

MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Tuesday, July 15, 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
G.L. Critchfield	City Attorney	Pattie Johnson	Council Administration
Doug Hill	Chief Administrative Officer	Christopher Castrillo	Murray Cemetery
Kathy White	Chamber of Commerce	Brooke Smith	City Recorder
Craig Burnett	Police Chief	Joey Mittelman	Fire Chief
Kim Sorensen	Parks Director	Bruce Holyoak	Parks Superintendent
Ben Gray	IT Support	Greg Bellon	Power Director
Ben Ford	Wastewater Superintendent	Russ KaKala	Public Works Director
Citizens and Guests			

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

Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting, June 3, 2025 and Council Meeting, June 17, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Pickett moved to approve, and Ms. Turner SECONDED the motion.

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

Citizen Comments:

Colby Oliverson – Murray Resident

Mr. Oliverson spoke about his neighbor digging a 5' foot deep, 15 by 10 foot pond in his backyard, intended for ducks, fish and crawfish. Mr. Oliverson said other violations at this property were resolved by City Code Enforcement, but since no Code existed for regulating backyard ponds, no further action could be taken. He shared concerns about public health risks and he urged the Council to create an ordinance to manage unregulated ponds.

Bob Van Bibber – Murray Resident

Mr. Van Bibber spoke about his neighbor installing a pond that would be placed directly behind his home. He noted previous issues there, including a woodpile fire, free-range chickens and a rat problem that led him to invest in a rat prevention program. Mr. Van Bibber felt the City should better regulate the number of chickens and beehives allowed at a single residence. He shared concerns about the potential for more mosquitos, foul odors, the pond seeping into a nearby garage and the risk of children falling into the pond. He asked that a solution be found to stop the pond from being completed.

Lena Ayotte – Murray Resident

Ms. Ayotte spoke about a sober living facility located across the street from her home. She questioned why the facility was allowed to operate near a public park, suspected that the facility was federally funded, but believed it was profiting from illegal activity. She also believed people living at the facility were selling and using drugs and the people staying there were drinking alcohol despite the claim that it was a sober living facility.

Trisha Syversen – Murray Resident

Ms. Syversen expressed concern about a sober living facility next to her home urging the Council to protect neighborhood children. She supported recovery efforts but did not feel the facility should be located next to the park entrance. She feared for her child's safety. She thought residents should have been notified before the facility was established and mentioned that a suspected registered sex offender had stayed at the facility, visited the park and was now incarcerated.

Corey Peterson – Murray Resident

Ms. Peterson expressed concern about the sober living facility in her neighborhood, saying she agreed with previous comments. She felt gob smacked that the City had no warning system in place to warn residents and that no written notice of any kind was sent to them.

Chris Brelsford – Murray Resident

Mr. Brelsford opposed having a sober living facility in his neighborhood and said he and his wife visit the park several times a day and they have noticed illicit activity. He was uncomfortable knowing sex offenders might be staying at the house when children are riding bikes around the neighborhood. He asked the City to help ensure the neighborhood was safe.

Marlene Maag – Murray Resident

Ms. Maag said safety concerns for her children began after she noticed unusual activity at a house in her neighborhood, that she later learned was a sober living facility. As a sexual abuse survivor, she was terrified about the possibility of sex offenders living there. Ms. Maag said her children avoid the park now, and she no longer feels safe walking her dog at the park where she witnessed suspicious behavior, including men lingering in park bathrooms. She was upset that residents were not informed about the decision to put the facility in her neighborhood.

Becky Hansen – Murray Resident

Ms. Hansen said as an avid bird watcher she strongly opposed to the City's plan to install solar lighting along the Jordan River Parkway. She spoke about the ecological importance of preserving the dark sky corridor for migratory birds and shared guidelines from the Jordan River Commission that discouraged artificial lighting in natural areas. She noted that the park closes at 11:00 p.m. and feared that all-night lighting would attract unwanted activity and that the lighting would disrupt the park's natural setting. She suggested reallocating funds toward other improvements like repairing the equestrian trail under 5400 South or replacing a long-standing footbridge in Hunter's Woods.

Mike Hlavaty – Murray Resident

Mr. Hlavaty said his neighbor's concerns were not exaggerated about the sober living facility in their neighborhood. Besides constant drug exchanges he suspected prostitution and open needle use, noting that his wife was stalked and his babysitter nearly sexually assaulted. He believed several felons lived at the facility now and he feared for his son's safety. He felt the once nice neighborhood was now a fearful place to live and if issues were not resolved many residents would be moving out of the neighborhood.

Special Recognition: Murray City Employee of the Month, Christopher Castrillo, Parks Cemetery Supervisor.

Ms. Cotter, Mayor Hales and Parks Superintendent Bruce Holyoak presented Mr. Castrillo with a certificate and a \$50 gift card. Mr. Castrillo was acknowledged with gratitude for maintaining the Murray City Cemetery as a beautiful, peaceful and welcoming place for all.

Public Hearings:

1. Consider a resolution of the Murray City Municipal Council approving an adjustment to the wastewater

service boundaries it has in common with Midvalley Improvement District. Wastewater Superintendent Ben Ford said that the Midvalley Improvement District service boundary had not been updated since 1947. A map was displayed to pinpoint the affected boundary near the Murray Sam's Club property and the boundary at the 756 East Winchester property. He shared the approved May 2025 resolution which was the Notice of Intent to adjust the boundary that included the legal description and the Final Local Entity Plan plat map. The Council would consider two resolutions as part of the boundary adjustment: one approving the plat itself and one approving the boundary adjustment.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

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

Council Roll Call Vote:

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

2. **Consider a resolution of the Murray City Municipal Council accepting the plat depicting the adjustment to the wastewater service boundaries the City has in common with Midvalley Improvement District.** Mr. Ford reiterated that this second proposed resolution would approve the plat description, the legal description and the plat map.

The public hearing was open for public comments. No comments were given, and the public hearing was closed.

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

Council Roll Call Vote:

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

Mayor's Report and Questions: Mayor Hales said Murray Theater was closer to completion and the grand opening would be held Friday, September 26, 2025. Tickets would be available on Friday, August 1, 2025 for a musical event. The annual Boards and Commissions event would also be held this year at the Murray Theater.

Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Pattie Johnson
Council Office Administrator III