

**MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of Tuesday, May 13, 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
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief
Travis Bodtcher	Assistant Fire Chief	Russ Kakala	Public Works Director
Ben Ford	Wastewater Superintendent	Erica Brown	Chief Communications Officer
Brenda Moore	Finance Director	Adam Balls	Emergency Medical Doctor
Chad Wilkinson	CED Director	Kim Sorensen	Parks and Recreation Director
Camron Kollman	IT Support	Citizens & Guests	

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Council Meeting, April 15, 2025.

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

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

**Citizen Comments:**

Cheneil Hill – Salt Lake City Resident

Ms. Hill introduced her non-profit organization, SAFE (Stand Against Fear and Exploitation), that helps to protect Utah communities from people who use status or faith to shield others from accountability. She asked the Council to advocate for State Reform to make certain sex offenses remain a criminal felony.

**Special Recognition:**

**A Joint Proclamation of the Mayor and Municipal Council of Murray City for Emergency Medical Services Week.** Murray Fire Department Medical Director Adam Balls stressed the importance of acknowledging EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Week. Dr. Balls said he was honored to work with Murray’s outstanding men and women who serve with heart, passion and dedication. He confirmed that under his care on a regular basis the Murray Fire personnel would respond with incredible skill, saving lives, treating pain and offering compassion and comfort in their hour of need. Assistant Fire Chief Travis Bodtcher agreed that all Murray EMS staff operates with professionalism, expressed gratitude to have support of the Mayor and Council and read the Proclamation.

**MOTION:** Ms. Turner moved to approve the Joint Proclamation. Mr. Pickett SECONDED the motion.

Council Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Pickett	Aye
Ms. Cotter	Aye
Mr. Goodman	Aye

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

**Business Items:**

1. **Consider a resolution of the Murray City Municipal Council giving notice of intent to adjust specified portions of its wastewater service boundaries which it has in common with the Midvalley Improvement District.** Wastewater Superintendent Ben Ford said the intent to adjust the wastewater boundaries with Midvalley Improvement District was reviewed in the previous Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Ford displayed a map to pinpoint the affected areas and recapped about how Midvalley records were very outdated and that the need to update the wastewater service boundaries would not change Murray City boundaries.

**MOTION:** Mr. Pickett moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Cotter SECONDED the motion.

**Council Roll Call Vote:**

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

2. **Consider a resolution adopting the City Council's Tentative Budget, as amended, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, and scheduling a hearing to receive public comment before the final budget is adopted.** Finance Director Brenda Moore gave a brief overview of the tentative budget saying that the GF (General Fund) budget was balanced by using \$4.7 million from the .2% Optional Sales Tax Revenue, rather than using money from GF reserves.

She discussed the proposed 5% Property Tax revenue increase, explaining that since new growth revenue calculations were not available yet, the tax increase may not need to be 5% and the maximum tax increase of 5% would be \$23 on a \$520,000 home. She said this would only occur with zero growth and Murray City has usually always had at least 1% growth in property tax revenue.

In addition the budget proposed a 2.5% Cost of Living increase for all City employees, full funding of the Step Plan program and cost increases on both medical and dental health insurance. Also three new full-time positions, pay range increases for 85 positions, affecting 162 employees and the allocation of \$13 million from the GF reserves to the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) Fund.

Ms. Moore outlined Special Revenue transfers, Internal Service Funds allocations and all proposed activity for the Enterprise Funds. Enterprise Funds activity proposed allocations for Charges for Services revenue, Operating revenue and reserve transfers to fund all related CIP projects.

She provided an overview of the GF stating that reserves would finish out at 26% by the end of fiscal year 2026. She reiterated that although a 5% property tax revenue increase was proposed, the actual tax rate increase would be calculated after new revenue growth was realized on June 8, 2025. She said a property tax increase this year would contribute to one police officer's salary and the rest would fund the running of the Murray Theater because the venue has become more costly to operate than projected last year. She reviewed how Sales Tax revenue was budgeted, reported a 4% or \$1.5 million increase in Personnel costs, a 4% decrease in Operation costs and pointed out the annual cost to operate the Murray Theater was approximately \$1 million. A graph was reviewed to explain how GF revenue was generated and the related

expenditures by function.

Ms. Moore said the CIP Fund would pay for capital projects totaling approximately \$18.5 million this year, noting that she added the Murray Theater to the CIP list. She explained that because the opening was delayed again, she would need to roll forward \$750,000 to help keep the work going.

Other CIP spending included \$3.2 million in fire equipment that includes \$1.7 million in savings, \$750,000 for police equipment, \$3.4 million in streets projects, \$2 million towards the outdoor pool renovation project, \$4 million to cover additional items needed for the public works facility rebuild project, \$180,000 for solar lighting on the Jordan Parkway. Ms. Moore clarified that the solar project only involves testing lights in a small section of the trail. Also \$100,000 to install a pump and pump house at the Willow Pond Blair Well and other maintenance projects. Maintenance work totaling \$2.3 million for existing City buildings included \$1 million of previous savings.

Ms. Moore said the resolution to adopt the tentative budget would also set the public hearing date for June 3, 2025. A Truth in Taxation meeting would occur later in August 2025.

Mr. Hock requested that \$200,000 be allocated for art in the Murray City Center District. He asked how the amount might be funded. Ms. Moore thought funding should come from the sale of the old Murray City Hall property because financing would need to come from the Central Business District of the RDA (Redevelopment Agency). Mr. Hock asked if the amount could be added to the budget for the final June adoption and public hearing. Ms. Moore said the matter should first be discussed at the next RDA Committee planning meeting to seek support from other council members, noting that two members are required to bring the request forward. She felt more details about the type of art were needed, then she could add the item to the proposed addendum.

Mr. Goodman explained he would be voting no on the budget, but not because Ms. Moore didn't do a great job preparing the FY 2025-2026 budget. The reason was due to not knowing what the exact revenue would be, so he could not support the 5% increase.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cotter moved to approve the resolution. Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

**Council Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Pickett      Aye

Ms. Cotter      Aye

Mr. Goodman      Nay

Ms. Turner      Aye

Mr. Hock      Aye

Motion passed: 4-1

**Mayor's Report and Questions:** Mayor Hales said he would travel next Tuesday with KSL News to do a news story about the Light Up Navajo Project in Arizona. He also announced the outdoor pool will open Memorial Day weekend, and the Murray Armory Event Center will hold its grand opening on June 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:** 7:03 p.m.

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