

## MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Poplar Meeting Room, Murray, Utah 84107

#### Attendance:

##### Council Members:

Paul Pickett	District #1
Pam Cotter	District #2 – Council Chair
Diane Turner	District #4
Scott Goodman	District #3 – Telecom

##### Others:

Brett Hales	Mayor	Jennifer Kennedy	City Council Executive Director
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Josh Hill	Public Works
Jaren Scott	Trans-Jordan Landfill	Greg Bellon	Power Director
Matt Youngs	Assistant Power Director	Eric Bracewell	Power Operations Manager
Rob White	IT Director	Ben Gray	IT Support
Citizens and Guests			

Excused: Adam Hock – District #5 – Council Vice Chair

**Conducting:** Council Chair Cotter called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** Committee of the Whole, June 3, 2025. Ms. Turner moved to approve, and Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. All in favor 4-0.

#### Discussion Items:

- **Power Department Report.** Power Director Greg Bellon said a Five-Year Master Plan for the Power Department has been in the works for some time. He explained that before a Master Plan could be developed a model system must first be created. For this reason he hired an engineering firm to thoroughly study the City's power system to produce the required model system. The contract also included an option for the engineer to use enhancing software for an additional \$100,000.

Mr. Bellon explained that staff also discovered that the power department's SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system could be upgraded with software to generate the same model system in house. The software was purchased directly for about the same cost and the engineer continued to work on a simpler model. Mr. Bellon said the process for new software to generate the model system was taking longer than expected, so the model system itself would not be ready until September 2025, meaning the time frame for a final Master Plan was uncertain.

Mr. Youngs discussed having another C.O.S. (Cost of Service) rate study conducted this fall. He noted the last C.O.S. study was completed a couple of years ago that resulted in Murray implementing three separate power rate increases for Murray power customers. Mr. Youngs said the third and last rate increase from that study would go into effect next month. He explained two choices they had to hire a consultant for the next C.O.S. study. Either Dave Berg again, with Dave Berg Consulting, who was used in the past; or hire Vice-President Dawn Lund of UFS (Utility Financial Solutions). Mr. Youngs said that Mr. Berg had given them no reason not to use him again, but they decided to choose UFS simply for the sake of change. The process to get pricing from UFS has already started and Mr. Youngs did not anticipate a significant power rate increase to customers like before.

Mr. Bellon recapped upcoming power projects that were previously discussed with Council Members.

- **A resolution authorizing the approval of an amendment to the second amended and restated interlocal agreement creating Trans-Jordan Cities dated December 1, 1995.** Public Works Director Russ Kakala introduced TJ (Trans-Jordan) Executive Director Jaren Scott noting that Herriman City wanted to join TJ Cities since they had been using the landfill for many years. Mr. Scott gave a thorough presentation to discuss Herriman City waste production details and their estimated payment schedule if approved. He explained benefits to all member cities for having Herriman City join TJ and confirmed that the TJ board unanimously voted in support of Herriman's request to join. Mr. Scott said all current TJ members must also adopt by resolution the same amended and restated Interlocal Agreement for approval.
- **Reports from Interlocal Boards and Committees:**
  - **VECC** (Valley Emergency Communications Center) – Chief Administrative Officer Doug Hill reported that there are still not enough dispatch operators to take all incoming 911 calls, so VECC would consider adding AI (Artificial Intelligence) to answer non-emergency calls and use AI language translation capabilities. VECC would also consider the use of AI technology for data dashboards that would allow call takers to have more information to help them make better decisions. Mr. Hill also reported that VECC would like to move tow truck calls to a dedicated call service, and to implement the costly AI software over a five year period VECC would seek federal grant funding to meet the estimated cost of \$5.52 million. Mr. Hill said if VECC is awarded grant funding VECC would have to pay 20% of the cost.
  - **UTOPIA (Utah Telecommunications Open Infrastructure Agency) and UIA (Utah Infrastructure Agency)** – Mr. Hill said Murray City received a check for \$579,790 from UTOPIA for the repayment of the sales tax pledge. Because Murray was an original UTOPIA member city, profit funding is transferred to UTOPIA who remitted the funds to the City. He explained that although the return was good, the amount was only intended to cover 2% of their increasing costs, and the City would continue to pay \$2 million annually to UTOPIA. The long-term goal and hope of UTOPIA is that eventually one day they will make more in profit and the City will no longer be obligated to pay UTOPIA. He reported that as of May 2025 there were 73,253 total subscribers and Bountiful, Bozeman and Idaho Falls are now cities in progress to receive the high speed internet service. Murray's current residential take rate is 30.77% which was not a significant increase or decrease compared to previous years.
  - **Metro Fire** – Mr. Hill said the biggest concern is large wildland fires that continue in Southern Utah and potentially in the western United States. Currently Murray fire was not volunteering to deploy any time soon because there were no emergency deployment requests.
  - **COG** (Council of Governments) – Mr. Hill shared about the May 2025 meeting saying that the Parks and Recreation Department submitted an application for TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Cultural and Convention) grant funding this year. The TRCC grant request was to receive \$175,000 for Willow Pond Park playground improvements and \$250,000 for improvements to Woodstock Meadows Park. COG members also heard a report titled Economic Competitiveness in Salt Lake County.
  - **LPC** (Legislative Policy Committee) – Ms. Cotter had nothing to report since the legislative session was over. The next LPC meeting would be held August 25, 2025.
- **Adjournment:** 6:09 p.m.

**Pattie Johnson**  
**Council Administrator III**