# City of Green River

460 East Main Street, Green River, Utah
City Council Minutes
Special Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2026

**ATTENDING:** Mayor Larry Packer; Council Members: Kent Nelson, Guy Webster, Stephanie Crabtree, Tonya Bigelow; Employees: Bryan Meadows, David Wilson; Better City: Ryan Englund; Planning & Zoning Member: Kim Mc Farlane; Citizens: Anne Elliot; Todd Linor, Ann Millner, Becky Strowness, Paula India, Jake Sauer, Jim Sutton, Andy Puruchi, Neil Holt, Rachel Brooks, Elli, Nathaniel Peterson, Colt Roberts, Ty Mecham, Juan Lavato, Chad Pinneo, Way Felder, EEC: Jordan Leonard.

**ABSENT:** Bo Harrison asked to be excused.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion on Utah Spaceport Exploration Committee

   The council heard a presentation from a consultant working with the Utah Spaceport Exploration Committee on laying out what makes a good spaceport site. Key site criteria covered included a safety buffer of roughly 1.5 to 2 miles around a launch pad, flat terrain, clean RF (radio frequency) environment, and favorable airspace, ideally near military airspace that creates "shadow" zones allowing launches without disrupting other air traffic. Green River's flat plateau area was noted as a genuinely solid fit for most of these criteria, though road access to the site was flagged as a bit rough. The committee's role was clarified: they're in exploration mode right now, gathering data and working with a consultant to produce a final feasibility recommendation, not making any binding calls yet. That recommendation will go up the chain to the transportation committee, then potentially to the state legislature for next steps, funding, and governance decisions. The whole process, including FAA licensing and NEPA environmental review (both lengthy federal processes with extensive public comment periods), was described as likely taking a couple of years before any significant ground-level action could be expected

   On the plus side, the Green River area brings a lot to the table: wide open flat land, available water rights (the city holds 1,400 acre-feet of water rights that need to be used or they'll be lost, a "use it or lose it" situation), and proximity to the kind of open, low-conflict airspace that spaceport operators look for. There was also enthusiasm for the economic ripple effects, people eating at local restaurants, and the kind of ancillary testing activity (autonomous vehicles, battery and solar cell testing, etc.) that tends to stick around for years once a facility is established.

On the flip side, the group wrestled seriously with the cross-county jurisdictional puzzle. The most promising launch sites appear to sit in Grand County**,** while Green River is in Emery County, meaning one county could bear the infrastructure costs and disruption while another captures the tax revenue. As one speaker put it pretty bluntly, "If I were Grand County, I'd love to have this." That imbalance needs to get sorted out before anyone can make a clean recommendation. BLM field office relationships also came up as a practical hurdle, with participants noting that the relevant Moab field office may be a tougher partner than the Price office. The group agreed that the state's approach would be to start the BLM conversation at the top, through the governor's connections with federal department leadership, rather than leading with field offices. No site decision needs to be locked in at this stage; the current ask is simply whether the general area makes economic sense for Utah and for local communities.

2. Adjourn, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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Larry Packer, Mayor Julie Spadafora, City Recorder

Approved: October 13, 2026