

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Tuesday, August 5, 2025
Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

Attendance:

Council Members:

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

Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Rob White	IT Director	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Doug Perry	Murray Education Foundation	Kathy White	Chambe of Commerce
Rowan Coates	Murray Museum	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Kim Sorensen	Parks Director	Emily Barton	Finance Controller
Ben Gray	IT Support	Citizens and Guests	

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. – Council Member Goodman

Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting July 1, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Hock identified one spelling error and moved to approve the minutes with the correction. Ms. Turner seconded the motion to approve as corrected.
Voice vote taken, all “Ayes.” Approved 5-0

Citizen Comments:

Lena Ayotte – Murray resident

Ms. Ayotte reported late-night disturbances from visitors mistaking her home for the nearby sober living facility. She raised concerns about false accusations and social media posts involving her and stated that neighbors still need support in addressing issues with the facility.

Lawerance Horman – Murray resident

Mr. Horman, who has lived for 10 years in a camp trailer at a Murray storage lot as the on-site manager in exchange for rent, was discouraged about trying to get basic needs to the area like water and power hookups. He said despite disability funding, he struggles financially, saying homeless programs don't work, homeless groups don't care and agency help is limited. Mr. Horman said he's up after years of begging for help.

DeLynn Barney – Murray resident

Mr. Barney thanked the City for cleaning up and cutting weeds on City-owned redevelopment agency property, saying it looks more attractive and has reduced the fire hazard.

Public Hearings:

- Consider an ordinance adopting the transfer of monies from Enterprise Funds to other city funds.** Finance Director Brenda Moore said the City purchased property at 440 West Jensen Lane years ago with the intention of constructing a retention pond because the property often flooded. Because the City needed to acquire

property located east of the Murray Theater on Vine Street to construct a parking lot for the theater, the City offered a portion of the Jensen Lane parcel to the current Vine Street business owner as an exchange.

The proposed ordinance would allow the transfer of property assets from the Stormwater Fund to the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) Fund in the GF (General Fund). Ms. Moore said the Stormwater Fund would reflect a decrease in assets, the City would now construct a retention pond on the remaining portion of the Jensen Lane property and a new parking lot would be constructed in the near future on Vine Street. Parking lot construction would be considered a CIP project and the following public hearing would approve the completion of the 10-8-2 analysis process that would deem City property as surplus on Jensen Lane. She clarified that the proposed ordinance did not involve actual cash transactions but would only reflect that the CIP would receive a section of Jensen Lane property.

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

MOTION: Mr. Pickett moved to approve the ordinance. Ms. Cotter **SECONDED** the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

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

2. Consider a resolution declaring the property located at approximately 440 West Jensen Lane, Murray City, Salt Lake County, State of Utah, as surplus; and approving the conveyance of said property for less than appraised value based on findings pursuant to Section 10-8-2 of the Utah Code. Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson discussed the resolution that would allow the City to implement Utah State Code Section 10-8-2 related to the appropriation, acquisition and disposal of municipal property. An aerial map was displayed to outline the subject parcel on the city-owned Jensen Lane property. Mr. Wilkinson clarified that since the Council just approved the transfer of the Jensen Lane property from the Stormwater Fund to the GF, they would now consider it surplus.

Mr. Wilkinson shared an aerial map to point out 120 East Vine Street saying it was the last piece of property the City needed to acquire for constructing a parking lot. He confirmed that properties to the east and the west of 120 East Vine Street were already owned by Murray City, the current property owner was a willing seller and cooperating with the City and because the business owner had no place to relocate the existing plumbing business at 120 East Vines Street, the City offered a parcel on Jensen Lane which was accepted.

Mr. Wilkinson reviewed Utah Code 10-8-2 to confirm that there were public benefits to the surplus, consistent with both State and City laws. He discussed findings like enhancing public use by providing a parking lot, increasing efficiency of City investments since the City planned to build a cohesive parking area involving city-owned land and retaining a local business, because the seller was willing to stay in Murray.

Mr. Wilkinson shared fiscal benefits saying the City would pay \$600,000 in cash to the seller and convey a section of the 440 West Jensen Lane property valued at \$390,000 for a total of \$990,000. He noted prosperity, convenience, safety, order and comfort, as well being community values required by the 10-8-2 analysis. He said the transaction was a significant investment to provide surface parking for the Murray Theater and the proposed conveyance offers measurable and intangible benefits which would also support downtown Murray and downtown revitalization. City planners and Mr. Wilkinson recommended the Council hold a public hearing

and approve the resolution to declare the property as surplus and approve conveyance.

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

Mr. Hock asked when structures on Vines Street would be demolished and when parking lot construction would begin. Mr. Wilkinson said a contract was in place since July, subject to Council approval of the proposed resolution. The maximum timeframe to close on the Jensen Lane property was 120 days from the July contract and the property owner was willing to vacate the 120 East Vine Street building quickly and planned to build a new business facility on Jensen Lane in the future.

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

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Turner Aye

Mr. Hock Aye

Mr. Pickett Aye

Ms. Cotter Aye

Mr. Goodman Aye

Motion passed: 5-0

3. Consider a resolution waiving police and fire protection fees for the Murray Chamber of Commerce for an event known as the Murray Area Chamber of Commerce Hot Air Balloon Palooza, beginning September 19, 2025 and running through September 21, 2025, to be held at the Cottonwood High School. City Council Executive Director Jennifer Kennedy said that during the budget process, the City received several requests for donations and fee waivers, which were approved in the final budget. At that time, the City was still waiting on more details from the Murray Chamber of Commerce about their request for police and fire service fee waiver. The information was now provided and the Council would consider the request.

The public hearing was open for public comments.

Kathy White – Chamber of Commerce Interim President and Murray resident

Ms. White expressed appreciation to City officials for considering the request. She reported that over 6,000 people attended the event last year and stated that the intention of the request was to ensure safety and fun for all.

The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Goodman asked if overtime pay would be required for police and fire services. Chief Administrative Officer Doug Hill said because fire fighters work 24-hour shifts seven days a week, their pay would be part of their regular shift. Overtime pay would be required for police officers, who work the event outside of a normal patrol shift.

Mr. Pickett asked what the total cost would be for police and fire wages. Ms. Kennedy said the cost for police services would be considered an in-kind donation totaling \$3,798. Fire services would be between \$2,000 and \$4,000 depending on how Fire Chief Mittelman utilized his staff.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Pickett **SECONDED** the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Turner Aye

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

4. **Consider a resolution waiving golf cart fees for the Murray Education Foundation on August 22, 2025 at the Murray Parkway Golf Course for a charity golf tournament.** Ms. Kennedy said the fee waiver request made by the Murray Education Foundation was historically granted through the years. Mr. Hock asked if the request included green fees. Ms. Kennedy clarified that the request was only to waive golf cart fees. Mr. Goodman asked about the associated cost, which was confirmed to be \$4,000 for golf carts.

Mr. Hock asked what the total cost would be if the donation included green fees. Mr. Hill said the cost for a charity tournament like this was about \$9,000, which was equivalent to revenue generated by the general public on a given day. He said the cost would be lower than that for the Murray Education Foundation, noting that green fees are \$62 per player including the cart. With about 120 players the cost to the Foundation would range from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

The public hearing was open for public comments.

Doug Perry – Murray Education Foundation

Mr. Perry thanked the City for its longtime support of the Murray Education Foundation, noting that this year marks the 27th annual golf tournament. He stated that the tournament has raised more than half a million dollars over the years, funding field trips, materials, and supplies that benefit all Murray schools and students.

The public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Mr. Hock motioned to adjust the resolution to include both green fees and golf cart fees. Ms. Turner asked for the total cost of waiving both. The amount was confirmed to be approximately \$9,000. Ms. Cotter **SECONDED** the motion.

Mr. Pickett asked where the additional funding would come from, saying it ultimately comes from Murray taxpayers noting that budget cuts were recently implemented. He felt it was not responsible for the Council to approve \$9,000 on a whim, stating the City was not a bank. He reminded Council Members they recently avoided a property tax increase this year, a decision he disagreed with, believing that at least a 2.5% increase was necessary. He said decisions should be based on financial data and not feelings. While he would support using extra money already set aside for green fees, he strongly opposed taking money from savings or making transfers from other accounts to cover it.

Ms. Cotter supported the donation increase because it helped Murray school children. She believed the tournament gave the City a way to support kids whose families might not be able to afford field trips and other school supplies.

Mr. Hock said there would be no transfer of funds because the money would be an in-kind donation. When the City works with the school district, taxpayers save money. If both entities charged the other for the use of facilities or services, both would have to increase property taxes to meet operating expenses. He felt that in-kind donations did not result in a financial loss, as the funding helped keep the tax burden low for both the school district and the City.

Mr. Pickett argued that the increase would be a financial loss to the City, stating that whether the donation was in-kind or not, the golf course would not generate normal revenue that day from green fees or golf cart fee rentals.

Mr. Hock believed lost revenue was gained back in other ways, like paying no fee to use Hillcrest Junior High for events, or school ball fields for City recreation programs. He said the exchange of services was so equal that it was negligible and if both entities continued to just trade services there would be no financial impact to either and both could keep costs low.

Ms. Turner said the in-kind donation still had a \$9,000 value to the City and it was not something the Council had ever considered before. She felt the adjustment was unexpected, she was uncomfortable increasing the donation this year and suggested they consider it next year.

Mr. Pickett appreciated having more time in the future to look at the increase more carefully and requested the motion to adjust the resolution be withdrawn.

Mr. Hock withdrew the motion to adjust the resolution.

NEW MOTION: Ms. Cotter moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Turner **SECONDED** the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

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

Business Item:

1. **Consider a resolution in support of America250 Utah and recognizing and approving the Murray City-Utah 250 Community Committee.** Murray Museum Curator Rowan Coates proposed that the City celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. She explained that the City could join America250 and the National Celebration since Utah would have its own subset. Ms. Coates shared the resolution which outlined how Murray City could participate, receive a stipend, and create an official Murray City Utah250 Community Committee. If approved the City would support and implement signature programs of the America250 Utah Commission. The City would also support the Murray City Utah250 Community Committee in its local efforts to educate, engage and unify Utahans and City visitors about the America250 National Celebration. Mr. Pickett thanked Ms. Coates for bringing the celebration to Murray, noting that he was very impressed with the event after attending a related meeting and fully supported the resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Pickett **SECONDED** the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

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

Mayor's Report and Questions: Mayor Hales reported that the fire department received a long-awaited 4x4 all-

terrain ambulance, enhancing the City's emergency response capabilities. He announced the Public Safety Fair on August 25, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Murray Park, and noted that tickets are now available for the Murray Theater grand opening on September 26, 2025. He confirmed the City has received \$4 million in State grant funding for the theater restoration, along with over \$100,000 in donations from residents. Starting August 15, 2025, supporters can also sponsor a theater seat, with donor names displayed on the back of the chairs.

Adjournment: 7:18 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III