



Wasatch County Council Meeting Minutes

DRAFT Minutes for September 2, 2026

The Wasatch County Council met in regular session live and online on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, in the Wasatch County Chambers located in the Wasatch County Administrative Building at 25 North Main, Heber City, Utah 84032.

A video recording of the meeting may be viewed by using the Wasatch County Public Portal (<https://wasatchcout.portal.civicclerk.com/>) and selecting the desired meeting.

Agenda

Call to Order

1. Prayer/Remarks - Luke Searle
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Spencer Park

Public Comment

Public comments will be accepted in-person or via Zoom Webinar. Please limit comments to three minutes. If action is necessary, the item will be listed on a future agenda. The Council may elect to discuss the item if it is an immediate matter of concern. Email public comments to publiccomment@wasatchcounty.gov.

Summary:

Karly Givens: I'm here on behalf of Utah Citizens of Local Control, a small group formed in Wallsburg in response to SB258. We asked Wasatch County residence. Do you support our County Council standing up for local control and continuing to move forward with resolution #26-11? Over 300 residents in just a week have said yes to supporting our local elected officials.

Cindy Coissart: Thank you for the decision thus far on SB258. You have the backing of the community by continuing to put citizens' welfare first. Also, the HB 48 high risk fire zone assessment, which is slated to take effect in January 2027, affects my neighborhood and further east is the Wasatch Highland neighborhood, which is even more of a fire zone danger for affordable housing.

Steve Phillips: I want to address 3 issues today first: local government, which is the most common topic today, Daniels Canyon Mine, Provo Canyon Theater. I urge the Council to consider a resolution condemning the recent threat reported to the Heber City Council by Steve Waldrip, speaking on behalf of Governor Cox. The state should work with Wasatch

County and our cities not pressure them through threats. I ask the Council to stand clearly with local control, respectful government and the right of local communities to speak honestly about the policy of our residents. Second: I asked the Council to be vigilant about the Maverick rock mine in Daniels Canyon. This is not just a land-use question. Court side mining, drilling, blasting, and hauling can create fine dust containing crystal. The dust can be carried beyond the mine site, particularly in dry conditions, and winds are moving towards nearby roads. Homeland Public areas' deserve more assurance. I ask the county to require an advocate for independent remote air collection or analyst. This system would measure airborne pollution. Third: Provo Canyon Theater at the mouth of the canyon is one of the most concerns with Wasatch County residents.

Patty Sprunt: I was going to say publicly what I said to you privately, so it's on the record. The Wasatch Republican Party and I'm here tonight representing our executive team in support of the County & City who have been threatened recently. We are proud of you and proud of the stand you have taken and support you in the resolution tonight repealing SB 258 and having other counties coming on board.

Lindy Rioux: HB 48 Fire. I looked at the houses around me and all four were different fire zones, but we are neighbors. How can all four of us be and, of course, I'm at high risk, so I think that needs to be looked at. The other thing I want to say is thank you to the Council for standing strong, and I hope it continues with the issues with the state. And, lastly, we are a land locked county there are two ways in and if we had an emergency and we had to evacuate, we can not get out going through parley's.

Call for Agenda Items

Summary:

Dustin Grabau: If you recall, we had a discussion about wreaths across America. This is a group that puts wreaths on grave sites of veterans. The concern we raised last year is that they only did it for the Heber City Cemetery and not for the other cemeteries located around the county. I'm just curious if you would like them to come and talk to you?

Luke Searle: I don't know if this is an agenda item or just a follow-up, but we had Ed Clyde come a couple of weeks ago, developing Heber City. It could eventually impact the North Fields and landowners in the County. Where are we at on that? **Dustin Grabau:** So we reached out to Heber City engineers, and they provided a long list of email dialog. The plan right now is to compile that and put it out to the council.

Consent Items

1. Approval of July 08. 2026 Minutes – Clerk/Auditor

Summary: Council held a meeting on July 08, 2026. Joint motion was made after item 3.

2. Approval of July 15. 2026 Minutes – Clerk/Auditor

Summary: Held a meeting on July 15, 2026. Joint motion was made after item 3.

3. Consideration of appointing Amanda Crowe to the Library Board – Juan Lee, Library Director

Summary: On August 19, 2026, Wasatch County Council approved a change in the County code that added two seats to the Library Board from five (5) positions to seven (7) positions. Expanding the Library Board increases the opportunities for public participation and community representation to assist the County Council and County Manager in matters relating to library services. Per state code, Library Board members may serve up to two (2) consecutive four-year terms.

The Library Board recently posted for these vacant positions and received nine (9) applications. The board interviewed four (4) applicants and is currently recommending the appointment of Amanda Crowe to fill one of the two new vacant positions.

Action Taken: Councilmember Bonner: made a motion to **approve the consent items which are: approval of July 08 minutes, approval of July 15 minutes, and ppointment of Amanda Crowe to the Library Board.** **Councilmember Searle:** seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

Council Items

1. 2026 BOE 1st round Hearing Officer Recommendations – Jerry Jones

Summary: A total of 82 parcels were addressed in hearings during the August 18th, 19th, and 20th timeframe. These hearings were overseen by Hearing Officer Randy Kelly. 21 parcels resulted in a “no change” recommendation. 61 parcels resulted in a “change” of market value recommendation.

Action Taken: Councilmember Park: made a motion that we **approve the recommendations at this time.** **Councilmember Nelson:** seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

2. Recorder abatement request for error on parcel acreage by engineer – Jerry Jones

Summary: The subdivision engineer made an error and recorded the plat map with 2 parcels having the same acreage when they should be split.

Action Taken: Councilmember Crittenden: made a motion that we **approve the abatement request for the error on parcel acreage as has been explained by Mr.**

Jones. Councilmember Nelson: seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

3. 2026 BOE approval of Primary/Secondary changes – Jerry Jones

Summary: Primary Resident exemption applications are accepted until September 15th 2026 and changes to the tax roll are council approved.

Action Taken: Councilmember Nelson: made a **motion to approve the recommendations of change to the residency exemption as requested.**

Councilmember Bonner: seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

4. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution 26-11 calling for the repeal of state Preliminary Municipality Code – Dustin Grabau

Summary: Beginning in 2025, Wasatch County was notified that multiple preliminary municipalities had filed for certification. Since the 2024 General Legislative Session, the County has had concerns about SB 258. After seeing the code applied locally, these concerns have escalated to substantial issues that are fundamental flaws in the code. In the August 19 Council Meeting, the County Council considered a resolution calling for the repeal of SB 258 from the 2024 General Session. They directed staff to prepare a written report detailing concerns the County has identified and include those things in the report.

Action Taken: Councilmember Crittenden: made a motion to **approve Resolution 26-11, resolution calling for the repeal of preliminary municipality code, known as Senate Bill 258, and we include this report Dustin has prepared and expresses the reasons why we would like to see that repealed and corrected.** **Councilmember Park:** seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

5. Discussion and direction on Affordable Housing Structure and Funding – Kendall Crittenden

Summary: The Wasatch County Affordable Housing Board has had a committee of staff members and County Representatives working on proposed changes to the structure and

potential funding of the organization. The current concept for structure is an organization that is operationally supported by the County, including through funding, but reports to an independent board. Included in the concept is the hiring of a full-time Affordable Housing Director.

Action Taken: Councilmember Park: made a **motion to continue until a further meeting. Councilmember Bonner:** seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

6. Discussion and Direction of County Council board assignments – Erik Rowland

Summary: Council discussed potential changes to board assignments as a part of the July work meeting. As a part of that discussion, council were going to review current assignments and return to discuss how future changes may be implemented.

Action Taken: Councilmember Bonner: made a **motion that we table until a later date. Councilmember Nelson:** seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

Council/Board Reports

Summary:

Councilmember Nelson: I want to talk about Heritage Days. We have been talking about it for a year and a half to two years, primarily Dallin, Jessica in the Tourism Economic Development Office, about having a countrywide event in the second half of September and calling it Heritage day and getting Heber, Midway, and Daniels, and everyone to get involved. We were going to start it last year, but we haven't done it yet. The Rail Road is going to have its anniversary. We're going to call it Heritage Day on September 25th. Heber is having a ribbon-cutting ceremony that afternoon. Highlighting their trail from Heber City Park to 600 West, we are going to incorporate that, and we are going to have dinner and a heritage kind of entertainment. We will have a train ride that will cost \$1.27 because its 127 anniversary of the first train that came to Heber, and then we are seeking permission from to do fireworks and have a bonfire at the depot. Also, Jessica and Dallin have contracted Jeff Carson to create a cowboy poem about the heritage of the Heber Valley.

Councilmember Bonner: Some of us were able to go to the ribbon cutting at the M-Tech college. If you haven't been to college, you should go check out. It's amazing. It has a lot of opportunities for kids. Just a Plug for Swiss Days. It starts this Friday.

Councilmember Rowland: As most of you are aware, Dustin and I met with the Governor's Office on Friday, one question that has been asked. What was said at the Heber City

Meeting? Should we seek any formal clarification from the Governor's Office regarding the threat? I don't recall even in our meeting directed said about that for something to clear the air? There are a lot of counties who have been in that same position. What about us? We've been threatened also? **Dustin Grabau:** I think they did share with us in that meeting the flaws in their approach to this issue, as far as I know. They have not made a public statement about those flaws. I do want to share that Mike Kohler has talked to the governor's office, and he's working on this issue of instructions that were or were not given to Steve. know there are people who are trying to press this issue. For more of this discussion, you can go to wasatchcounty.gov and listen to the September 2, 2026, Council Board Reports.

Councilmember Crittenden: Just a reminder, next week is UAC. Should we cancel the work meeting? Also, last week I went to a conference called UAMPS. There was discussion of power and wildfires are critical and if power needs to be shut down, then they will cut power.

Councilmember Searle: There was a Library board meeting 2 weeks ago. There were good discussions. We had our new member, Gary Turner, there. Also, this week, I went out with Mark Wilson, who is on the North Field Irrigation board, just to understand the things that go on there. It was interesting to see how the water flows into different irrigation ditches. Also, I went to the Heart of Midway, 17 acres in Midway, and they have already gotten approved by Midway and some money and, based on our hope there's federal money before we give our money, they are potentially coming to us in December to see about our support.

Manager's Report

Summary:

No managers report

Closed Session – as needed

Closed sessions may be held in accordance with Utah State Code 52-4-205 to discuss the following: Purchase, Exchange or Lease of Property; Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation; The Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

Summary:

There was no need for a closed session.

Adjournment

Action Taken: Councilmember Bonner made a motion to adjourn. **Councilmember Nelson** seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Voting Aye: Colleen Bonner, Erik Rowland, Kendall Crittenden, Luke Searle, Mark Nelson, Spencer Park, Michael Murphy

Voting Nay: None

Chair

Joey D. Granger/Clerk/Auditor