

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
4:30 PM**

Mayor: Eric Jensen

Council Members: Dianna Andersen
Cyd LeMone
Dustin Phillips
Steve Rogers
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Christine Petersen, City Attorney
Sierra Pierson, Assistant to the City Administrator
Neal Winterton, Public Works Director
Wendy Thorpe, City Recorder
Denise Roy, Finance Director
Drew Engemann, Fire Chief
Keldon Brown, Police Chief
Carl Nielson, Police Department Lieutenant
Daniel Cárdenas, Community Development Director
Soad Sing, Management Intern
Megan Zollinger, Recreation Director
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Sheri Britsch, Library Director

The City Council and Staff met in the Community Room, 108 South 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

4:30 PM WORK SESSION

Mayor Eric Jensen called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and welcomed those present.

a. Remarks from Miss Pleasant Grove.

Miss Pleasant Grove Teen, Josie Heriford, reported that her community service initiative, the Self-Love Project, encourages self-acceptance, body positivity, and confidence. It is a process to change the way you feel about yourself and treat other people. We often fall into habits that make it harder to be confident, especially in the world today. She believes everyone can flourish and be proud of who they are, but she has seen teens struggle with comparison and other issues. She would be planting a garden in front of the library to serve as a reminder that self-love grows. You need time to become who you want to be and should be proud of the person you already are. She was grateful for the opportunity to serve Pleasant Grove.

Mayor Jensen indicated that Ms. Heriford had been working with him and Parks Director, Deon Giles, on the project. In response to a question, Ms. Heriford confirmed that she would be planting the garden on August 25, and there would be a plaque explaining its purpose. She planned to plant stakes with self-love quotes in the spring. She hoped to continue to maintain the garden after her term was completed.

Photographs were taken with the City Council.

b. Adaptive SHARE Program – Recreation Director, Megan Zollinger.

Recreation Director, Megan Zollinger, introduced the Specialized Higher Adaptive Recreation Education (“SHARE”) program, which was a collaborative effort of the Pleasant Grove Recreation Center, United Angels Foundation, and SCERA Arts Education.

United Angels Foundation Program Representatives Kari Teague and Sylvia Lam reported that they completed two five-week sessions over the summer and served 27 participants. The SHARE program provides adaptive programming for adults aged 22 and older who have physical and mental disabilities. These adults have graduated from school but work little to no hours each week and need a place to be. They are low support but do not have the skills to live independently.

At age 22, post-secondary schooling ends for these young adults. Vocational rehabilitation has a long wait list, and there are limited community jobs available. Family, income, and community supports are also limited. Beginning at age 18, each young adult receives Social Security insurance payments of \$736, \$994 if they submit a rental agreement. Their families did not expect to care for a child for the rest of their lives, and the current economy was challenging. Medicaid-funded state waivers were another option, but they had a five- to 20-year waitlist and prioritized high-need individuals. As a result of these issues, adults face high rates of regression, mental health issues, and health issues.

The SHARE mission statement is to empower adults with special needs through adaptive education and recreation classes and workshops that highlight individual strengths, foster creativity, build life skills, and nurture independence, community connection, and purpose. If community partners share their resources with the program, it will share its kids with them, and everyone will benefit.

The structured program includes arts, academics, independence and leadership, community engagement, life skills, recreation and healthy living, communication skills, and entrepreneurship and vocational skills. A primary goal is to get the participants moving, as it improves both their physical and mental health.

Tyler Skarda stated that the SHARE program had been fun. For physical fitness, he got to do Zumba and dance with friends. He thought it was cool to learn their names in sign language. For cooking, they made soft pretzels and learned about food safety. In science, he liked the seed race. The sunflower was the winner. He had so much fun and felt like he never got bored. For all those who have a disability, you are not alone.

Sarah Teague stated that she is 22 and lives in Cedar Hills. She went to SHARE over the summer and was going back in the fall. She liked dancing, musical theater, cooking, fitness, science, life skills, and other things they did in SHARE. It was good for her, her friends, and everyone.

Lacy Knight stated that she loved being in SHARE, being friends with Sarah, and making bracelets.

Adaptive Programming Coordinator, Alisha Leifson, stated that the SHARE program had been very fun and made everyone smile. She then shared comments from students' parents.

Chelsea Anderson wrote, "I wanted to take a moment to share how much the SHARE program has meant to our family this summer. Our daughter, Simone, participated in the program, and it has been such a wonderful experience for her. She has had the opportunity to be social, have fun, try new things, and genuinely feel engaged and included. Seeing her enjoy herself and build connections has meant so much to us as her family. Programs like SHARE are incredibly important, but many programs serving adults with disabilities are significantly more expensive, making it difficult for families to participate. SHARE provides such a meaningful experience while remaining affordable, and that makes a tremendous difference. The leaders of the program are truly exceptional. Their dedication, compassion, and genuine engagement with the participants are evident in everything they do. It's clear that they genuinely care about the individuals they serve and about creating a welcoming community. Thank you to everyone who makes SHARE possible. What you are providing goes far beyond a summer program. It creates connection, belonging, and opportunities for people who deserve all of those things. We are incredibly grateful that Simone was able to be a part of it."

Lisa Priest wrote, "Our son looks forward to SHARE and comes home extremely happy. We as parents are thrilled to have a safe place for him to engage with others, continue learning and growing, and have fun. SHARE provides organized, prepared, creative lessons and a variety of meaningful experiences. We are so grateful for this program and the opportunities that we haven't been able to provide ourselves."

Coordinator Anderson expressed her gratitude for being able to accommodate the program.

United Angels Foundation Executive Director, Sylvia Lam thanked the City Council for the opportunity to partner with Pleasant Grove and work with its amazing staff. The program came together very quickly, and there were opportunities to build and modify it. They looked all over the country to learn about other cities' adaptive day programs for special needs adults and were disheartened to learn that there were not many programs available. They found a lot of great senior programs, and the two populations have similar needs and face similar challenges stemming from social isolation. They hoped to continue working together with Pleasant Grove to find ways to serve adults with special needs.

Photographs were taken with the City Council.

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, stated that Pleasant Grove was a leader in adaptive programming in Utah. He was grateful to Director Zollinger, her team, and everyone involved in creating the programs because their benefits extend beyond Pleasant Grove's borders.

c. Discussion on Pickleball Courts at Discovery Park.

Administrator Darrington reported that there had been issues with the two tennis courts and six pickleball courts that were constructed approximately three years previously at Discovery Park. Substantial cracks had caused concerns, and Staff had been in negotiations with the general contractor regarding the product warranty. The subcontractor responsible for the courts had gone out of business.

The City had two options that included either replacing the two tennis courts and six pickleball courts or removing the tennis courts and installing six additional pickleball courts for a total of 12. If the City Council wanted to keep the courts in their current configuration, repairs would be covered under warranty. If they were to consider transitioning the tennis courts to pickleball, there would be an additional cost of approximately \$280,000, including \$130,000 to install the pickleball courts as well as surveying, fencing, gates, posts, footings, nets, etc. New lighting was also included in that estimate. The tennis courts were currently operating with lights that were installed many years previously. If they were replaced with pickleball courts, the lights would need to be adjusted regardless, and Staff recommended installing new lights similar to those on the current pickleball courts. The recommended project budget was \$300,000 to account for potential changes.

The courts would be closed for approximately eight months during construction. The estimated project timeline was as follows:

- September/October 2026: Remove existing courts.
- November 2026: Install lighting infrastructure and potentially pour concrete (weather-dependent).
- March/April 2027: Pour concrete if necessary and install surface, both of which need time to cure.
- Memorial Day 2027: Pickleball courts will open.

Administrator Darrington reported that neighboring property owners would need to be considered. He had spoken with Brent Bullock regarding his concerns about the proposal, and Mr. Bullock was present to address the Council. He also had an initial discussion with Pleasant Grove High School Principal Hanks. If two more tennis courts were removed, the City should revisit its agreement for public use of the high school courts. The current system was that four courts were available for public use but a key must be checked out from the Recreation Center. Ideally, those courts would remain unlocked so people could play at any time. The current agreement indicated that the courts were intended for public use unless there was a scheduled high school practice or tournament. Principal Hanks was not familiar with the agreement, so they would have a follow-up discussion after he had the opportunity to review it. Administrator Darrington intended to pursue this discussion regardless of the City Council's decision on Discovery Park.

In response to a question from Council Member Williams, Administrator Darrington reported that the interlocal agreement did not have an expiration date. He then provided an overview of the agreement and its history.

Council Member Rogers expressed concern about the project cost in light of the property tax increase. Administrator Darrington reported that the intention was to use Cultural Arts and Recreation

Enrichment ("CARE") tax funding, not General Fund monies. Public Works Director, Neal Winterton, reported that Staff provided a drawing performed by Horrocks Engineers to the contractor, and they provided a realistic bid approximately one year previously. He was confident in the estimate for that specific design. If it was modified in any way, the price would change.

In response to a question from Council Member Rogers, Administrator Darrington clarified that the lighting did not need to be changed if the tennis courts were retained. Director Winterton indicated that the existing lighting could not be used for pickleball courts, so it would have to be replaced if the Council chose that option. Council Member Rogers stated that his research indicated that the pickleball courts at Veterans Park cost approximately half as much, but he understood that that was several years ago. CARE money can be used for any parks, recreation, arts, or cultural expenses, so those monies could also be used to fund other requests. He did not view it as saving money.

Council Member Rogers asked if the \$300,000 estimate was a conversion cost or the cost of new courts. Director Winterton reported that new courts would cost approximately \$1 million. The City would essentially be getting all the reinforced concrete at no cost. Most of the costs were associated with fencing, lighting, and gates. Council Member Rogers stated that he was not in favor of the expense as the Council had just asked for a tax increase.

Council Member LeMone asked if all lighting would be replaced. Administrator Darrington reported that the current pickleball courts had brand-new lighting that would remain. The \$150,000 cost would cover new lighting at the six new courts. Director Winterton reported that the footing and conduit layout did not allow for repurposing the existing lighting. It was possible that the poles could be reused for a savings of approximately \$2,500, but that savings could be used up in costs to relocate the poles.

Council Member LeMone understood Council Member Rogers's concerns but indicated that CARE tax revenue was intended for projects like the one they were discussing. Over the summer, she had been unable to get on a court at Discovery Park until approximately 11:00 a.m. The community was using the courts and they were packed every day. She believed it was a good use of CARE funds, which could not legally be used for public safety, and that it was confusing to refer to both when they were separate pots of money. The pickleball courts were always in use, which showed that the public wanted more courts. She shared a story of a 10-year-old child playing with several senior citizens, and she believed CARE monies should be used for that purpose. She was in favor of moving forward with the project pending feedback from neighboring property owners.

Council Member Rogers stated that the CARE money could be used to facilitate more money being available in the General Fund. For example, it could be used to fund the parks employee that was hired for Cook Family Park. It could fund qualifying ongoing expenses directly related to recreation or the arts that were currently paid through the General Fund. Administrator Darrington reported that CARE tax funding must be renewed every 10 years, and the City chose not to fund staff positions through it because the monies were not guaranteed. However, it was used to fund the Pleasant Grove Players and other costs.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Williams, Administrator Darrington confirmed that it was the same general contractor, but they would use a different subcontractor. The general contractor had no preference on whether to keep the tennis courts or install pickleball courts, but the

conversation they had approximately one year previously indicated that there could be some cost savings for the general contractor in installing pickleball courts. Council Member Williams stated that the City had invested in a product that was now failing, and the Council now needed to decide whether to have them repair it or spend an additional \$300,000. He asked about the general contractor's liability.

Council Member Phillips remarked that replacement of the existing pickleball courts was the general contractor's responsibility, and he may potentially make up some of that loss in the margins of installing six additional courts.

Council Member Williams stated that his concern was whether it was a shell game. Council Member Rogers agreed and indicated that the general contractor was committed to reinstalling the concrete, grading, and ensuring that the subsurface is correct. He asked what another contractor would charge to do the conversion and if the general contractor was charging a premium. In response to his follow-up question, Director Winterton reported that the \$150,000 figure was the Musco contract for lighting and was a direct purchase, not through the general contractor. The contractor gave the City a cost of \$110,000 to install the six pickleball courts. He added \$20,000 for contingencies but then decided that the total budget should be \$300,000 to cover all ancillary items.

Director Winterton reported that the contractor typically bids \$5 million to \$20 million projects and was not trying to get an extra few thousand dollars out of the City. He wanted to be done with the project as he had to cover the warranty costs regardless. The City approached him about potentially installing pickleball courts. The tennis courts were also under warranty, but they had the opportunity to get six new pickleball courts for \$130,000.

Council Member Williams asked if soundproofing could be added. Administrator Darrington reported that sound barriers were already installed on the south and east sides and would be reused on pickleball courts. The Bullock family could speak to their effectiveness. Council Member Williams stated that more pads would deaden the sound as much as possible. Council Member Andersen remarked that the barriers increase temperatures on the courts because they block the wind, and people who live on the east side would prefer not to have them because they block access to the park. Administrator Darrington added that they also reduce visibility. Council Member Williams stated that the City has a duty to ensure that it deadens sound as much as possible.

Brent Bullock stated that he met with Administrator Darrington and Mayor Jensen. The current pickleball courts produced a lot of noise from early morning until 10:00 p.m. every day, and the tennis courts were not as busy. However, he had spoken with his son, and they decided not to interfere with the City's decision. They believed it was appropriate for Pleasant Grove because the pickleball courts are always packed with people. The City Council thanked him for his perspective.

Council Member Andersen stated that she would like to see data on the effectiveness of sound deadening from both trees and pads. Council Member Williams recommended conducting an acoustical study. The Acoustical Society of America had conducted over 60 pickleball noise studies. Administrator Darrington stated that he spoke with Mr. Bullock about some minor adjustments the City could make to help mitigate negative impacts. If the Council gave Staff the authority to proceed, he would continue to work with the Bullock family on sound mitigation.

d. Staff Business.

Library Director, Sheri Britsch reported on the following:

- She thanked the Public Works, Police, and Parks Departments for their assistance. Public Works staff assisted with the amphitheater project and helped keep costs low. They also helped with a van for the Timpanogos Library Consortium. Police Chief, Keldon Brown sent a lieutenant to the library for a question-and-answer session with library staff. Officers did not perform regular walkthroughs but were always willing to come when asked.
- The Historic Preservation Commission walking tour had 75 to 80 people in attendance. It was a really good turnout.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 5:29 PM, Council Member Williams moved to ADJOURN the Work Session. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, Rogers, Jensen, Phillips, and Williams voting “Yes.”

The City Council Work Session Minutes of August 18, 2026, were approved by the City Council on October 6, 2026.



Wendy Thorpe, CMC
City Recorder

(Exhibits are in the City Council Minutes binders in the Recorder's office.)

**Pleasant Grove City
City Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
Tuesday, August 18, 2026
6:00 PM**

Mayor: Eric Jensen

Council Members: Dianne Andersen
Cyd LeMone
Dustin Phillips
Steve Rogers
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Christine Petersen, City Attorney
Sierra Pierson, Assistant to the City Administrator
Neal Winterton, Public Works Director
Wendy Thorpe, City Recorder
Denise Roy, Finance Director
Drew Engemann, Fire Chief
Keldon Brown, Police Chief
Carl Nielson, Police Department Lieutenant
Daniel Cárdenas, Community Development Director
Soad Sing, Management Intern
Megan Zollinger, Recreation Director
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Sheri Britsch, Library Director

Excused: David Packard, Human Resources Manager

The City Council and Staff met in the Community Room, 108 South 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

6:00 PM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eric Jensen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed those present.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Recreation Director, Megan Zollinger.

3) **OPENING REMARKS**

The Opening Remarks were offered by Council Member Phillips.

4) **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Mayor Jensen reported that the public hearing portion of Item 11A would be heard prior to Item 9A.

MOTION: Council Member Rogers moved to APPROVE the Meeting Agenda, as amended. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, LeMone, Rogers, Phillips, and Williams voting "Yes."

5) **OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Jensen opened the Open Session. There were no public comments. The Open Session was closed.

6) **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. City Council Minutes for the July 21, 2026, Meeting.
- B. To Consider for Approval Payment No. 5 to Condie Construction Co., LLC for the 800 North Area Waterline, Drainage, and Roadway Reconstruction Project.
- C. To Consider for Approval Payment No. 4 to Black Forest Paving for the 1100 East Area Waterline and Roadway Reconstruction Project.
- D. Payment Approval Reports for August 6, 2026.

MOTION: Council Member Andersen moved to APPROVE the Consent Items. Council Member Rogers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, LeMone, Phillips, Rogers, and Williams voting "Yes."

7) **BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- A. None.

8) **PRESENTATIONS**

- A. None.

9) **ACTION ITEMS READY FOR VOTE**

- A. **Public Hearing to Consider a Resolution (2026-039) Adopting a Certified Tax Rate for the City of Pleasant Grove for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) and Authorizing the Mayor to sign Form PT-800 and providing an Effective Date. Presenter: Administrator Darrington.**

The above item was heard after Item 11A. Administrator Darrington reported that the resolution would adopt the Certified Tax Rate of 0.001020 and authorize Mayor Jensen to sign Form PT-800.

ACTION: Council Member Andersen moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-039 Adopting a Certified Tax Rate for the City of Pleasant Grove for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027) and Authorizing the Mayor to sign Form PT-800 and providing an Effective Date. Council Member LeMone seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, LeMone, Phillips, Rogers and Williams voting “Yes.”

10) PROPERTY TAX IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. Presentation from a Budget Officer or Executive Officer of a Property Tax Impact Statement for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, as a Separate Document from other Budget Documents. Presenter: Director Roy.

Finance Director, Denise Roy, read the following:

Proposed Property Tax Impact Schedule
Tentative Budget July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Pleasant Grove City will consider an increase to its property tax rates from .0009380 to .001020 to generate an additional \$365,667. The following information is intended to provide decision-makers and the public with an explanation of how the City's operations would be affected if the proposed property tax increase is adopted.

Pleasant Grove City's Current Property Tax Rate: 0.000938
Pleasant Grove City's Current Property Tax Revenue: \$4,178,247
Proposed Revenue with Tax Change: \$4,543,914
New Property Tax Revenue to Pleasant Grove City: \$365,667
Estimated Increase to Pleasant Grove City's Property Tax Revenue: 8.75%
Estimated Annual Increase to a primary residence of \$601,623: \$27.16
Estimated Annual Increase to a commercial valued at \$601,623: \$49.38

Affected Department: Police

- Proposed Budget: \$6,541,602
- Budget without Tax Change: \$6,387,935
- Budget Change: \$153,667
- Impact of Tax Increase: The Police Department will hire one new police officer and provide funding for reserve and retention.

Affected Department: Fire

- Proposed Budget: \$3,722,747
- Budget without Tax Change: \$3,510,747
- Budget Change: \$212,000

- Impact of Tax Increase: The Fire Department will hire two new fire fighters and provide funding for outfitting.

Total General Fund Change: \$365,667

11) PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- A. Public Hearing to Consider Resolution (2026-040) Adopting the Final Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 for Pleasant Grove City, and providing an Effective Date. Presenter: Finance Director Roy.

This item was heard prior to Item 9A.

Administrator Darrington reported that the public hearing would be for both the Certified Tax Rate and budget. The proposed tax rate was 0.001020, which was consistent with the rate discussed at the August 11, 2026 Truth in Taxation hearing. He then reviewed the meeting format.

Director Roy reported that one change had been made to the FY 2026-2027 Final Budget since it was last presented. The property tax and proposed property tax increase lines had been combined for a total of \$4,858,481.

Mayor Jensen opened the public hearing. There were no comments. The public hearing was closed.

ACTION: Council Member Andersen moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-040 Adopting the Final Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, and Ending June 30, 2027 for Pleasant Grove City, and providing an Effective Date. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, LeMone, Phillips, Rogers and Williams voting "Yes."

12) DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Direction to Staff on the Discovery Park Pickleball Courts. Presenter: Administrator Darrington.

Administrator Darrington reported that the item was discussed during the Work Session. Staff was open to direction on whether to convert the two tennis courts to six pickleball courts. If the Council directed Staff to move forward, he would continue to dialogue with the high school regarding use of its tennis courts and the Bullock families regarding sound mitigation.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Phillips, Administrator Darrington reported that the project would not be noticed to surrounding property owners as there was no requirement to do so, but it would be announced on social media.

Council Member LeMone shared Council Member Rogers' concerns regarding bids and pricing. However, she would like to have more pickleball courts because families use them and it would be a good use of CARE tax funding, as it would allow the City to gain six courts at a lower cost. She was

in favor of moving forward if Council Member Rogers' and Council Member Williams' concerns were addressed.

Council Member Phillips agreed with Council Member LeMone. There was a clear demand for more courts, and replacement of the surface at the general contractor's expense created a better value for long-term use. He supported use of CARE tax funds.

Council Member Andersen agreed with Council Member LeMone and Council Member Phillips. In response to her question, Administrator Darrington reported that access to the courts would be from the north and west, but access gates would be in similar locations as the existing pickleball courts.

Council Member Rogers stated that his position had not changed. He did not believe the \$300,000 expense was necessary. He likes tennis and believes others do as well, and that money could be used in different ways to prevent a future property tax increase.

Council Member Williams stated that the Council was considering two different costs. There was a contractor cost of \$130,000 for pickleball courts and a \$150,000 lighting upgrade. He did not believe that pickleball courts inherently cost 10% more than tennis courts but rather that there was more demand so contractors could charge more. He asked who the 10% would go to, whether it was the general contractor or subcontractor. He had an issue with signing off on a \$300,000 expense, but the lighting should probably be done.

Council Member Williams stated that he had problems with the process as it was the second or third time they were going through it for these specific courts. Administrator Darrington confirmed that the subsurface was substandard, so it was torn out and redone. That installation was also substandard and needed to be torn out. A different subcontractor would be installing the third surface. The additional 10% was not profit; it was to cover the additional costs. Pickleball courts require more lines, nets, fencing, gates, etc. than tennis courts.

Council Member Phillips stated that Council Member Williams' issue seemed to be that he had not seen or vetted the costs. Council Member Williams agreed and remarked that it is the City Council's job to be skeptical.

Mayor Jensen reopened the Open Session to allow for public comment.

Rich Gurnsey stated that he thinks the City does amazing things with the small amount of money it collects. His granddaughter had begun taking him to the pool every day, and it is a very nice facility. In the one-and-a-half years he was away on his mission, a pipe plant was turned into the Cook Family Park. He really appreciated the City Council's efforts and living in Pleasant Grove. He spent two of his last three years on active duty in Baghdad, Iraq, where their nation-building efforts did not work. He owns a small business that had paid almost \$500,000 in taxes over the past nine years, and he would pay twice as much for the privilege of living in Pleasant Grove. The City Council has a thankless job, and he appreciates everything they do.

There were no further comments. The Open Session was closed.

B. Continued Items from the Work Session, if Needed.

Community Development Director, Daniel Cardenas, reported on the following:

- The Downtown Master Plan would be presented at the next City Council meeting. As part of the process, the general public was asked about their ideas and desires for the downtown area. The consultant and Staff also met with local business owners and the Historic Preservation Commission. The consortium of consultants included engineers, planners, and architects, and the final plan was a list of recommendations based on that feedback and their professional opinions. Master plans do not contain specific instructions on how to achieve their recommendations. The process was outlined in the City website, and the plan was posted there as well. The plan was presented at the last Planning Commission, which voted 6-to-1 in favor of approval.

Council Member Rogers stated that he was excited about the master plan and believed that citizens would also be very excited about the ideas it contains. He wanted to make sure they were able to see the things Pleasant Grove would be focusing on to improve the downtown area in the future. Director Cárdenas reported that he spent multiple hours with specific citizen groups, including doing a line-item review with the Historic Preservation Commission. He agreed that it is important to get community buy-in, especially from property and business owners. It can be a great plan, but if property owners are unwilling to work with the City to achieve its goals, they will not be realized. The consultant and Staff met one-on-one with property and business owners multiple times, and the plan was made available to the public.

Administrator Darrington stated that the City Council would determine whether to approve the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan. Once approved, it could then be presented to the public in an open house so they have an opportunity to review and understand the plan.

Council Member Phillips asked if the open house could be held before the Council voted. He spoke with a member of the Historic Preservation Commission who was against the plan, as was one member of the Planning Commission. As he understood it, a vote in favor did not necessarily mean all recommendations would be followed. Council Member Rogers agreed and noted that how projects are actually developed will be decided over the years. He liked that the plan included graphics and ideas taken from other cities' downtowns, and it was better and more usable than he initially thought it would be.

Director Cárdenas gave the example of going to the doctor with the goal of improving his health. He was told to get more rest, eat better, and exercise, which is similar to the general recommendations of the master plan. How many hours he could sleep or how much protein he needed to eat was not part of the plan. The recommendations outlined in the Downtown Master Plan would inform code. When someone presents a project in the downtown area, he will not look at the plan but rather the code that arises from it. Once approved, the City Council can direct Staff to focus on specific recommendations and begin drafting code.

In response to a question from Council Member Phillips, Director Cárdenas reported that the Historic Preservation Commission was fully opposed to one recommendation. However,

during the public Planning Commission hearing, individual members indicated that they actually liked that recommendation. It is difficult to achieve full agreement even among individual groups.

Council Member Williams stated that master plans are just a collection of ideas, not a set of rules to be followed.

- Longhorn Steakhouse was under construction.
- At Council Member LeMone's request, he would follow up with Tropical Smoothie Café and ask that the sign be removed.

Police Chief, Keldon Brown, reported on the following:

- He was glad that the budget process was completed. He did not like tax increases and was very judicious in his requests, but society was presenting new challenges, and they needed to provide officers with the tools to serve citizens and still go home at night. He was very grateful for the City Council's support as the Police Department had been the beneficiary of great tools to serve the City.

Recreation Director, Megan Zollinger, reported on the following:

- They were looking for replacement parts for the Wibit.
- There had been a lot of changes at the Recreation Center, and Director Giles and his team had been very helpful in installing the new sound boards in the gym. She is very proud of everyone she works with in Pleasant Grove.
- The summer pool season was almost over. It had been a very smooth season.

Council Member LeMone commended Director Zollinger for her leadership, as the Recreation Center had changed dramatically during her tenure. She asked that the Council be notified when equipment like the Wibit is taken out of service for repairs. The pool was a priority for her, and she did not want people to go somewhere else due to the lack of amenities. Director Zollinger reported that they first worked to see if the Wibit could be replaced under warranty or through insurance, and she had spoken with Administrator Darrington and Director Roy regarding pricing and whether it needs to be replaced or simply repaired. However, she agreed that her team could do a better job of communicating the process.

Parks Director, Deon Giles, reported on the following:

- He reported that the sod at the rodeo grounds was beginning to turn green but was still thin, and they would correct the issue in the fall. Council Member Williams thanked him for his efforts.

Fire Chief, Drew Engemann, reported on the following:

- He agreed with Chief Brown's sentiments. He appreciated the City Council's support and making those difficult decisions. He and Chief Brown want to have the appropriate equipment to provide efficient service. They run a tight ship so when they make requests, it is because those tools are needed.
- The wildland crew spent two weeks in Oregon but was back in Pleasant Grove.
- A lot of training was taking place.
- The Fire Association would be holding a pickleball tournament at Veterans Park for the 25th anniversary of September 11.

Public Works Director, Neal Winterton, reported on the following:

- The storm drain system was not designed for the type of microburst rainstorms that came through recently. The Public Works Department got sandbags ready in anticipation of the storms. Office Manager, Ria Hanna offered to stay late, but he knew the on-call staff could handle it. Pleasant Grove made it through the storms without issue, which would not have been the case not that long ago. A turbidity meter was installed in Battle Creek to measure cloudiness, as well as an automatic turnout, and it functioned as expected. Public Works staff is prepared and willing to do what is needed to take care of the City every day. With the City Council's support, he believed they were one of the most efficient departments in the nation.
- They had begun installing the new water main on Mahogany Drive from 1100 North to 700 North.
- The 680 North and 800 North projects were almost completed.
- They just held a pre-proposal meeting for the library amphitheater.
- A pre-proposal conference was held for hiring an engineer for the Center Street and 600 West project.
- Pleasant Grove and Cedar Hills were holding weekly meetings regarding right-of-way for the 4000 North project and hoped to move forward soon.
- The 10-year plan that was presented in March was still being followed, and priority projects were in process.

Assistant to the City Administrator, Sierra Pierson, reported on the following:

- Youth Council applications would close on August 30. The openings were announced on social media, including the Youth Council's Instagram.

13) **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

The above item was heard prior to Item 12.

Administrator Darrington reported that the Storm Water Management Plan update and Downtown Master Plan would be presented at the meeting, as well as a Vicinity Plan Amendment for a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Stake Center.

Council Member Rogers stated that he would like to ensure everyone in the community had a chance to see the Downtown Master Plan. He understood that the Planning Commission likely held a public

hearing, but he wanted it to be accessible to residents and would like to hold another open house. Administrator Darrington stated that there would be a general public comment period during the meeting.

14) MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Council Member LeMone thanked Staff for their efforts to maintain services over the long, hot summer. She would be playing in the September 11 pickleball tournament.

Council Member Phillips was impressed with the Historic Preservation Commission walk. Approximately 10 Commission members led the walk. A community is made of people who are willing to serve, and he appreciated their willingness to be there for the City. He was very impressed with the SHARE presentation during the Work Session. The discussion regarding the property tax increases included moving monies from other programs to fund Police and Fire, and it would be programs like SHARE that would be cut. He was emphatically in favor of maintaining those programs as the City needs to be there to serve its residents.

Council Member Andersen thanked Staff for their hard work. Every year, she is reminded of how much she loves the budgeting process. Every director needed manpower and more money. At the Budget Retreat, Chief Brown and Chief Engemann presented facts, statistics, and needs, and the Council agreed that they needed good employees to serve the community. The process begins in January and ends in August with a vetted, scrutinized budget.

Council Member Rogers echoed his colleagues' sentiments. When the Council gives money to City departments, it always comes back in great results. They had seen Director Zollinger's adaptive programs flourish. The City was funding programs to fill gaps that had existed for years. Public Works gets great results from projects that are done on time and under budget. The same is true for the Parks, Police, Fire, and Economic Development Departments. He hoped citizens paid attention because not every city enjoyed the same level of service for the dollars spent. He was grateful that the City had such talented employees. The library's tutoring programs and literacy center also fill a gap that is not filled elsewhere. He attended the Mayor's Night Out at the Ruth, which was another example of a unique City offering that puts on fantastic shows. Pleasant Grove was in a renaissance era, and he was grateful to have Staff guiding and leading the effort. The budget was heavily scrutinized, and he was happy to justify it to any resident because the Council did its job thoroughly.

Council Member Williams appreciated Council Member Rogers' comments. He never wanted it to appear from his questions that he did not trust, support, and appreciate Staff and the work they did before an item was presented to the Council. His concerns were not personal. The City is a business that is funded by its residents, and the City Council is its steward. He had always appreciated, trusted, supported, and respected Staff.

Mayor Jensen stated that he frequently meets with groups of residents. Last night, he met with 30 citizens who call themselves the Empty Nesters. They had tough questions about each department, but they each also had positive comments about the departments and what is happening in the City. He agreed with Council Member Rogers that Pleasant Grove was going through a transformation. Amazing things were happening, and residents were happy with the direction they were moving in. He and the Council knew how hard Staff was working behind the scenes.

15) **SIGNING OF PLATS**

No plats were signed.

16) **REVIEW CALENDAR**

No calendar items were reviewed.

17) **ADJOURN**

MOTION: At 7:13 p.m., Council Member Rogers moved to ADJOURN the Pleasant Grove City Council Meeting. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council Members Andersen, LeMone, Phillips, Rogers, and Williams voting “Yes.”

The City Council Minutes of August 18, 2026, were approved by the City Council on October 6, 2026.



Wendy Thorpe, CMC
City Recorder

(Exhibits are in the City Council Minutes binders in the Recorder's office.)

