

Minutes of the Centerville **Special City Council** meeting held Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with participants present online via Zoom.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Clark Wilkinson

Council Members Robyn Mecham  
Brian Plummer  
Gina Hirst  
Rick Bangerter  
Cheylynn Hayman

**STAFF PRESENT**

Brant Hanson, City Manager  
Lisa Romney, City Attorney  
Jennifer Robison, City Recorder  
Nate Plaizier, Finance Director  
Mike Carlson, Public Works Director  
Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director  
Bryce King, Administrative Services Director  
Allen Ackerson, Chief of Police

**VISITORS**

Interested citizens

**PUBLIC HEARING – TRUTH IN TAXATION PROPERTY TAX INCREASE AND FY 2027 FINAL BUDGET**

Mayor Wilkinson opened the special meeting and explained that, pursuant to State law, the meeting was convened solely for the Truth in Taxation hearing and could not be combined with a regular City Council meeting. Finance Director Nate Plaizier presented the proposed 15.61% increase to the City's property tax rate, from the 2026 certified rate of 0.001137 to 0.001314, which would increase property tax revenue by approximately \$369,103, from \$2.3 million to \$2.7 million. He explained Utah's revenue-based property tax system and clarified that the increase applied only to the Centerville City portion of a property tax bill. For an average Centerville home valued at \$610,000, the proposed increase would raise the annual City property tax from approximately \$381 to \$441, or about \$59 annually. Mr. Plaizier identified the three purposes designated in the required Property Tax Impact Statement as \$83,401 for increased employee medical insurance costs, \$250,000 for a new police officer position and associated expenses, and \$35,702 for an increased South Davis Fire District assessment. He noted that the City's overall FY 2027 budget shortfall was approximately \$1.5 million and cautioned that continued reliance on fund balance to address the shortfall was not sustainable long-term.

Mr. Plaizier also presented the FY 2027 final budget, which incorporated a projected 2% increase in sales tax revenue, the proposed property tax increase, the previously approved \$1-per-garbage-can sanitation fee increase, and the use of fund balance in several funds. The budget also authorized an interfund loan of up to \$2.4 million from the Capital Projects Fund to the Water Fund. He explained that the substantive changes from the interim budget adopted in June were related to the certified property tax rate and the \$37,000 in certified new growth, including corresponding adjustments to property tax revenue and the transfer to the Capital Projects Fund.

Mayor Wilkinson opened a public hearing for this item.

1        Doug Hancey, Centerville resident, spoke strongly against the proposed property tax  
2 increase. He noted that he had lived in his home since 1988 and that the combined property tax  
3 increases from the City, County, and other entities would exceed his projected monthly retirement  
4 income. Referring to Page 94 of the Truth in Taxation packet, he pointed to four property tax  
5 increases between 2017 and 2026 and expressed concern about the City's pattern of increasing  
6 taxes roughly every 2.5 years. Drawing on his experience working with manufacturing companies,  
7 Hancey urged the City to adopt a more business-minded approach to budgeting by distinguishing  
8 between wants and needs, delaying equipment replacements when possible, and keeping  
9 vehicles and equipment until replacement is necessary. He cited the Public Works garage door  
10 opener replacement as an example of spending he questioned and suggested exploring  
11 alternatives such as increasing sales taxes rather than property taxes. He ultimately urged the  
12 Council to reconsider the budget and not approve the proposed property tax increase.

13  
14        Craig Preston, Centerville resident, shared that he is living on a fixed Social Security  
15 income, and stated that his property taxes had increased approximately 33% over the past five  
16 years across all taxing entities. While acknowledging that no single entity was solely responsible,  
17 he described the cumulative increase as significant and burdensome, expressing particular  
18 frustration with the South Davis Fire District's assessment increase. He urged the Council to be  
19 conscientious in implementing the General Plan and managing City expenditures going forward.

20  
21        Diane Witton, Centerville resident, stated that she was struggling financially as the costs  
22 of groceries, gas, insurance, and other necessities had increased without a corresponding  
23 increase in her own income. She urged the Council to carefully evaluate expenditures as needs  
24 versus wants and expressed concern about what she perceived as unnecessary costs in City  
25 utility billing, noting that her three-person household's water bill was comparable to her father's  
26 one-person household. Ms. Witton offered to volunteer for community cleanups if it could help  
27 reduce City costs and asked the Council not to pursue further tax increases.

28  
29        Mayor Wilkinson closed the public hearing.

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31        Following the public hearing, staff and Councilmembers responded to comments  
32 regarding the proposed property tax increase. Councilmember Mecham expressed empathy for  
33 residents experiencing financial hardship and described the extensive reductions made to  
34 department requests during the budget process. She strongly supported adding a police officer,  
35 noting that the Police Department had requested additional staffing for several years and that  
36 staffing constraints had affected working conditions. Mayor Wilkinson clarified that property taxes  
37 represented approximately \$2.7 million of the City's \$14 million budget, compared with  
38 approximately \$5.6 million in sales tax revenue, and noted that many capital projects were funded  
39 through grants or the voter-approved RAP Tax. Mayor Wilkinson also raised a question regarding  
40 the new Property Tax Impact Statement and whether the city would face any penalty if the new  
41 police officer position was not filled within the fiscal year. City Manager Brant Hanson confirmed  
42 that no statutory penalties exist for not implementing each item exactly as listed, provided the city  
43 makes a good-faith effort to implement the stated purposes.

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45        Councilmember Bangerter supported funding an additional police officer but did not  
46 support the full 15.61% increase, noting potential budget reductions he had previously identified  
47 and concerns regarding the impact statement's limited presentation of the City's broader financial  
48 circumstances. He also raised concerns about the greater impact on commercial property owners  
49 and expressed a preference for smaller, incremental tax increases. Mayor Wilkinson noted that  
50 even with additional budget reductions, a significant tax increase would still be necessary to fund  
51 the police position and other recurring costs. Councilmember Plummer expressed support for the  
52 increase, citing the extensive budget review conducted by the Council, the need to address the  
53 South Davis Fire District assessment, and the importance of police staffing. Councilmember

1 Hayman clarified the impact of the Mosquito Abatement District's recent tax increase and noted  
2 the Council's representation on several regional boards, which provided advance awareness of  
3 regional tax changes. Councilmember Mecham also noted that Council compensation had not  
4 increased during her ten years of service.

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6 Councilmember Hirst **moved** to adopt Resolution No. 2026-23, setting the Real and  
7 Personal Property Tax Rate at 0.001314 for the General Fund for Centerville City, Utah, and  
8 adopt Resolution No. 2026-24, adopting the FY 2027 Final Budget. Councilmember Mecham  
9 seconded the motion, which passed (4-1) with Councilmember Bangerter dissenting.

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11 **ADJOURNMENT**

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13 At 7:50 pm, Councilmember Plummer **moved** to adjourn the meeting which passed by  
14 unanimous vote (5-0).

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16  
17 *Jennifer Robison*  
18 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

09/15/2026  
Date Approved

