City Council

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor
Nile Mathisen
Public Works Director
Ben Mower
Secretary/Recorder
Tasha Crum

Council Members
Shaun Murray
Ben Allred
Alfred Kettle
Steve Secrest

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Item

1) **CALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER:**

- **Welcome and Roll Call: :** Mayor Nile Mathisen welcomed all in attendance and called roll. The Council Members in attendance are Ben Allred, Alfred Kettle, Steve Secrest and Shaun Murray. Secretary Tasha Crum.
- **Prayer:** Alfred Kettle
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Said by all in attendance
- **Public Attendees:** Ben Mower, Mark Reidhead, Craig Nebeker, Jeffrey Baker, Leah Bastian, Brent Bastian, Willis Lefevre, Deputy Justin Pratt and Keith Forrand.
- **Conflicts of Interests:** *All Council Members who have a conflict with any item on the agenda please state concern.*

-No Conflicts Were Stated-

2) **EMS**: Von Johnson

- Von Johnson, director of the 911 ambulance service for the Uintah Basin Medical Center, had to leave the meeting early.
- Mayor Nile Mathisen explained that the Utah Bureau of EMS requires a letter from Ballard City selecting Uintah Basin Medical Center as its 911 ambulance provider.
- The letter was signed by the Mayor.

3) **BALLARD FIRE DEPT/CITY BUILDING DISCUSSION**: Al Kettle

- Fire Chief Jeremy Raymond contacted Council Member Al Kettle regarding a possible joint city building and fire station that could replace the current city building within the next few years. Council expressed support for the project.
- Council Member Steve Secrest reported that The Ferguson Group is pursuing grant opportunities to help fund the new building.
- Potential sites were discussed.

4) **CONTRACTED BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR BID ANNOUNCEMENT:** Mayor

- Notice soliciting bids for a contracted individual to serve as both building inspector and zoning administrator will be published on October 26, 2026.
- Submissions will be due by 5:00 p.m. on November 16, 2026.
- Bids will be opened on November 17, 2026.
- Award decision is expected on December 1, 2026.

5) **ARENA PRESENTATION:** Leah Bastian

- Leah presented a plan to develop an indoor riding arena for rodeos and 4-H events, along with a park and a city cemetery to serve residents.
- The Council suggested seeking funding through the Uintah Special Service District 1/Recreation Department rather than using Ballard City funds directly due to long-term subsidy concerns.
- Ballard City indicated they may be interested in assisting with the cemetery, as it would serve many Ballard City's residents.

6) **ENGINEERING UPDATE:** Jeff Baker

- Jeff Baker, with Jones & DeMille, reported that the box culvert project is going well.

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- The concrete is poured; backfilling began this week and should take about two weeks.
- The storm drain installation has started.

7) **UINTAH COUNTY SHERIFF / COMMISSION REPORTS:**

- Deputy Pratt reported 16 case reports in the last month, resulting in seven arrests including a significant oil field theft case.
- A speed survey is being conducted by the county using small equipment mounted on power poles.

8) **BOARD MEETING UPDATES:**

- Animal Control SSD Update - Brent Bastian

Brent Bastian reported that at his last animal board meeting, an out-of-state individual requested to bring in a large number of snakes. The County is looking into related ordinances.

9) **OFFICE / PROJECTS REPORT:**

- Nothing to report.

10) **REVIEW AND CORRECT MINUTES:**

- Council Meeting October 6, 2026

Motion made by Council Member Al Kettle to approve the council minutes of October 6, 2026 as written, 2nd by Council Member Steve Secrest. All in favor.

	YEA	**NAY**
Council Members		
Nile Mathisen		
Al Kettle		
Ben Allred		
Steve Secrest		
Shaun Murray		

11) **FOLLOW-UP ON PAST MATTERS:**

- Nothing to follow-up on.

12) **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- 700 N Road Condition

Mayor Nile Mathisen stated that he received a phone call regarding the condition of 700 North, which was reported to be very muddy. Public Works director Ben Mower clarified that the road in question is 500 North and is currently being used for the installation of water lines. To make up for the inconvenience to residents, the city will do some cleanup upon completion of the work.

13) **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

- Council Member Shaun Murray brought up the mud on 1500 E, and it was briefly discussed.

14) **FINANCES:** Checks, Statements, Reports and Budget

- Mayor Nile Mathisen discussed finances.

Motion made by Council Member Ben Allred to approve the finances as presented, 2nd by Council Member Steve Secrest. All in favor.

	YEA	**NAY**
Council Members		

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Nile Mathisen
Ben Allred
Al Kettle
Steve Secrest
Shaun Murray

15) **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion made by Council Member Ben Allred to enter an executive session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss

c. ***Hold a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.***

d. ***Hold a strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when public discussion of the transaction would disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration or prevent the public body from completing the transaction.***

2nd by Council Member Steve Secrest. The motion passed by roll-call vote: Mayor Nile Mathisen – aye; Council Member Ben Allred – aye; Council Member Al Kettle – aye; Council Member – Steve Secrest – aye; Council Member Shaun Murray – aye;. The executive session was held at Ballard City Office, with Secretary Tasha Crum and Attorney Eric Yollick in attendance.

Motion made by Ben Allred to go out of executive session, 2nd by Council Member Shaun Murray. The motion passed by roll-call vote: Mayor Nile Mathisen – aye; Council Member Ben Allred – aye; Council Member Al Kettle – aye; Council Member – Steve Secrest – aye; Council Member Shaun Murray – aye;. The Council reconvened in open session at 8:28 p.m.

16) **ADJOURN COUNCIL MEETING:**

Motion made by Council Member Al Kettle to adjourn Council Meeting, 2nd by Council Member Ben Allred at 8:36 p.m. All in favor.

	YEA	**NAY**
Council Members		
Nile Mathisen		
Ben Allred		
Al Kettle		
Steve Secrest		
Shaun Murray		

_____ _____

Mayor Nile Mathisen Date

_____ _____

Secretary Tasha Crum Date

Approved Signed Copy filed in the Ballard City Offices

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