

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, September 16, 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
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Rob White	IT Director	Brenda Moore	Finance Director
Russ Kakala	Public Works Director	Aron Frisk	Public Works
Joe Goodman	Public Works	Steven Davis	Public Works
Serra Nemelka	Rockworth Companies	Robyn Colton	HR Director
Greg Bellon	Power Director	Jan Cox	Shade Tree Committee
Citizens and Guests		Camron Kollman	IT

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m. – Council Member Turner

Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting August 5, 2025

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

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

Citizen Comments:

Kathy White – Murray Resident and President of the Murray Chamber of Commerce

Ms. White invited everyone to attend the upcoming Utah Hot Air Balloon Palooza, which would be the second time the Murray Chamber hosted the event.

Colby Oliverson – Murray Resident

Mr. Oliverson expressed gratitude to the Council for discussing a proposed pond ordinance in the previous Committee of the Whole work session. He appreciated the direction the City was moving in, to strike balance between neighborhood concerns and private property rights. He requested they consider additional regulations regarding the number of animals, fish, or aquatic species that residents can possess on a parcel and suggested that the size of any proposed pond be scaled to the lot size.

Peter Campbell – Murray Resident

Mr. Campbell asked for help to resolve concerns at his neighbors’ house, where he believed there were 14 tenants living. He said he has made numerous complaints to the police but things continue to worsen. He said officers told him to contact Utah Section Eight Housing. After filing complaints with Section Eight still nothing is being done. He wants to live in peace but would sell his home if he can’t get help in resolving the issues.

Special Recognition:

1. **Murray City Employee of the Month, Steve Davis, Water Distribution Technician** – Ms. Turner, Mayor Hales and Water Superintendent Aron Frisk presented Mr. Davis with a certificate and a \$50 gift card. Mr. Davis was acknowledged for 36 years of outstanding service in the Murray City Water Department.

Special Presentation:

1. **Presentation of the 2025 Jim and Jean Hendrickson Beautification Awards.** Forestry Supervisor Matt Erkelens and Shade Tree Commission members shared photos and presented five beautification awards to residents within each City District. Murray businesses were also awarded for creating beautiful landscapes within various categories and the Mayor's city-wide award was also given.

Consent Agenda:

1. **Consider confirmation of the Mayor's appointment of Phil Markham to the Personnel Advisory Board for a term beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.** Mayor Hales introduced Mr. Markham noting his experience and requested approval of the appointment from the City Council.

MOTION: Mr. Hock moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Cotter **SECONDED** the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Hearings:

1. **Consider an ordinance permanently closing an alleyway located at approximately 4822 South between State Street and the formally vacated Poplar Street, Murray City, Salt Lake County, State of Utah.** Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson explained that the ordinance was a cleanup step in developing Block One and that the City planned to vacate the right of way for some time. An aerial map was displayed to show a public alleyway located about 500 feet east of City Hall. Mr. Wilkinson said once the alleyway was vacated, the parcel would be included in the plat and deed conveying the property to Rockworth Companies as part of the current development agreement.

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

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

Council Roll Call Vote:

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

2. **Consider an ordinance amending sections 17.24.050, 17.96.020, 17.100.020, 17.104.020, 17.108.020, 17.112.020, 17.116.020, 17.120.020, 17.124.020, and 17.128.020 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to the maximum number of children permitted at a licensed in-home daycare.** Planning Manager Zac Smallwood said Amy Blackwell, owner of Miss Amy's Daycare, requested the amendment and reviewed State Code that currently allows up to 16 children in in-home daycares. Currently Murray

Code only allows up to 12 children.

Mr. Smallwood reviewed eight proposed changes to Murray Code, noted that staff thoroughly researched what other surrounding cities allow and outlined all residential zone changes as well. He shared findings, confirmed that the Planning Commission voted 6-0 on July 3, 2025 to forward a recommendation of approval to the Council and said staff also recommended that the ordinance be adopted.

The amendment would allow Miss Amy's Daycare to operate with two caregivers to oversee up to 16 children. Ms. Blackwell said her daycare had been operating for 24 years and she would never request to exceed more than 16 children. She shared how the State closely monitors in-home daycares with many unannounced visits to check licensing, food, health and wellbeing, and the number of children at the daycare.

The public hearing was open for public comments.

Melanie Jenkins - Murray resident

Ms. Jenkins said as an in-home daycare provider she favored the increase in the number of children. Her daycare did not always operate with 16 children on a daily basis. She said she was also licensed through the State and closely monitored. She said the increase would help give leeway in keeping families together and expressed appreciation to the Council for their consideration.

Jan Cox – Murray resident

Ms. Cox said Miss Amy's Daycare was wonderful. The daycare was well organized and she had seen Ms. Blackwell walking the children to school every day, even practicing before the school year started. Ms. Cox highly recommended that the Council approve the ordinance.

The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Pickett expressed concern with allowing 16 children, believing the increase was a great fit for Ms. Blackwell, but maybe not for the majority of others as the ordinance would apply to the whole City. Ms. Turner agreed. Ms. Blackwell pointed out not every in-home daycare would have 16 children due to State regulations that require 35 square feet per child in order to enroll 16 children. She also mentioned that the State would quickly shut down in-home daycares if parents complained about overcrowding or if they were noncompliant with any regulations. Ms. Cotter supported the increase. Mr. Goodman favored the staff adjustments and felt parents would have the final say about where they would leave their children. Ms. Turner felt safety would be reduced with the increase. Mr. Hock believed the ordinance eliminated confusion that takes place between the State and city ordinances and that there were enough State regulations in place to ensure safety.

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

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Hock Aye

Mr. Pickett Nay

Ms. Cotter Aye

Mr. Goodman Aye

Ms. Turner Nay

Motion passed: 3-2

3. **Consider an ordinance amending the City's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.** Finance Director Brenda Moore said this amendment was to roll forward funding for ongoing construction projects, CIP (Capital Improvement Program) projects and new projects. Also included would be the allocation of various grant

funds, transfers for health insurance adjustments and IT (Information Technology) needs at the cemetery. Ms. Moore reviewed various enterprise fund transactions related to wage adjustments, transfer of property and several roll over projects. She noted that funding for the Murray Theater, the museum, the armory and some equipment was readjusted, which reduced the budget opening amount from her original budget opening presentation. The updated ordinance was provided to the Council prior to the council meeting.

Ms. Moore said the CIP Fund would receive \$10.8 million from reserves for projects in process and for future projects, highlighting several street projects, IT expenses, truck purchases and repairs, a new software purchase, a land purchase and matching grant funds related to pedestrian safety for the City's TRAX stations. Ms. Moore confirmed that the General Fund reserves would remain at 26%.

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

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

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Hock Aye

Mr. Pickett Aye

Ms. Cotter Aye

Mr. Goodman Aye

Ms. Turner Aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Mayor's Report and Questions: Mayor Hales announced that the Murray Chamber of Commerce Balloon Palooza would be held on September 19th, 20th and 21st. He also reported that the Murray Theater passed its final building inspection and would open on September 25, 2025.

Adjournment: 7:35 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III