# *Minutes*
*Mount Pleasant City Council*
*October 19, 2026*
*6:30 p.m.*
*Special City Council Meeting*

The Mount Pleasant City Council held a Special City Council meeting on Monday October 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 115 West Main Street, Mt. Pleasant, Utah.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mayor Olsen called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** D. Lynn Beesley, Michael T. Olsen (Mayor, non-voting except as authorized by law), Russell G. Keisel, Rondy G. Black, and Cade A. Beck

**Excused:** None

**2. Mayor's Opening Remarks**

Mayor Olsen welcomed those in attendance and explained that the purpose of the special meeting was to interview six applicants for the vacant City Council position. He thanked Jake Howcroft for his service on the city council. Each applicant was given up to three minutes to introduce themselves. Each of the four Councilmembers then asked one prepared question, with each applicant receiving up to two minutes to respond. Trinity Blackburn provided time notifications during the interviews.

The City Recorder drew a candidate's name to determine the order of introductions. The starting applicant was rotated for each successive question.

Mayor Olsen explained that the interviews would be conducted by the City Council and that questions or comments would not be taken from the audience. He asked those in attendance to refrain from interruptions so that each applicant would have an equal opportunity to speak.

Mayor Olsen also explained that, following the interviews, the Council would vote by signed paper ballot during the open meeting. The City Recorder would publicly read each Councilmember's name and vote. Any tie would be addressed in accordance with the mayor's statutory tie-breaking authority and the City's adopted tie-breaking ordinance.

**3. Candidate Introductions and Interviews**

The City Recorder conducted a drawing to determine the order of candidate introductions. Jim Wilberg was selected to begin. The introductions proceeded in the following order:

1. Jim Wilberg
2. Molly Brotherson
3. Ron Phelps
4. Eddie Shelley
5. Dan Simons
6. Sterling Whipple

Each applicant introduced themselves and provided information regarding their background, qualifications, interest in serving on the City Council, and goals for the community.

The Council then interviewed the applicants using the following prepared questions:

**Question 1 — Councilmember Keisel**

Councilmember Keisel asked:

"What motivated you to apply for the vacant City Council position, and what do you believe you could contribute to Mt. Pleasant City?"

The applicants answered in the following order:

1. Eddie Shelley
2. Ron Phelps
3. Molly Brotherson
4. Jim Wilberg
5. Sterling Whipple
6. Dan Simons

**Question 2 — Councilmember Black**

Councilmember Black asked:

"What do you believe are the three most important issues currently facing Mt. Pleasant City, and how would you approach addressing them?"

The applicants answered in the following order:

1. Eddie Shelley
2. Ron Phelps
3. Molly Brotherson
4. Jim Wilberg
5. Sterling Whipple
6. Dan Simons

**Question 3 — Councilmember Beck**

Councilmember Beck asked:

"City Council members sometimes have to make decisions that are unpopular with residents. How would you approach making a difficult decision while keeping the City's best interests in mind?"

The applicants answered in the following order:

1. Dan Simons
2. Sterling Whipple
3. Jim Wilberg
4. Molly Brotherson

5. Ron Phelps
6. Eddie Shelley

**Question 4 — Councilmember Beesley**

Councilmember Beesley asked:

"How would you balance the need for growth and development with preserving the character of Mt. Pleasant and ensuring adequate infrastructure and services?"

The applicants answered in the following order:

1. Sterling Whipple
2. Jim Wilberg
3. Molly Brotherson
4. Ron Phelps
5. Eddie Shelley
6. Dan Simons

The applicants discussed their reasons for applying, qualifications and experience, important issues facing Mt. Pleasant City, approaches to difficult decisions, and views regarding growth, community character, infrastructure, and City services.

**4. Appointment Voting**

Following the interviews, Mayor Olsen reviewed the voting procedure. Each Councilmember completed and signed a paper ballot. The City Recorder collected the ballots and publicly read each Councilmember's name and selected candidate.

**First Round**

The first-round votes were recorded as follows:

- Councilmember Russell G. Keisel voted for Molly Brotherson.
- Councilmember Rondy G. Black voted for Molly Brotherson.
- Councilmember Cade A. Beck voted for Sterling Whipple.
- Councilmember D. Lynn Beesley abstained.

The first-round totals were:

- Molly Brotherson — 2 votes
- Sterling Whipple — 1 vote
- Jim Wilberg — 0 votes
- Ron Phelps — 0 votes
- Eddie Shelley — 0 votes
- Dan Simons — 0 votes
- Abstention — 1

Jim Wilberg, Ron Phelps, Eddie Shelley, and Dan Simons were eliminated from further consideration. Because no applicant received the required majority, the Council proceeded to a second round of voting between Molly Brotherson and Sterling Whipple.

**Second Round**

The second-round votes were recorded as follows:

- Councilmember Russell G. Keisel voted for Molly Brotherson.
- Councilmember Rondy G. Black voted for Molly Brotherson.
- Councilmember Cade A. Beck voted for Sterling Whipple.
- Councilmember D. Lynn Beesley voted for Molly Brotherson.

Molly Brotherson received three votes, and Sterling Whipple received one vote. Molly Brotherson received the required majority and was selected for appointment to the vacant City Council position.

The Council then conducted a roll-call vote to confirm the appointment of Molly Brotherson. The vote was as follows:

- Councilmember D. Lynn Beesley — Yes
- Councilmember Russell G. Keisel — Yes
- Councilmember Rondy G. Black — Yes
- Councilmember Cade A. Beck — Yes

The appointment of Molly Brotherson was confirmed by unanimous vote.

**5. Adjournment**

At 7:49 p.m., Councilmember Black moved to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting. Councilmember Beesley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Natalie Crosby
City Recorder