

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1
Pam Cotter	District #2
Clark Bullen	District #3
Diane Turner	District #4 – Vice Chair
Adam Hock	District #5 – Council Chair

Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Kim Sorensen	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Jeff Martin	Parks Director	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Stephen Olson	Assistant Fire Chief	Jessica Johnson	Firefighter
Josh Schultz	Fire Captain	Mont Cooper	Retired Battalion Chief
Scott White	Fire Inspector	Alex Sundquist	Firefighter
Jeff Puls	Assistant Fire Chief	Jed Finlinson	Deputy Fire Marshal
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Chad Wilkinson	Community & Econ. Dev. Director
Chase Smith	Lieutenant	Ryan Madsen	IT Director
Matt Youngs	Assistant Power Director	Camron Kollman	IT Support
Matt Erkelens	Forestry Supervisor	Citizens and Guests	

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m. – Council Member Pickett

Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting August 18, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve and Ms. Cotter **SECONDED** the motion.

All in favor 5-0.

Citizen Comments:

Dorian Nye – Murray Resident

Mr. Nye said that after living in Murray for 40 years, he believed Murray City was the best-run city in the State of Utah and the finest city in the Country. He was grateful to the City Council for all they do for the citizens and thanked the City for providing excellent services and for its continued work for the residents.

Shaun Delliskave – Murray Resident.

Mr. Pickett allowed Mr. Delliskave, Chief Operating Officer of Zepstone International Film and Music Festival, to speak for five minutes since he represented a group. Mr. Delliskave said that Zepfest decided to hold its festival in Murray for the first time and after six days, Zepfest staff realized that Murray had become part of their event. By using six different Murray venues, the City helped bring together independent film, music, visual art, literature, podcasts, workshops, and live events, creating a community-wide festival experience for many. With Murray's cooperation and help, attendance doubled from last year and Zepstone revenue rose four times from last year's level.

Mr. Delliskave shared commendations from local and international filmmakers, musicians and actors, local and national news media, visitors who attended the festival, and locals who participated in the festivities,

as well as praise from local residents and some who traveled to Utah to attend. He acknowledged specific City employees, described how each one helped at particular Murray venues, and praised the City for manufacturing a community for their event. Mr. Delliskave presented an award to the City, noting that on behalf of the Zepfest President, Director, and the entire Zepstone team, filmmakers, artists, and volunteers, they all wanted to recognize the City for its extraordinary partnership, hospitality, and support of independent films and the arts.

Special Recognition:

1. **Murray City Employee of the Month, Mont Cooper, Fire Inspector.** Mr. Pickett, Mayor Hales and Fire Chief Joey Mittelman presented Mr. Cooper with a special certificate and gift card in recognition of his outstanding service, valuable insight, leadership, and decades of firefighting experience.
2. **Consider a Joint Resolution of the Murray City Municipal Council and Mayor designating the week of October 4 through October 10, 2026, as Fire Prevention Week.** Deputy Fire Marshal Jed Finlinson presented the joint resolution designating the week of October 4 through October 10, 2026, as Fire Prevention Week.

MOTION: Ms. Turner moved to approve the joint resolution and Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Ms. Cotter	Aye
Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Motion passed: 5-0	

Special Presentation:

1. **Presentation of the 2026 Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Awards.** Forestry Supervisor Matt Erkelens and the Shade Tree Commission presented beautification awards to five Murray residents, one from each City District. Murray businesses were also recognized for creating beautiful landscapes in various categories, and Mayor Hales announced the Mayor's City-Wide Beautification Award.

Public Hearings:

1. **Consider an ordinance amending the City's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.** Finance Director Brenda Moore explained that because the 2026 fiscal year ended in the middle of the construction season, unused FY (Fiscal Year) 2025-2026 funding would be rolled forward into the FY 2026-2027 budget to allow unfinished construction projects to continue with their appropriated funding.

Ms. Moore said there were many budget adjustments included in the amendment, highlighting that various grant funds awarded to the City would be allocated. She specifically noted that the Council would approve the acceptance of \$11,200 from the Utah Division of Arts and Museums for operations, Library funding from Utah's Community Library Enhancement Fund, and a Justice Assistance Grant for \$24,379.

Ms. Moore explained that the amendment would also allow her to adjust insurance benefit allocations after open enrollment and add funding for prisoner transports for the Murray Courts, which she had neglected to include previously. Ms. Moore confirmed that all unused project funding at the end of FY 2026 was allocated back into reserves and would now be taken from reserves and reallocated for FY 2027. Allocations included streets, stormwater, power, and wastewater projects totaling

approximately \$35 million.

Ms. Turner noted \$100,000 in grant funding for a PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl Substance) study, which was a Utah PFAS engineering grant for the Water Fund and had never been received before. Ms. Moore agreed that the new funding resulted from new legislation that required the City to test its tap water to determine if Murray's water contained PFAS chemicals. Ms. Turner requested that a report be given to the Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the results of the study once completed.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to adopt the ordinance and Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Ms. Cotter	Aye
Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Motion passed: 5-0	

2. **Consider an ordinance amending Section 17.48.140 of the Murray City Municipal Code to allow signage on the ground floor of multi-tenant buildings.** Planning Manager Aaron Ardmore stated that Colliers requested the text amendment to allow signage on the exterior of multi-tenant buildings. Mr. Ardmore provided an overview of the current text. He reviewed the proposed text, noting that the proposed standard would allow wall signs to cover up to 20% of the wall for a dynamic sign or a word sign with individual lettering, and up to 10% of the wall for a standard box sign. Mr. Ardmore shared the findings and confirmed that the Planning Commission heard the proposal and voted 5 to 1 to recommend approval to the City Council. He also shared example photos of various buildings with signage attached to their exteriors.

The public hearing was open for public comments.

Alisha Knapp – Salt Lake City Resident

Ms. Knapp said she helped submit the request because she worked in commercial real estate, specifically tenant representation. She pointed out that the proposed signage on larger multi-tenant buildings with shared entrances was a very common sight along Interstate 15 from Ogden to Provo. She confirmed that a concern raised during the Planning Commission meeting was related to the deregulation of signage. However, she explained that the existing rules regarding the percentage of a building that could be covered in signage would remain, which was 20% of any wall or building for single tenants or multi-tenants with separate entrances. The proposal applied to multi-tenant buildings with a shared entrance. She stated that not every tenant in a building could attach a sign to the outside of the building, as signage was reserved for anchor tenants or those that occupied a full floor.

There were no further comments so the public comment portion of the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Ms. Cotter moved to adopt the ordinance and Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote

Ms. Cotter	Aye
Mr. Bullen	Aye
Ms. Turner	Aye
Mr. Hock	Aye
Mr. Pickett	Aye
Motion passed: 5-0	

Mayor's Report and Questions: Mayor Hales clarified that construction on 900 East near 5600 South was a State project and encouraged citizens to be patient. He expressed appreciation to Murray's dedicated volunteers and announced upcoming programming at the Amphitheater and Murray Theater. He also mentioned that Magic Over Murray, a hot air balloon festival, would be held this Friday through the weekend and the Murray Farmers Market would run until the end of October.

Adjournment: 7:24 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III