

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, August 26, 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
Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Zac Smallwood	Planning Manager	David Rodgers	Senior Planner
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Eric Bracewell	Operations Manager
Robyn Colton	Human Resources Director	Greg Bellon	Power Director
Matt Youngs	Assistant Power Director	Chris Niemann	Engineering Manager
Aron Frisk	Water Superintendent	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Cory Plant	Senior Center	Kim Sorensen	Parks Director
Citizens and Guests		Ben Gray	IT Support

Conducting: Council Chair Cotter called the meeting to order at 4:39 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Workshop, July 28, 2025 and Committee of the Whole, August 5, 2025. Mr. Hock moved to approve both sets of minutes, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0.

Discussion Item:

- **Murray Senior Recreation Center Report.** Senior Center Board Member Hal Luke shared about a special dinner party held on August 1, 2025. He also talked about how seniors were enjoying line dancing this month.
- **An ordinance amending section 15.20.150(E) and section 15.22.050 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to transformer fees for upgraded service and project improvement allowances provided by the City.** Power Director Greg Bellon proposed to implement a \$435 fee for citizens to upgrade their residential power systems. He explained that currently when a citizen requested a power upgrade from a 100-Amp service to a 200-Amp service, Murray Power would first determine whether the increase would overload the associated transformer. If a transformer needed replacing, the resident requesting the upgrade would pay the entire cost to replace it. Mr. Bellon said the proposed fee would provide an equitable way for any residential customer to upgrade their power, which would be paid at the time of submitting the power upgrade application permit. The intent of the fee is to spread the cost to other residents using the same transformer who might eventually upgrade their power supply in the future. In addition, a new program would automatically filter power upgrade requests into E3 Software. Mr. Bellon noted that the amendment also included updating language related to power line extensions and confirmed that any increase to the fee in the future would require City Council approval.

- **An ordinance amending sections 17.24.050, 17.96.030, 17.100.030, 17.104.030, 17.108.030, 17.112.030, 17.116.030, 17.120.030, 17.124.030, and 17.128.030 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to the maximum number of children permitted at a licensed in-home day care.** Senior City Planner David Rodgers said State Code was amended in November of 2023 to increase the maximum number of children allowed in in-home daycares. If the proposed amendment was approved the City's Code would match State Code. Mr. Rodgers said the request to increase the number of children from 12 to 16 came from a Murray resident who owns and operates a daycare in her home.

Ms. Turner asked if any surrounding cities had adopted the State Code allowance. Mr. Rodgers said Murray would be one of the first since no other cities in the valley had done so. Ms. Turner thought 16 children was too many and expressed concern about the safety of the children. Planning Manager Zac Smallwood said in order to have the maximum of 16 children under State Code, there was also a requirement of 35 square feet per child in the home. Allowing 16 children under City Code would not prevent Murray business owners from obtaining State and County licenses, however he believed if Murray adopted a different standard, residents would be confused since the State allows 16 children.

Mr. Goodman stated that while 16 children may be permitted, it did not mean that 16 would actually be enrolled. Ms. Turner felt most providers would accept 16 children to generate more income and asked whether the applicant had the proper square footage. Mr. Smallwood said the applicant currently had 16 children enrolled with a State license, which placed the business in noncompliance with current City Code. Mr. Rodgers said the proposed increase to 16 children would include a daycare provider's own children.

Mr. Smallwood said the increase could add 20 additional cars to the existing 40 that are already coming and going. The increase would not have a negative impact on all city neighborhoods, because not every Murray resident would have an in-home daycare on their residential street. Ms. Turner noted the applicant's daycare served children from six weeks to 12 years of age. Mr. Hock asked how the increase to 16 children would affect the Residential, Multifamily Housing zone and how a 35 square feet per child requirement would work in that setting.

Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson clarified there was a difference between residential in-home daycare standards and in-home preschool standards which allowed eight sessions. Mr. Smallwood analyzed the documents and confirmed textual errors and incorrect language in the draft ordinance. He explained that residential daycares operate all day with the same number of children, while only residential preschools operate in sessions, which should be outlined separately in the Code. Mr. Smallwood said staff would clean up the language, revise the draft ordinance and return to the City Council. There was consensus that planning staff provide correct information at the Committee of the Whole work session on September 2, 2025 to continue the discussion.

- **Text amendments to Code Enforcement.** Mr. Wilkinson announced that the City's Code Enforcement Division would undergo a major overhaul to reorganize the program. His hope was to lay the groundwork for the process which would require several more meetings. The process would include continued research of other city ordinances, collecting and comparing information and utilizing guiding principles like the importance of enforcing existing laws. New language would be created for a proposed ordinance that would eventually come before the Council to implement the new program. Mr. Wilkinson believed the lack of enforcement created resentment. He said if the City chooses to adopt a specific law, it was important to enforce it but voluntary compliance was always the preferred outcome. He noted that typically voluntary compliance occurs after a violation is issued, but a new program was needed for the more complicated cases.

Mr. Wilkinson said the current process that allows 14 days to rectify a situation, which if unresolved, is followed by a second 14-day notice to fix it. If the issue is still not resolved, the case is turned over to the City's attorney's office for legal prosecution. The current program also involves working closely with complainants, but follow-up is often slower than desired because some issues take time to resolve. Personal visits from code enforcement officers occur when mailed notices are ignored. Weed complaints are handled differently, with only one 15-day notice to address them. If weeds are not removed, the City would cut them down and charge the violator for the cost. If payment was not received within 30 days a lien would be placed on the property.

Mr. Wilkinson outlined disadvantages of the current process saying there was no mechanism for immediate citations and court processes become slow and drawn out. Judges often make inconsistent decisions related to fines and penalties because fines and penalties are up to their own discretion. Judges may not be familiar with land use issues, so inconsistencies result in disgruntled citizens who feel they have been treated indifferently.

Mr. Wilkinson said the proposed program was commonly used in other cities, which tracks violations in two ways, depending on whether issues are long-term or short-term. Details for both the Notice of Violation that handles ongoing long term violations and the Administrative Citation that handles one-time quick to resolve issues were thoroughly reviewed. The hearing process for each type was also explained.

Mr. Wilkinson outlined advantages of the new administrative process, which were noted as quick turnaround time for both one time violations and requests for appeals, consistency in both fines and penalties, greater transparency for the public and greater voluntary compliance.

Mr. Wilkinson discussed next steps that included amending City Code with new language, adoption of the new Code, finalizing the appeal process for both violations and citations, selecting and appointing an administrative law judge and setting and adopting consistent fines for violations. He noted that the Council would consider the appropriate fines for various violations and citations. Mr. Wilkinson would return to a future Committee of the Whole meeting to present the final program and present proposed Code changes for the Code Enforcement Division.

- **A resolution approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and the Murray City School District for Murray City Fire fighters to teach fire education classes offered by the School District.** Fire Chief Joey Mittelman discussed a proposal to provide a fire safety program for Murray High School seniors. He clarified that the MFD (Murray Fire Department) would not be teaching fire science, but that firefighters would share their knowledge with students through an introductory class covering fire safety, firefighting equipment, and fire behaviors.

The Chief explained that when the School District approached him, the MFD was excited to participate because Murray High was behind in fire education and the only school not providing a course throughout the Salt Lake valley. So far 60 students are interested, and 30 are enrolled in the introductory course, that would be followed by the EMT (emergency medical technician) class in the Fall. The fire education class would equip students with technology and trade knowledge related to fire service and fire prevention involving fire sprinkler systems or fire alarms.

The Chief reported there would be no cost to the City, which was outlined in the proposed Interlocal Agreement with the Murray School district, who would reimburse MFD for direct costs. Liability issues were also outlined in the contract. Firefighters would go through all school district policies, procedures and training to teach the fire safety course, which was the same requirement as any school teacher. He said 12 fire employees were interviewed to participate and 10 others would work to fill in when needed. Chief Mittelman

said the program would place seniors one year ahead of those who now attend basic classes at the State Fire and Rescue Academy and the course would be helpful in preparing seniors for EMT, paramedic and fire schools after high school graduation.

- **Adjournment:** 5:40 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III