

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, July 15, 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
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
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Emily Barton	Finance Controller	Greg Bellon	Power Director
Bruce Holyoak	Parks Superintendent	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Ben Gray	IT Support	Elvon Farrell	Economic Development Specialist
Kathy White	Chamber of Commerce	Hal Luke	Murray Senior Center Board Member
Cory Plant	Senior Recreation Center	Pam Roberts	Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling
Ben Ford	Wastewater Superintendent	James Kelsey	Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Kim Sorensen	Parks Director
Josh Hill	Public Works	Citizens and Guests	

Conducting: Council Chair Cotter called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole, June 17, 2025. Mr. Goodman moved to approve, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Discussion Items:

- **Murray Senior Recreation Center Report.** Senior Center Board Member Hal Luke shared photos to describe how seniors participated in the Murray Fourth of July parade. He also mentioned that the Murray Senior Center was featured in a June 22, 2025 Deseret News article spotlighting Murray's eldest seniors.
- **Reports from Interlocal Boards and Committees:**
 - WFWRD (Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District) – General Manager and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Pam Roberts said a significant rate increase of 33% was implemented in January of 2025 due to a 40% rise in overall expenses. The increase would add \$6.50 per month to each home, raising the monthly charge of \$19.50 to \$26. A fee history and changes to the leaf bag program were outlined.
 - . Ms. Roberts also discussed a Residential Truck Replacement Plan, personnel changes and statistics regarding the Seasonal Container Reservation Program.

Sustainability Coordinator James Kelsey reviewed Murray's Impact and Recycling Stream Quality report that included year-end statistics, year-to-date sustainability statistics and Murray's landfill diversion rate. Murray's share in tonnage by population, clean recycle statistics and contamination rates were provided.

- Association of Municipal Councils – No report given.
- TJ (TransJordan) Landfill – Public Works Director Russ Kakala said the TJ budget was right on target, but operating expenses increased by 16.5% based on hiring nine new employees for the new Sandy Transfer

Station. He reported that garbage trucks would haul to TJ for another eight to ten years until the landfill was full; and this year all TJ employees would receive a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment and a 3.5% merit raise. He noted Murray's tonnage to TJ decreased by 4.2% from the previous year. The new transfer station would have a ribbon cutting on Wednesday August 27, 2025 and open on September 1, 2025.

- NeighborWorks and Murray Chamber of Commerce – Economic Development Specialist Elvon Farrell said NeighborWorks hired new Chief Executive Officer Bryce Garner, seven down payment assistance programs were funded, one home improvement award was granted and the RDA allocated \$400,000 for this fiscal year. Mr. Farrell discussed programs like Paint Your Heart Out and CareerWorks and an update on the Tripp Lane housing project was provided. Mr. Farrell announced leadership changes for the Murray Chamber of Commerce, including a new CEO/president and board chairperson. He explained how the Chamber would continue to focus on business education, networking and community events, highlighting major events and ongoing programs.
- JRC (Jordan River Commission) – Park Superintendent Bruce Holyoak said the recent focus has been on the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan, the health of aquatic life in the Jordan River, various water contaminants and the DWQ's (Department of Water Quality) study of all major tributaries feeding into the Jordan River. A recent report indicated that 30% of tested areas within 330 miles of river have E.coli. Murray made efforts to post signage about not feeding ducks or congregating near ducks. Mr. Holyoak said Salt Lake County was working to install more boat launches and more portages so people can exit the river safer. Murray City's activity for the Get To the River Festival would be held this year on September 20, 2025 at Germania Park.
- CVW (Central Valley Water) – Wastewater Superintendent Ben Ford said the current midyear budget was below the 50% operational target at 43%. The 2026 budget process was underway, it would be presented during the September board meeting and final approval was expected in October. The rebuild project to meet new federal discharge limits was coming to an end by early 2026 and a new transformer was expected to arrive next month. He noted that CVW has been waiting two and a half years to receive it, so the Side Stream Nitrogen project would be completed soon. A final step to complete the rebuild was that the Blower Building received its Certificate of Occupancy and the plant was operating on new blowers since last month.
- **A resolution declaring the property located at approximately 440 W Jensen Ln, 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 and an ordinance adopting the transfer of monies from Enterprise Funds to other City Funds.** Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson shared a Public Benefits Analysis. An aerial map was displayed to explain that property at 440 West Jensen Lane was purchased by the Stormwater Fund for the purpose of building a stormwater detention facility. Since the detention facility only takes up one third of the property, staff proposed that the unused area be used as part of transactions related to another property.

Mr. Wilkinson said negotiations took place with the owner of 120 East Vine Street, a key component needed to provide public parking for the Murray Theater. The property sandwiched between two parcels already owned by the City was a last step to secure additional parking. The business owner of Speedy Plumbing and Drain was a willing seller, however with no place to relocate the business, staff determined that City-owned property on Jensen Lane could be offered as surplus for conveyance. An existing building on the surplus property would need to be demolished and the rest of the property would still be serving its intended purpose.

Mr. Wilkinson said the resolution would allow staff to purchase the Vine Street property for \$600,000 which was less than similarly situated properties in the area, valued at \$1.2 million. The transaction includes conveying the property located on Jensen Lane to the business owner, where a new plumbing business would

be constructed after a City owned building was demolished. The Council would need to consider in a public hearing whether to approve the Utah Code 10-8-2 analysis as well as the transfer of land from the Stormwater Enterprise Fund to the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

- **Announcement:** City Council Executive Director Jennifer Kennedy discussed the need for a City Council Workshop. There was consensus to hold it on July 28, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Adjournment:** 6:29 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III