MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING

Minutes of Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

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

Others**:**

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Crystal Brown	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Emily Barton	Finance
Josh Hill	Storm Water Supervisor	Aron Frisk	Water Superintendent
Greg Bellon	Power Director	Ben Gray	IT Supervisor
Ryan Madsen	IT Director	Citizens and Guests	

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. – Council Member Hock

Public Hearings:

1. **Murray City intends to make the following statement containing each of the following elements (a) through (d), as required by state law**:
   a. that Murray City is considering levying a tax rate that exceeds Murray City's certified tax rate ("tax rate increase");
   b. the approximate dollar amount of and purpose for additional ad valorem tax revenue that would be generated by the proposed tax rate increase;
   c. the approximate percentage increase in ad valorem tax revenue for Murray City based on the proposed tax rate increase; and
   d. that if Murray City proceeds with the proposed tax rate increase, Murray City will provide notice of and conduct a public hearing, as required by state law (Utah Code 59-2-919(4)(c)), at which members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed tax rate increase. Brenda Moore presenting.

2. **Presentation of the property tax impact schedule.** Finance Director Brenda Moore said the Property Tax Increase Impact Statement was a new requirement under Utah State Code 59-2-919 as amended in the 2026 legislative session; it was designed to make the public aware that the City is proposing a Tax Levy increase, and it required the City to review details about the increase, and what the effect would be if the increase was not passed.

   If the City did not implement a property tax increase, the City's current property tax rate of .001370 would provide approximately $12 million in City revenue. However, the City was requesting $714,297 in new revenue, which would increase the tax rate to .001488. This request would increase Murray's property tax by 5.66%. Ms. Moore provided combined rate estimates for those living in the Murray School District and the Granite School District and confirmed that the average estimated increase for a primary residence valued at $614,000 would be approximately $26.46 per year, or $2.21 per month. For a business valued at $614,000, the increase would be approximately $48.12 per year, or $4.01 per month.

Ms. Moore explained how new revenue totaling $714,297 would be used to hire a new police officer to fill the vacancy created by an officer mandated by the State to be assigned to the Regional Computer Forensics Lab, fund market rate adjustments to police officers' salaries to ensure retention, and pay for overtime, allowing more hours for major investigations and incidents. In the Fire Department, market rate adjustments would be made to firefighter salaries to ensure retention and allow for more overtime to lessen the number of times fire shifts operate at minimum staffing.

She explained Truth in Taxation, stating that the commonly used term referred to a statute passed in 1985 designed so that, just because property values increased, property taxes would not increase. The City was guaranteed the same property tax revenue, plus new growth each year, while the mill levy would go down. She clarified that in 2024, the City's rate was .001483. In 2025, a property tax increase was not implemented, and the rate dropped to .001403. Because the City was requesting $714,297 in new revenue this time, the rate increased to .001448.

Ms. Moore provided a list of every city in Salt Lake County that would increase property taxes this year and explained that, without a property tax increase this year, the rate would have dropped again to .001370. Comparably, with the proposed increase, Murray would sit just below the mid-range among other cities that were also increasing property taxes. She clarified that the 5.66% increase would not be applied to an entire property tax bill, but only to Murray City's portion, which was on .17¢ of a dollar for Murray School District residents and on .14¢ of a dollar for Murray residents in the Granite School District.

3. **Consider an ordinance adopting the rate of tax levies for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.**
   The public hearing was open for public comments.

   <u>Krystal Walker – Murray Resident</u>
   Ms. Walker said that, as the wife of a Murray firefighter who had served with the Murray Fire Department for 25 years, she believed the increase would support all public servants in continuing to build teamwork and develop important skills essential to their safety and the safety of Murray citizens. She expressed appreciation to the Council for its great efforts in reducing the proposed increase from its original amount. She felt the Council had given considerable thought to adjusting the increase and emphasized the value of living in Murray, where public services were prioritized to improve the quality of life for all residents.

   <u>Scott Goodman – Murray Resident – Email.</u>
   Mr. Goodman asked City officials to consider alternatives to raising property taxes, including the State-authorized 1% arts and cultural sales tax, which could generate approximately $2 million to $2.4 million annually without increasing the property tax burden on homeowners. He also urged the City to ensure impact fees were used for legally appropriate, growth-related system improvements rather than discretionary amenities such as the proposed ninja course. He felt the City should use every available tool responsible and direct impact fees toward projects that met legal requirements and supported long-term community needs.

   The public hearing was closed.

   Ms. Moore confirmed that the 1% arts and cultural sales tax, also known as the ZAP (Zoo, Arts and Parks) tax, was already implemented throughout the County by Salt Lake County. Murray could not implement the ZAP tax on its own, because Murray was part of Salt Lake County. Murray received approximately $100,000 per year from the County in ZAP funding for cultural arts, and new park projects or park amenities.

MOTION: Mr. Picket moved to adopt the ordinance. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

<u>**Council Roll Call Vote**</u>

Mr. Pickett Aye
Ms. Cotter Aye
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion passed: 5-0

4. **Consider an ordinance adopting the final 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budgets for Murray City including the Library Fund Budget.**

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Pickett SECONDED the motion.

<u>**Council Roll Call Vote**</u>

Mr. Pickett Aye
Ms. Cotter Aye – Ms. Cotter stated for the record that, although she did not approve of the proposed funding for the Downtown Main Street USA position or the new social media position, she would vote to approve the final 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget.
Mr. Bullen Aye
Ms. Turner Aye
Mr. Hock Aye
Motion passed: 5-0

Adjournment: 6:54 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III