requests. He explained that Murray already had a process in place allowing applicants to request an interpretation when a land use did not fit neatly into an existing category. However, the State of Utah had taken this process a step further by excluding the Planning Commission from the decision-making process. Moving forward, the City Council would hear directly from City planners and determine whether a requested land use should be classified as new or unclassified.

  Mr. Wilkinson confirmed that the proposed amendment would provide the City with the required formal process and the ability for a person to appeal, and that the amendment specifically addressed novel business activities not contemplated by the current Code. He clarified that the ordinance did not apply to prohibited land uses and was not a substitute for Administrative Action. Instead, it provided the City with the ability to use standard interpretation for similar uses as its primary tool. Mr. Wilkinson believed these types of requests would not often come before the Council because the existing process was still very important, by using the Planning Commission to review applications and make recommendations to the City Council.

  Mr. Wilkinson outlined the new workflow process, proposed language, and findings to confirm that Murray would now align with State requirements. He stated that the changes supported the General Plan and served the public by establishing a transparent process for evaluating new and unlisted land uses. He also noted that although the Planning Commission reviewed the proposed Code and new process and knew they would no longer have a role in the decision-making process, they still recommended approval to the City Council.

- **Fraud Risk Assessment** Finance Director Brenda Moore discussed the FRA (Fraud Risk Assessment), which was required annually by the State. She noted that there were no changes from the 2025 FRA and reviewed the scoring system used to determine the City's fraud risk level. Ms. Moore confirmed that all required internal controls remained in place, including two employees signing off on check approvals and invoices, and her review of requests exceeding $100,000. In addition, all required financial policies were in place, and two certified public accountants, the City Treasurer, and the Accounts Payable Clerk continued necessary education. Based on the assessment results, the City scored in the very low-risk category for fraud. Ms. Moore reminded Council Members that the ordinance also required elected officials to complete the State Auditor's ethical policy training video. She requested that anyone who had not yet completed the training do so during their term, as the ordinance required the training to be completed once every four years.

- **Ordinances related to midterm vacancies and changes to the Murray City Council Policies and Procedures Handbook relating to a vacancy in an elected office.** City Attorney G.L. Critchfield stated that due to a change in State law, the City would need to update its Code and The City Council Rules Handbook because the change affected the Council, the Mayor, and the process for filling a midterm vacancy. Mr. Critchfield explained that previously, if a midterm vacancy occurred in the mayoral position, the Council Chairperson would automatically fulfill the duties of Acting Mayor until the City Council selected an Interim Mayor within 30 days. Under the new legislation, the City Council would select an Acting Mayor within 24 hours, and then within 30 days after that, they would select an Interim Mayor to fill the unexpired term followed by an election to fill a two-year term, depending on the timing of the vacancy.

Adjournment: 5:49 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III