

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF UTAH
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES COMMISSION

HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026
MULTI-AGENCY STATE OFFICE BUILDING
195 NORTH 1950 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Commissioners' present:

Chair, Stephen Handy
Vice Chair, Jennifer Tarazon
Juliette Tennert
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue

Staff present:

Department Commissioner, Ericka Evans
Managing Director of Operations, Jeremy Sommerlath
Chief Compliance Officer, Adam Duncan
Alcohol Education Director, Doug Murakami
Finance Manager, Tammy Bolte
Compliance Administrator, Craig Warr

Commissioners absent:

Christopher Conabee

Also present:

Assistant Attorney General, Samuel McHenry

Note: A copy of related material and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.abs.utah.gov

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Stephen Handy called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chief Compliance Officer Adam Duncan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Stephen Handy introduced the commissioners and staff members that assist with the commission meetings and made the following announcements.

- a. Proposed Future Meeting Schedule: (subject to change)
 - Thursday, September 24, 2026 - MASOB
 - Thursday, October 29, 2026 - MASOB
- b. Holiday Closure:

State liquor store and the DABS administrative office and warehouse will be closed:

 - Monday, September 07, 2026 (*Labor Day*)

- Monday, October 12, 2026 (*Columbus Day*)

c. Public Comments:

- Those present, please complete the form located at the front entrance to the room.
- Those participating virtually, please email your name, city, topic, and affiliation (if applicable) to hotline@utah.gov by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.
- Comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

PARENTS EMPOWERED UPDATE:

Doug Murakami, alcohol education director, updated the commission on the Parents Empowered campaign. He noted that the back-to-school campaign event launched Friday, August 21, 2026, at the Guadalupe Center in Salt Lake City, and thanked Vice Chair Jennifer Tarazon for her contributions to the launch. He shared a video clip from Fox 13 News and noted that 8 local schools and 5 television media outlets participated in the launch.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Tammy Bolte, finance manager, delivered the financial reports for Period 13 of fiscal year 2026 and Period 1 of fiscal year 2027. For Period 13, expenses totalled approximately \$5.5 million, a decrease from last year, and she noted the fiscal 2026 return to the general fund is currently being completed by state finance.

Ms. Bolte also reported on Period 1 of fiscal year 2027, revenues totalled \$20.3 million, a decrease of 3.5% compared to last fiscal year, expenses totalled \$4.8 million, a 167% increase due to salary timing differences and accounting periods. She noted that in July \$152,457 was generated for the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Fund and approximately \$15.3 million will be returned to the general fund.

DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT:

- a. Chief Compliance Officer

Department Commissioner Evans presented the department appointment for Adam Duncan as Chief Compliance Officer. Adam Duncan shared brief background details with the commission, noting that he joined the department from the Governor's Office and has 5 years of public service.

MOTION: Commissioner Thue moved to approve the department appointment Chief Compliance Officer to Adam Duncan. Vice Chair Tarazon seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed 4 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Jeremy Sommerlath, managing director of operations, provided an operations update to the commission. He shared an overview of the annual managers meeting held on August 10, 2026 and highlighted its core focus for this year's annual meeting. He also noted that the Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services earned top honors for the customer service satisfaction from all state of Utah agencies for the customer experience award.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE:

- (1) Administrative Code, R82-14, Liquor Transport Licensees
- (2) Administrative Code, R82-2-308, Type 2 and 3 Package Agencies

Department Commissioner Evans presented the administrative rules item #1 Administrative Code, R82-14, Liquor Transport Licensees. She outlined the reason for the change and noted the public comment period ended without receiving comments.

MOTION: Vice Chair Tarazon moved to approve item #1, Administrative Code, R82-14, Liquor Transport Licensees and to file the notice with the Office of Administrative Rules with the effective date of September 3, 2026. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 4 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

Department Commissioner Evans presented item #2 Administrative Code, R82-2-308, Type 2 and Type 3 Package Agencies. She outlined the two changes to the rule's compensation model, payment due when product is sold, and consignment returned to the store. She noted the public comment period ended without receiving comments.

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the final approval of item #2 Administrative Code, R82-2-308, Type 2 and Type 3 Package Agencies, and to file the notice with an effective date of September 3, 2026. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed 4 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

Juliette Tennert

VIOLATIONS:

*Referral Sources – State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), West Valley Police Department (WPD)

[The following Consent Calendar items include uncontested letters of admonishment (written warnings) and settlement agreements that have been agreed to and accepted by the licensees. They are considered as a block with one vote unless one of the commissioners requests that any item be removed for individual discussion.]

a. Consent Calendar

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|-------|
| (1) | Le Boeuf, Salt Lake City | *SBI | (RL) |
| (2) | Fairway Cafe @ Mick Riley G.C., Murray and Haley Logan (<i>employee</i>) | *SBI | (BE) |
| (3) | Fuji Sushi Restaurant, Centerville | *SBI | (RL) |
| (4) | Chili's Southwest Grill #902, Midvale and Shane Salter (<i>employee</i>) | *SBI | (RF) |
| (5) | Mi Buena Vida Express, Salt Lake City | *SBI | (RB) |
| (6) | Mensho Ramen, Salt Lake City | *SBI | (RL) |
| (7) | Como En Casa, Taylorsville | *SBI | (RL) |
| (8) | Holiday Oil Co #17, West Valley City and Jesus Rivas (<i>employee</i>) | *WPD | (OP) |
| (9) | Tap Room, Salt Lake City | *SBI | (BAR) |
| (10) | Redwood Lounge, Salt Lake City | *SBI | (BAR) |
| (11) | The Westerner, West Valley City | *SBI | (BAR) |
| (12) | Tacos 1905, South Jordan | *SBI | (RL) |
| (13) | Official Pie and Beer Day, Salt Lake City | *SBI | (SE) |
| (14) | Extra Mile #152, West Valley City and Havyn Dynes (<i>employee</i>) | *WPD | (OP) |
| (15) | Roosters B St Brewing, Ogden | *SBI | (BAR) |
| (16) | 7-Eleven Store #12924A, West Valley City and Juan Ramirez (<i>employee</i>) | *WPD | (OP) |

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry gave an overview of items #1 to #16 on the consent calendar noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the settlement agreements for items #1 to #16 on the consent calendar. Commissioner Tarazon seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed 4 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

LICENSEE RECOGNITIONS:

- a. Passed Utah Public Safety, SBI Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) Inspections

Department Commissioner Evans reported that since the July commission meeting 75 licensees passed the State Bureau of Investigation CUB safety inspections. She congratulated the licensees who passed and thanked them for following alcohol laws safely.

SEPTEMBER 2026 LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER:

- a. Renewal Period September 1 to September 30, 2026
 - Airport Lounge (AL)
 - On-Premise Banquet (BC)
 - Hospitality Amenity (HA)
 - Hotel (HL)
 - Resort (RS)
 - Reception Center (RC)
 - Restaurant Full-Service (RF)
 - Restaurant Limited-Service (RL)
 - Licensed as a Restaurant (LR)

Craig Warr reminded those in attendance that September 1, 2026 the renewal campaign will launch for the above licenses. These licenses will expire on September 30, 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - (1) July 30, 2026 Commission Meeting
- b. Off-Premise Beer Retailer State License
 - License Changes of Ownership:*
 - (1) 7-Eleven Store #36330B, Lindon (conditional) (purchase agreement July 14, 2026)
 - (2) Chevron Duchesne, Duchesne (conditional) (purchase agreement March 6, 2026)
 - (3) Digby's Market, St George (purchase agreement July 30, 2026)
 - (4) Fast Stop 2201 Inc., Harrisville (conditional) (purchase agreement July 13, 2026)
 - (5) Gas Stop #25, Santa Clara (purchase agreement July 28, 2026)
 - (6) Qwik Stop, Layton (purchase agreement June 15, 2026)
 - (7) Super 1 Smokeshop, Midvale (conditional) (purchase agreement June 1, 2026)
 - New Applicants:*
 - (1) 7-Eleven #12945E, Salt Lake City (conditional)
 - (2) Bodega Convenience Stores 1, Salt Lake City
 - (3) Holiday Oil #88, Tooele (conditional)
 - (4) Liberty Fuels, Lehi (conditional)
 - (5) Macey's, Santaquin
 - (6) Maverik #802, Clearfield (conditional)

- (7) Maverik #5465, St George *(conditional)*
 - (8) Ridley's Family Markets, Fillmore
 - (9) Ridley's Family Markets, Gunnison
 - (10) Ridley's Family Markets, Mount Pleasant *(conditional)*
 - (11) Ridley's Family Markets, Payson *(conditional)*
 - (12) Trinkets & Treasures, Salt Lake City
- c. Airport Lounge
New Applicant:
 - (1) Monarca, Salt Lake Int'l Airport *(conditional)*
- d. Package Agency
Extended Closure:
 - (1) Delta Center, Salt Lake City *(type 4) (requesting until September 26, 2026)*
- e. On-Premise Banquet
Extended Closure:
 - (1) Delta Center, Salt Lake City *(requesting until September 26, 2026)*
- f. Special Use Permit
New Applicant:
 - (1) SMPL Mfg, Herriman *(industrial)*
- g. Hotel
Extended Closure:
 - (1) Doubletree by Hilton - The Yarrow, Park City *(requesting until February 25, 2027)*
- h. Restaurant Beer-Only
New Applicant:
 - (1) Arempas Venezuelan Cuisine, Midvale *(conditional)*
- i. Restaurant Limited-Service
New Applicants:
 - (1) Tepanyaki Kitchen LLC, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (violation history)*
 - (2) Riggattis Hurricane LLC, Hurricane *(conditional)*
- j. On-Premise Beer Retailer - Beer Recreational
New Applicants:
 - (1) Hana Hou Kitchen Southgate, St George *(conditional) (violation history)*
 - (2) Wohali Club LLC, Coalville
- k. Restaurant Full-Service
New Applicants:

- (1) Pata Salada, Lehi *(will surrender their restaurant beer-only license upon approval)*
- (2) The Prickly Pear, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*
- (3) Longhorn Steakhouse #5734, Pleasant Grove *(conditional)*
- (4) Libertango Steakhouse, Sandy *(conditional)*
- (5) Via 313 Pizzeria, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*
- (6) Don Kikis, Magna
- (7) Ramblin Roads Restaurant LLC, Ogden *(conditional) (violation history)*

Craig Warr, compliance administrator, gave an overview of the items on the consent agenda noting that the applicants meet the statutory requirements as needed and are ready for action by the commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Thue moved to approve the consent agenda. Vice Chair Tarazon seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 4 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
 Falyn Owens
 Tara Thue
 Juliette Tennert

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

LICENSE APPLICATIONS CONSIDERATION ITEMS:

a. **Bar Establishment**

Extended Closure:

- (1) The Delta Center, Salt Lake City *(requesting until September 26, 2026)*

Program Manager Rob Hansen presented Bar Establishment extended closure applicant The Delta Center in Salt Lake City.

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Bar Establishment extended closure request for The Delta Center in Salt Lake City. Commissioner Thue seconded the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed 4 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
 Falyn Owens
 Tara Thue
 Juliette Tennert

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

New Applicants:

- (1) Weeping Rock Winery, St George *(conditional) (violation history)*
- (2) The Cabin Honky Tonk, Riverdale *(conditional)*
- (3) Wohali Club LLC, Coalville

Program Manager Rob Hansen gave an overview of the remaining Bar Establishment applicants, noting that 47 Bar Establishment licenses are available by quota. He presented the new applicants to the commission noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the bar establishment, new applicants item #1 to #3. Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 4 - 0 - 1.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Thue congratulated Monte, Utah's first ever Michelin-starred restaurant located inside Beehive Distilling in South Salt Lake. She highlighted the achievement and recognition for Utah's culinary scene.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC:

Commissioner Tennert highlighted the recent internal audit subcommittee meetings organized by Director of Internal Audit, Mary Watson.

Chair Stephen Handy noted the substantial volume of state funds managed by the department and emphasized the department's role in serving taxpayers effectively.

Chair Stephen Handy commended Jeremy Sommerlath, Managing Director of Operations, for his years of service, wishing him well and noting his appreciation for Mr. Sommerlath's pleasant communication.

Department Commissioner Evans expressed gratitude to Jeremy Sommerlath, recognizing his active involvement across every division of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Service and highlighted the vast operational improvements made during his time with the agency.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Commissioner Owens moved to close the August 27, 2026 commission meeting. Chair Handy called for a vote the motion passed unanimously.

Yea

Jennifer Tarazon, Vice Chair
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert

Nay

Absent

Christopher Conabee

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.