

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
REGULAR MEETING/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 Sally Orme, Ryan Cottam, Tara Woolsey, Marlene Stowe and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.

Council member Chad Lyman was excused.

City Attorney Barry Huntington joined electronically.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Hariett Priska, Jennifer Thomas, Justine McDonald, Jax Nelson, Dash Derring, Davie Gonzalez, Brage Shakespear, Knixtin Ness, Evelin Orme, Jade McDonald, Aunona Gates, Quintin Ness, Royce Orme, Julie Burger, Torrian Nelson and Stephanie Derring.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 MEETING

Council member Orme moved to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2026 meeting as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Woolsey, Orme, Stowe and Cottam voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

HARRIET PRISKA - CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Ms. Priska expressed gratitude to the Council for their service, noting that she has been a resident of the community for 35 years and appreciates their ongoing support. Ms. Priska read the proclamation and mentioned the nation-wide ringing of the bells scheduled for September 17 at 2:00 p.m. **Council member Woolsey moved to adopt the Constitution Week Proclamation. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Cottam, Orme and Woolsey voting aye.**

CASSIE MACK - SCARECROW CONTEST

Mayor Torgersen explained Ms. Mack asked to be removed from the agenda.

ESCALANTE 6TH GRADE CLASS - DONATION FOR WASHINGTON DC TRIP

Members of the Escalante 6th grade class requested a donation of \$200 per student to support their trip to Washington, D.C., where they plan to study American history, government and visit museums and historical sites. The students noted that they have been actively fundraising for the trip through the car show, volleyball games, and concession sales. Mayor Torgersen voiced support for the request and asked that the students give a presentation to the City Council sharing what they learned upon returning. **Council member Stowe moved to donate \$200.00 per student if they will come back and report to the City and put flags up at the Cemetery on Veterans Day. Council member Woolsey seconded the motion.**

Justine McDonald asked the City to give a \$300.00 donation per student due to costs of the trip increasing from last year. **Council member Woolsey countered the motion to donate \$300.00 per student. Council member Cottam seconded the Motion. Motion carried with Council members Woolsey, Cottam and Stowe voting aye. Council member Orme abstained.**

ASPHALT BID FOR SHADE STRUCTURE

City Recorder Steed presented the asphalt bids for the shade structure at the pickleball courts. The Council reviewed the bids. **Council member Cottam moved to award the bid to Lazer Construction for the asphalt. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Cottam, Stowe, Orme and Woolsey voting aye.**

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES -URS TIER 2 UPDATE

City Recorder Steed said after the Utah Retirement System (URS) audit it was determined that the URS Tier 2 eligibility needed to be updated. **Council member Orme moved to adopt the Policies and Procedures URS Tier 2 update. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Woolsey, Orme and Cottam voting aye.**

ESTIMATE FOR LANDFILL FENCE

Council member Orme explained the Landfill fence estimate. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Orme moved to approve the landfill fence expenditures up to \$2500.00 Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Cottam, Orme and Woolsey voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed said the budget and financial reports are available for review.

City Recorder Steed reported the Utah Retirement System (URS) Audit was completed last week and everything went well.

City Recorder Steed reported the Annual Audit is complete with no findings.

City Recorder Steed reported that she and City Engineer Richard White submitted a grant application to the Utah Board of Water to secure funding for a well water treatment plant.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner reported that since the previous meeting, the department had one call-out for a motor vehicle accident, which was cancelled en route .

Mr. Weppner clarified the fire department's primary responsibilities, which include member and community safety, fire prevention and suppression, and rescue operations, but not determining causality in accidents or incidents.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN

Mayor Torgersen reported on the successful 9/11 clean-up day, expressing gratitude to all attendees for a fun evening. Mayor Torgersen said moving forward, an annual 9/11 event will feature community service followed by a hamburger social at the park.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER TARA WOOLSEY

Council member Woolsey had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM

Council member Cottam had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

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

CLOSED MEETING

There was no Closed Meeting at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 10/6/2026