

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Murray City Hall, 10 East 4800 South, Council Chambers, Murray, Utah 84107

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**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
Robyn Colton	Human Resources Director	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Nadine Brown	Human Resources	Zachary Smallwood	Planning Manager
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Ben Gray	IT Support
Kim Sorensen	Parks Director	Citizens and Guests	

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Council Meeting July 15, 2025

**MOTION:** Mr. Picket moved to approve and Ms. Cotter seconded the motion.

Voice vote taken, all “Ayes.” Approved 5-0

**Citizen Comments:**

LeAnn Parker Reed – Murray resident

Ms. Reed thanked the City Council and Murray citizens for voting in the primary election and congratulated candidates who made it through the primary election. She expressed condolences to those who did not.

Colby Oliverson – Murray resident

Mr. Oliverson expressed gratitude to the City Council, the Mayor and City staff for looking into a possible ordinance for regulating backyard ponds in residential areas. He shared ideas that he thought should be analyzed for a proposed ordinance like maximum size, lining, water quality, fencing, bacteria and mosquitos. He thanked the City for spending time to hear his concerns.

**Special Recognition:**

1. **Murray City Employee of the Month, Human Resource Analyst Nadine Brown** – Scott Goodman, Mayor Hales and Human Resource Director Robyn Colton presented Ms. Brown with a certificate and a \$50 gift card. Ms. Brown was acknowledged with gratitude for demonstrating excellence, professionalism and efficiency in her daily work.
2. **Consider a Joint Resolution of the Mayor and Municipal Council recognizing the Murray Symphony.** Mr. Goodman and Mayor Hales recognized symphony members in attendance and congratulated the Murray Symphony for 50 years of sharing their music. They expressed gratitude for having the musicians in the City.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hock moved to approve the joint 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

### Public Hearings:

1. **Consider an ordinance amending Sections 17.08.020, 17.68.030, 17.68.040, and 17.68.060 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to landscaping requirements.** Planning Manager Zach Smallwood said the request to update landscaping requirements for commercial and residential zones came from both the City's planning division and water department. Mr. Smallwood said that since the last work session meeting with Council Members, staff had updated some of the written text of the draft ordinance. Definitions were added for recreation areas, activity zones and lawns and textual cleanup was made regarding applicants having to provide three paper copies of landscape plans.

Mr. Smallwood reviewed other clean up items explaining that front yards only need to reach 50% plant coverage at maturity, rather than at the time of planting. Staff felt 50% at the time of planting was excessive and costly for residents so they wanted to make it easier and more affordable, aligning with what the City had already been working with. He noted that various zones like mixed-use zones were exempt from the new requirements because landscape standards already exist for those projects.

He reviewed the proposed lawn restrictions for commercial developments, saying that turf, grass and lawn shall not be installed in areas that are smaller than eight feet in width. Grass cannot be installed in park strips, paths or slopes greater than 25% or a 4:1 grade. Grass shall not exceed 20% of the total landscaped area outside of active recreation area.

Grass shall not exceed 35% of the total landscaped area in front and side yards of new residential construction. Mr. Smallwood pointed out that the new standard did not apply to existing residents that already have their homes landscaped with grass, but they are welcome to implement the Utah Water Savers program. Small residential lots that have no backyard are also exempt if the total landscaped backyard is less than 250 feet and front yard dimensions cannot accommodate the minimum 8 foot wide lawn area.

Mr. Smallwood shared various findings to confirm that the proposed amendment promotes water conservancy for both business and residential users while maintaining health, safety and general welfare of the community. He noted that both planning staff and the Planning Commission gave a unanimous recommendation of approval to the City Council to amend the City Code as presented.

The public hearing was open for public comment.

#### Rachael Palmer – Murray resident

Ms. Palmer said she supported the City in updating landscaping requirements and expressed appreciation for sustainable landscape design that would help save water. She was glad that Murray residents could now participate in the Utah Water Savers rebate program.

The public hearing was closed.

Ms. Turner said it was important to conserve water and expressed gladness to consider the amended ordinance.

**MOTION:** Ms. Turner 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 an ordinance amending Sections 17.92.080, 17.96.100, 17.100.100, 17.107.100, 17.108.100, 17.112.100, 17.116.070, 17.120.070, 17.124.070. and 17.128.070 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to exemptions into setback areas for all residential zones.** Mr. Smallwood said that planning staff was excited to present the proposed amendment which would allow residents to cover a porch or patio. He outlined the requirements related to setback encroachments, height and width allowances, and noted that a covering must be open on three sides. He also discussed standards related to columns and footings. Findings were shared to confirm that the proposed text amendment aligned with the objectives in the Neighborhoods and Housing section of the General Plan and it was reviewed to ensure that health, safety, and general welfare of the community were maintained. Mr. Smallwood said staff supported the proposal and the Planning Commission voted unanimously to forward a recommendation of approval.

The public hearing was open for public comments. There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cotter moved to approve the ordinance. Mr. Hock **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 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.** Chief Joey Mittelman recapped about the Murray Fire Department working with the Murray School District to provide a fire safety program within their technology and trades division. He noted that the Murray School District had never offered a fire science class like all other schools in Salt Lake County. The Chief said the class comes with no cost to citizens, or to the City, but the School District would reimburse the Murray Fire Department for direct costs. The course would equip senior students with an advantage in being able to get into emergency medical technician, paramedic, and fire schools after high school graduation.

**MOTION:** Mr. Pickett moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Hock **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 expressed appreciation to the first responders for their participation in the Murray Public Safety Fair and thanked the Council Members and citizens for attending the event.

**Adjournment:** 7:18 p.m.

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