

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, October 7, 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	Crystal Brown	Council Administrator
Kim Sorensen	Parks Director	Zac Smallwood	Planning Manager
GL Critchfield	City Attorney	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Brooke Smith	City Recorder	Craig Burnett	Police Chief
Rob White	IT Director	Isaac Zenger	IT Support
Citizens and Guests			

Conducting: Council Chair Cotter called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Committee of the Whole, August 26, 2025 and Committee of the Whole, September 2, 2025. Mr. Goodman moved to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Hock seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0

Discussion Item:

- **Fashion Place West Station Area Plan.** This item was pulled from the agenda due to a scheduling conflict with VODA Landscape and Planning.
- **Electric vehicles on the Jordan River Parkway.** Council Member Pickett discussed safety concerns about walking along the JRPT (Jordan River Parkway Trail). Mr. Pickett clarified he was not against bikers or electric bikes and explained his goal was to discuss the possibility of regulating e-bikes and electric vehicles on the trail. He shared about personal encounters that made him feel unsafe at times, noting some vehicles are similar to a small motorcycle. Mr. Pickett researched other cities along the JRPT and found that SLC (Salt Lake City) was the only one to enact laws regulating e-bikes. Council Members analyzed the provided information and Mr. Hock read specifically that all e-bikes in SLC should be operated like a standard bicycle while on the JRPT. Mr. Pickett noted that although strictly prohibited, SLC still allowed e-bikes on the JRPT but only without motor use.

Mr. Pickett thought banning e-bikes altogether in Murray would create a problem with inclusivity and accessibility because individuals without physical strength or capacity to pedal would need to use a motorized vehicle. Ms. Turner felt discernment should be used in banning all electric vehicles, due to those in electric wheelchairs who should be allowed on the JRPT. She also reported the same problem existed on the City's Canal Trail.

Mr. Hock pointed out SLC speed guidelines and asked if SLC had installed speed limit signs along their trail. Mr. Pickett was unaware. Mr. Goodman questioned how City police would have time to monitor speeding and what the speed limit should be. Mr. Pickett agreed enforceability was not possible unless officers were on bicycles. Mr. Hock explained his experience as a biker, that regardless of a 15 mile per hour speed limit, a standard bike could travel up to 20 miles per hour once a good riding speed was reached.

Mr. Pickett said all cities with the JRPT were struggling with the same issue. He reviewed State law pointing out that all e-bikes are required to yield the right of way to pedestrians. He discussed various gating options designed to prevent motorized vehicle access and displayed photos of a swinging gate, a zigzag gate and a wired slowing gate that would be accessible for wheelchairs, eliminating the need for police patrol.

Council Members discussed how parks department vehicles might have trouble entering the trail through a gate. Fire Chief Mittelman commented that removable bollards would be best and explained that emergency medical technician trucks needed open access to the trail.

Mr. Pickett suggested that Council Members return at a later date to discuss the matter further and to continue being mindful of the issue by collecting information and listening to complaints from constituents who use the JRPT. Ms. Cotter thought first steps should be to install signage sporadically along the trail. Mr. Pickett agreed signage might draw attention to safety awareness. Mr. Goodman noted many distracted pedestrians are looking down at cell phones or using earbuds that prevent them from hearing approaching e-bikes. There was consensus that the City should regulate the issue.

Mr. Hill mentioned that the JRC (Jordan River Commission) had studied the issue for some time and they would be looking at speed limits during the next board meeting, which Parks Director Kim Sorenson attended. Mr. Sorensen agreed e-bike issues were more common due to increased use, confirmed SLC had seen no improvement since implementing new regulations and that Murray had existing signs prohibiting motorized vehicles on the JRPT. There was consensus that Mr. Sorenson would report on the JRC meeting related to possible speed signs at a later date.

- **Adjournment:** 6:08 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III