

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Work Session Minutes of Tuesday, November 25, 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 Administrator
Kim Sorensen	Parks Director	GL Critchfield	City Attorney
Hal Luke	Senior Center	Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief
Jeff Martin	Parks Director	Nick Haskin	Battalion Chief
Aron Frisk	Water Superintendent	Jeff Puls	Assistant Fire Chief
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Chad Wilkinson	Community and Economic Dev. Director
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Brooke Smith	City Recorder	Rob White	IT Director
Citizens and Guests		Ben Gray	IT Support

Conducting: Council Chair Cotter called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Discussion Items:

- **Murray Senior Recreation Center Report.** Senior Center Board Member Hal Luke shared about a bridge tournament held in October and the annual Veterans Day celebration held on November 10, 2025.
- **A resolution finding that adopting the Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code to apply within Murray City is impracticable.** Fire Chief Joey Mittelman explained that the City was required to pass a resolution by January 1, 2026 to comply with HB (House Bill) 48, related to wildfire prevention. He noted that it was unusual for the City to adopt a resolution declaring something impracticable, but the resolution was required to confirm that Murray City has no WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) areas. Chief Mittelman outlined why the bill was critical for public safety, pointed out the requirement for cities to identify any WUI zones and explained that the City was tied to related contracts because the MFD (Murray Fire Department) served as a resource for the State and Salt Lake County to help with wildland fires and serve in WUI areas.

Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Puls believed the State Code was a valuable tool for addressing wildfires and confirmed that because Murray was located in a urban suburban area, the City has no current or anticipated areas that meet the criteria for a WUI designation. Chief Puls said the resolution would serve as a formal recognition of the absence of a WUI within Murray City geographical boundaries. Chief Mittelman confirmed that next steps include drafting a resolution recognizing the absence of WUI areas in Murray City to fulfill HB-48 requirements.

- **An ordinance enacting Section 17.76.165 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to residential ponds.** Community and Economic Development Director Chad Wilkinson said staff drafted a pond ordinance in response to Council direction from the last Committee of the Whole meeting. The ordinance was presented to the PC (Planning Commission) on October 16, 2025, where the PC voted 4-1 to recommend that the Council adopt the ordinance with one modification.

Mr. Wilkinson explained that the final vote of 4-1 included four commissioners who voted to forward a recommendation of approval to amend the text, by removing letter E from the proposed standards. Letter E states that a building permit is required for ponds greater than 24 inches deep and containing more than 5,000 gallons of water. He clarified that the opposing vote occurred because one commissioner believed there should be no ordinance at all. He also reported that staff discovered updated information related to pond regulations since the PC meeting.

Mr. Wilkinson said that staff initially contacted cities with residential pond regulations to learn about their pond standard. Staff found that the regulations for ponds greater than 24 inches deep and containing more than 5,000 gallons of water was borrowed language from building codes only intended for above-ground water tanks and not ponds. Because there was no existing Code for residential ponds, staff ended up modeling a draft ordinance after Herriman City's Code that followed the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

Mr. Wilkinson explained that when staff recently revisited Herriman's website, they found that the Code was removed. Herriman officials confirmed their Pond Code was discontinued because they could no longer justify applying pool standards to residential ponds after learning that the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code only applied to swimming pools. As a result, Herriman stopped requiring permits for residential ponds altogether.

He outlined the proposed standards presented to the PC noting that commissioners voted to keep standards A through D and strike letter E. Mr. Wilkinson shared drawings, various photos and aerial images to show a typical residential pond, including pumps and liners and to point out that a 5,000-gallon pond was much smaller than a standard 24,000-gallon swimming pool.

He highlighted a photo of a Murray homeowner's pond, who is a member of the Wasatch Chapter of the Pond Association of Utah and opposed the fencing mandate. The resident also confirmed that anyone building a pond would never object to having a required liner because the goal of a pond was to retain water. Mr. Wilkinson outlined significant differences between ponds and pools and described landscape material and vegetation to recap about the Division of Wildlife Resources and the MAD (Mosquito Abatement District) currently regulating fish and mosquitoes.

Mr. Wilkinson cautioned that requiring permits for ponds would create significant challenges for the building department because ponds have no structure to inspect and would require costly geotechnical reports. He pointed out that ponds are rarely an issue for the City and urged Council Members to avoid unintended consequences. He reminded them that even without adopting the proposed code, the City and residents could still address pond-related disputes through the civil process.

Ms. Turner felt that overregulation could discourage residents from having ponds. Mr. Wilkinson agreed standards A through D were viewed as common-sense measures by the Wasatch Pond Association. Mr. Pickett still had concerns about mosquito issues and the lack of pond size limits, thinking that an entire backyard could be turned into a pond. Mr. Wilkinson noted the excellent record of MAD in preventing mosquito related problems and confirmed that the City has never encountered problems with backyard ponds before. There was consensus to continue the discussion on December 9, 2025, at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

- **An ordinance enacting Title 11 of the Murray City Municipal Code establishing the Administrative Code Enforcement Program.** Mr. Wilkinson reviewed language of the proposed ordinance. Highlights included

the implementation of a new division under CED, a new program for processing violations, and the adoption of new policies and procedures that included the selection and appointment of an administrative law judge, the adoption of consistent fines for violations and the hiring of a code enforcement manager. Mr. Wilkinson confirmed that funding already existed in the CED budget for three officers, although only two positions were currently needed. The part-time administrative law judge would create a financial impact, however fees and fines associated with the new program would be applied towards those costs.

Once the request for proposal process was underway to find a judge the cost would better known. Mr. Wilkinson clarified that the judge would not serve in the City Court but would be appointed by Mayor Hales and considered by the City Council. Mr. Wilkinson believed Title 11 would give the City new tools in helping staff to get compliance with Code Enforcement issues. The program would also help the public understand a predictable process for handling violations.

- **A Joint Resolution adopting the Murray City Privacy Program Policy.** City Recorder Brooke Smith explained that under the Utah Data Privacy Act, the City was required to launch a data privacy program by the end of the year. The program's goal is to establish a centralized approach to governing data management and to ensure that all Utah government agencies handle personal information responsibly. Ms. Smith outlined in detail the three phases for implementing the policy and confirmed that the program's due date was December 31, 2025.
- **An ordinance enacting Section 12.28.070 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to collection fees for outstanding balances owed to the city and amending Sections 7.04.030, 12.30.010, 13.04.040 and 13.48.050 of the Murray City Municipal Code relating to the same.** City Finance Director Brenda Moore explained that currently when a utility account is closed for delinquency, the account is turned over to a collection agency. If the agency collects the outstanding balance the agency keeps 30% of the amount and the City receives the remaining 70%. Ms. Moore explained that when the City switched to a new collection agency, it was suggested that language be added to City Code allowing a collection agency to add their own fee to the total past due amount so that the City could receive 100% of the outstanding bill. Ms. Moore also pointed out there were areas of the Code where no late fee could not be assessed, so language would be added to make the Code more uniform. Areas noted were Solid Waste, Parks and Storm Water services. The ordinance would also clarify that the residential fee schedule did not change.
- **A Resolution adopting and approving the Murray City Investment Policy.** City Treasurer Mindy Stacy stated that the request to update the City Investment Policy was to align with the Utah Money Management Act (UMMA), which now permits investments in Certificates of Deposit. The proposed resolution also mirrors changes made by UMMA related to how investment advisors and institutions would be selected.
- **Adjournment:** 5:38 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Administrator III