**CASTLE DALE CITY**

# City Council Meeting Minutes

**September 10th, 2026**

The City Council of Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah, met in an open meeting on September 10th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

20 S 100 E, Castle Dale, Utah

## Attendees

**Mayor:** Danny Van Wagoner
**Council:**
Joel Dorsch
Emily Mills
Bradley Giles
Michael Jorgensen
Glen Gerber
**Maintenance Supervisor:** Ignacio Arrien
**Fire Chief:** Ignacio Arrien
**Land Use Administrator:** Kerry Lake
**Code Enforcer/Animal Control:** Dustin Carter
**Treasurer:** Rebecca Norton
**Recorder:** Angelina Austin
**Others in Attendance:** Stephanie Olsen, Kimalee Allred, Carisa Mann, Jody Gerber, Amber Pittman, Douglas Blackburn, Janet Giles

## Welcome

Mayor Danny Van Wagoner was presiding and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Approval of Minutes from August 13th, 2026

Motion by Council Member Michael Jorgensen to approve the minutes.
Seconded by Council Member Glen Gerber.

**Result:** Approved
**Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

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## Introduced Angelina Austin as New City Recorder and Oath of Office

Angelina Austin was sworn into the position as the new Castle Dale City Recorder. The oath was given by Rebecca Norton, Castle Dale City Treasurer.

## Fall Fest Fundraiser Fee Waive: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

Kimalee Allred and Carisa Mann appeared on behalf of the Fall Fest Fundraiser. Ms. Allred and Ms. Mann are before the council to request a fee waiver for the non-refundable fee of $50.00.

Motion by City Council Member Joel Dorsch to waive the applicable fees.

Seconded by City Council Member Glen Gerber.

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| **Result:** Approved<br>**Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch |

## Contract for Sidewalk Grinding and Repairs: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

City Council Member Bradley Giles provided an update regarding the city's sidewalk grinding and repair project. Ignacio Arrien conducts an annual assessment of the city's sidewalks and submits a required report identifying areas of concern. Due to ongoing sidewalk issues, the City discussed potential repairs with Precision Concrete Cutting. The company sent a representative to survey the sidewalks and began work along Highway 29, starting on the east side of Center Street and progressing through the city until the available budget was exhausted. Precision Concrete Cutting provided Council Member Giles with a PDF documenting their findings and recommendations. Some previously identified issues were determined to be beyond the scope of what the company could correct. A contractor has since been contacted regarding those repairs, with assistance from the City's maintenance department. To date, $35,000 has been budgeted for the sidewalk grinding and repair project.

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Motion by City Council Member Bradley Giles to approve the contract with Precision Concrete Cutting.

Seconded by City Council Member Emily Mills.

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| **Result:** Approved |
| **Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch |

## Review Changes to the Short-Term Vacation Rental: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

Land Use Administrator Kerry Lake raised concerns regarding the City's Short-Term Vacation Rental Ordinance, particularly the 29-day rental limit, applicable taxes, licensing requirements, parking regulations, and enforcement provisions. Discussion centered on whether a rental that exceeds 29 days would constitute a violation requiring revocation of the business license, and whether transient room taxes (TRT) would continue to apply after the 29-day period. Mayor Danny Van Wagoner expressed disagreement with automatic license revocation and noted that the state's definition of a short-term rental does not specifically provide for revocation of a business license after 29 days. The Mayor also stated that TRT is not required after the 29-day period. Council members discussed how the rules would apply to occupants who remain in a rental for extended periods.

Additional concerns were raised regarding parking requirements for short-term rentals, including the number of vehicles allowed and whether properties with driveways but no garage or carport are in compliance with the ordinance. The Council also reviewed proposed changes to the existing ordinance and discussed enforcement, including the provision that three or more violations within a 12-month period could result in revocation of the business license. Questions were also raised regarding fees associated with violations and the tax implications of a rental transitioning from short-term to long-term use.

Council Member Glen Gerber requested that the matter be addressed through a public hearing to allow for further discussion and clarification. Following the discussion, Council Member Glen Gerber moved to table approval of the proposed ordinance changes. Council Member Bradley Giles recused himself from the discussion to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

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Motion by City Council Member Glen Gerber to table the issue presented today.

Seconded by City Council Member Joel Dorsch.

**Result:** Move to Table the Issue
**Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

## New Recorder on Bank Account & PTIF and Take Old Recorder Off: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

Motion by City Council Member Joel Dorsch to approve the new recorder on bank account and PTIF and take the old recorder off.

Seconded by City Council Member Emily Mills.

**Result:** Approved
**Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

## Money Made Black Canyon Fire and Purchases: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

Mr. Ignacio Arrien provided an update regarding the Black Canyon Fire response, including department expenses, payroll, and equipment needs. Following payroll expenses, approximately $35,616 remained from the funds received. One payment was received from Babylon Fire, which covered payroll expenses only, as no City equipment was utilized.

Mr. Arrien also discussed the Fire Department's radio and equipment needs. The department's radios differ from those used by Emery County because they are required to operate on federal frequencies. The existing radios are outdated, and the department needs three wildland radios. The department is also short on fire shelters and requires additional equipment. A quote received from a company in Delta estimated the cost of the radios at $9,366 and fire shelters at approximately $700, with additional equipment costs expected to total several thousand dollars.

The department also identified the need for a portable mobile pump for use during flood emergencies. While pumps are available on the fire trucks, the department did not have a portable pump available during recent flooding. The estimated cost for the pump is

approximately $3,000. The total estimated cost for the critical equipment identified is $21,761.66.

Council Member Joel Dorsch recommended that the remaining money be retained for the Fire Department and used for equipment deemed necessary. He emphasized that the funds should remain designated for the department rather than being absorbed into the General Fund budget.

Motion by City Council Member Joel Dorsch to approve the purchases requested for the Fire Department by Ignacio Arrien and for the remaining fire money to stay with the fire department.

Seconded by City Council Member Glen Gerber.

**Result:** Approved
**Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

## Raise The Amounts On The Visa Cards: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

The Mayor is asking to raise Rebecca Norton's credit card limit to $10,000.

Motion by City Council Member Joel Dorsch to raise the credit card amount on Rebecca Norton's card.

Seconded by City Council Member Bradley Giles.

**Result:** Approved
**Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

## Ordinance Violation Douglas Blackburn & Amber Pittman: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

Ms. Amber Pittman addressed the Council on behalf of Mr. Douglas Blackburn and indicated that there may have been miscommunication between Mr. Blackburn and the City regarding previous notices and compliance concerns. Ms. Pittman stated that Mr. Blackburn acknowledges the violations identified by the City and is willing to address

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the outstanding issues. She also noted that he did not receive what he understood to be the initial notice and only received a subsequent notice.

The Health Department had also left a notice at the property where additional concerns were communicated directly to Mr. Blackburn and Ms. Pittman. Ms. Pittman advised the Council that Mr. Blackburn has been experiencing health issues and has had multiple hospital stays. He is scheduled to travel out of the area on September 18 for shoulder surgery. The property is currently being cleaned up, with multiple loads of debris being taken to the landfill. The possibility of placing a dumpster on the property was also discussed; however, the Health Department indicated that a dumpster could not be placed because the property is privately owned.

Mr. Blackburn also addressed the status of his culinary water service and requested that his water meter be reinstalled. Council Member Bradley Giles explained that the account had been unpaid for approximately one year, resulting in forfeiture of the water connection and removal of the meter. He stated that restoring service would require the applicable water share, connection fee, and payment of outstanding arrears. Mr. Blackburn expressed concern that he is on a fixed income and may be unable to afford these costs.

Council Member Bradley Giles further raised concerns regarding the potential unauthorized use of City services, including the disposal of sewage through a cleanout and obtaining culinary water from another location. He stated that these matters would need to be addressed separately. The Council agreed that a meeting should be scheduled to further discuss the situation, with both Mr. Blackburn and Ms. Pittman present.

## Land Use Committee: Kerry Lake

Land Use Administrator Kerry Lake provided an update on matters discussed at the previous month's Land Use meeting. A home modification license was discussed for a handyman business office. Jason Roberts has requested a zoning change for property he owns east of Esquire Estates to allow for the placement of RVs. This request will be considered at the next Land Use meeting. Mr. Lake has provided Mr. Roberts with the applicable guidelines and regulations regarding RV placement.

Alex and Andrew Pehrson also requested information regarding short-term vacation rentals. Additionally, Craig Johansen has requested that a private subdivision be

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vacated, as the subdivision was never developed and he currently owns the property. A public hearing will be held regarding that request.

The previously approved fence project at the cemetery remains approved. Council Member Glen Gerber noted that specific guidelines and regulations must be followed regarding the proposed RV placement.

## Animal Control/Code Enforcement: Dustin Carter

Animal Control and Code Enforcement Officer Dustin Carter provided his report for the period of August 14 through September 10. During this time, he responded to 18 calls for service and trapped 15 feral cats, all of which were taken to the pound. Mr. Carter discussed the City's ordinance limiting residents from owning or harboring more than four cats at a residence and noted that several properties may currently be in violation. He also expressed concern about the growing cat population and the potential spread of disease. A quarantine cage is available at the pound to separate sick animals from healthy animals when necessary. No citations have been issued at this time.

Three dogs were also impounded during the reporting period. A resident received a second warning regarding a rooster and is actively working to rehome it. Mr. Carter also responded to a call involving loose sheep, handled the situation, and left a notice. A watering violation was addressed with a warning.

Mr. Carter discussed an incident involving the accidental capture of two skunks and the steps taken to safely release them. He stated that, moving forward, he will no longer set traps at night. He requested that the City consider purchasing two or three additional traps to assist with animal control efforts.

Council Member Glen Gerber asked for an update regarding the solicitor, and Mr. Carter reported that he had no new information. Council Member Gerber noted that solicitors may go door-to-door only when wearing the required identification lanyard.

## Maintenance: Ignacio Arrien

An update was provided on ongoing parks and facility improvements. New rubber surfacing for Cheddar Park has been ordered and is expected to arrive the following week. Additional parts will also be received to complete various park repairs, bringing the City's approximately five-year park improvement project to completion. Although

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some rubber surfacing is lost when children remove it from the park, the loss is considered minimal, and the rubber is expected to provide long-term cost savings compared to wood chips.

Improvements are also underway at the Cheddar Park restroom, including a new roof, electrical work, ventilation fans, and security cameras. Roofing work is being completed simultaneously at the dugouts, with the Main Street Park roof scheduled to be addressed following the Boulder Festival.

At the All-Abilities Park, security cameras have been installed and are operational. A test light will also be installed. The park is nearing completion, with the remaining work consisting primarily of lighting, fencing, and water improvements.

## Fire Department: Ignacio Arrien

The Fire Department provided an update on recent fire and flooding incidents in Castle Dale. The City's drainage system and rivers performed well during the flooding, and the department currently has two pallets of sandbags available for emergency use. The City also received a dump truck load of sand at no cost, with additional sand donated by Dusty Butler.

The Fire Department will assist with fireworks in Ferron and provide fire truck support for the upcoming Homecoming Parade. Flags have been lowered in observance of September 11.

The department also reported that another firefighter has successfully obtained their Red Card certification. The department currently has eight firefighters, with seven holding Red Card certification. Overall, the department reported that its current staffing is in good standing.

## Treasurer/Recorder Reports

Treasurer Rebecca Norton provided the monthly tax report. August 2026 sales tax revenue totaled $39,836.24, compared to $41,801.93 in August 2025, representing a decrease of $1,965.69. Transportation tax revenue totaled $3,525.94 in August 2026, compared to $3,743.14 in August 2025, a decrease of $217.20.

Recorder Angelina Austin reported that all but three business licenses have been renewed. Businesses are provided a 90-day grace period from the date of the initial

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renewal notice, making the final renewal deadline the end of September. Final notices have been prepared for the three businesses that remain outstanding and were provided to Dustin Carter for delivery. No communication regarding renewal has been received from those businesses at this time.

The office also received positive feedback from Karin Williams regarding Dustin Carter's work in Animal Control. Ms. Williams specifically recognized his efforts in addressing the stray cat population and noted his professionalism, kindness, and compassion toward the animals. The City expressed appreciation for her taking the time to share this positive feedback.

## EMS

An update was provided on staffing and activity for the Castle Dale and Orangeville EMS stations. Current staffing levels are approximately 25% fully staffed, 31% partially staffed, and 42.95% unstaffed. The stations responded to five calls during the past month, four of which were billable.

Efforts are underway to improve staffing, including the possibility of adding Rebecca Norton back to the rotation. Emery County recently approved a $2 per-hour retention increase for EMS personnel. While this increase does not fully reflect the value of the work performed by EMS staff, it was recognized as a positive step following efforts to secure additional funding.

There are also several additional EMTs in the Castle Dale and Orangeville area, and an EMT training class is currently in progress. The department remains hopeful that staffing levels will continue to improve in the coming months.

## Mayor and Council Reports

Council members and the Mayor provided the following updates:

**Glen Gerber** attended an open house for a new fuel production facility that will manufacture fuel used in a reactor. He expressed some concern regarding the facility's anticipated water usage.
**Mike Jorgensen** discussed ongoing concerns regarding cats on his property.
**Mayor Danny Van Wagoner** reported having a busy month, including six trips out of the area. Construction on the All-Abilities Park is expected to begin the following week. He

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also provided an update regarding the recent fire response, noting that the City was charged for the incident and received a $14,000 payment.
**Bradley Giles** reported that he had no updates to provide to the Council.
**Emily Mills** announced that the City Christmas party is scheduled for December 9th, 2026.
**Joel Dorsch** reported that the new east cemetery fence is scheduled for installation the following week. He also noted that the City has acquired a new camel for the Christmas decorations and still needs an angel and star to complete the manger scene. The carousel and ferris wheel are also currently being rebuilt.

## Executive Session If Needed

The Executive Session was not needed.

## Pay Bills/Presented For Signatures: DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY

Motion by City Council Member Bradley Giles to pay the outstanding bill amounts.

Seconded by City Council Member Emily Mills.

**Result:** Approved
**Yes:** Michael Jorgensen, Bradley Giles, Emily Mills, Glen Gerber and Joel Dorsch

## Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Glen Gerber to adjourn.

Seconded by Council Member Bradley Giles.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Minutes prepared by:
Angelina Austin, Castle Dale City Recorder

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