

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2026
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
PUBLIC HEARING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 65 NORTH CENTER STREET**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Marlene Stowe, Ryan Cottam, Sally Orme, Tara Woolsey and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.
Council member Chad Lyman was excused.

City Attorney Barry Huntington joined electronically.

Also present were Reed Munson, Brent Pickering, Julie Brugger and Jenifer Thomas.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council member Orme moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Woolsey, Orme and Cottam voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2026 MEETING

Council member Woolsey moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2026 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Woolsey, Stowe and Cottam voting aye.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Stowe moved to open the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Woolsey, Stowe, Cottam and Orme voting aye.

ORDINANCE 2026-09 AMENDING ORDINANCE 8.04.040 WATER CONNECTIONS ONE METER PER PARCEL EXCLUDING COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL (C/R) ZONE.

Mayor Torgersen explained Ordinance 2026-09.

There were no questions or comments from the public

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Stowe moved to close the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe, Cottam and Woolsey voting aye.

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2026-09 AMENDING ORDINANCE 8.04.040 WATER CONNECTIONS - ONE METER PER PARCEL EXCLUDING COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL (C/R) ZONE.

Council member Orme moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-09. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Cottam, Woolsey and Orme voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

MCKADE & NATALIE COOK - NEW HOME - 200 S 390 E - RR-1-20

Council member Woolsey explained this item. Council member Woolsey said this project meets all requirements and Planning and Zoning has recommended it to the Council for approval.

Council member Orme moved to approve the new home for Mr. and Mrs. Cook. Council member Woolsey seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Woolsey, Orme and Cottam voting aye.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

MCKADE & NATALIE COOK - WATER CONNECTION FOR NEW HOME 200 S 390 E

Council member Cottam moved to approve the new water connection for Mr. and Mrs. Cook. Council member Woolsey seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Woolsey, Stowe and Cottam voting aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed explained the five-county regional summit scheduled for September 10, 2026, at Bryce Canyon, noting that individuals wishing to attend must complete registration by September 3.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Brent Pickering reported on ongoing water conservation efforts, noting that water levels in the well and springs remain low, though community members are continuing to do their part.

Mr. Pickering explained the issue concerning non-flushable items, including paper towels, tampons, and flushable wipes, being disposed of causing problems with the sewer lift pump station. Mr. Pickering said this has resulted in significant damage to the lift pump station, burning up the pumps and impellers. Council member Orme recommended adding a reminder about proper flushing guidelines to the upcoming water bills.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN

Mayor Torgersen reported that the car show last weekend was a great success.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER TARA WOOLSEY

Council member Woolsey announced that Chad Cottam has scheduled an airport training session for Thursday, which will be conducted by a former Bryce Canyon airport manager.

COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM

Council member Cottam had nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Torgersen noted that a UDOT meeting is set for September and requested that Council member Cottam join her.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe reported hard water buildup on the wellness center's drinking fountains. Council member Stowe said she scrubbed them with vinegar and is looking into acquiring a commercial cleaner to maintain them.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Orme moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Cottam and Woolsey voting aye.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

/s/ Stephanie Steed
Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 09/01/2026