

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2025  
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 56 NORTH 100 WEST**

Mayor Melani Torgersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Blaine Porter, Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman was excused.

Also present were Fred Spencer, Bill Weppner, Terence Tontlewicz, Victory Crawford and Julie Brugger.

Britt Usher joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Council member Orme moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2024 MEETING**

**Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2024 meeting as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS**

**PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES**

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

**SCHEDULED ITEMS**

**BRITT & TREVOR USHER – WATER CONNECTION**

Council member Wilson asked where this property is located. City Recorder Steed said it is in Moqui Garden's and the property was purchased from Tom Mansell. Council member Porter explained if the main water line is on the other side of the road the Ushers will need to bore under the road. **Council member Porter moved to approve the Water Connection for Mr. and Mrs. Usher. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

**BRITT & TREVOR USHER – SEWER CONNECTION**

Council member Porter said if the Sewer Line is on the other side of the street the Ushers will need to bore under and if it is in the middle of the street, they will have additional costs to cut the

street. **Council member Porter moved to approve the Sewer Connection for Mr. and Mrs. Usher with additional cost if they have to cut the street. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Porter and Wilson voting aye.**

### **GARFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT – ESCALANTE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

Mayor Torgersen explained this item. This item was discussed at length and Mayor Torgersen suggested the School District come back with a detailed proposal. **Council member Wilson moved to Support the Football Program without making any specific financial commitments at this time. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

### **APPOINT PLANNING AND ZONING MEMBERS**

Mayor Torgersen explained that Shane Meisenbach is not able to continue as a Planning and Zoning member. Mayor Torgersen said she would like to appoint Kristal Gurr and Ed Shakespear as Planning and Zoning members. **Council member Wilson moved to appoint Kristal Gurr and Ed Shakespear as Planning and Zoning members for a three-year term. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

City Recorder Steed said it is time to order the Wreaths for the 2025 Wreaths Across America Ceremony. City Recorder Steed explained the cost for the wreaths should not be more than \$1003.00 and there is \$300.00 in donations. **Council member Porter moved to purchase wreaths for next year’s ceremony. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

City Recorder Steed said Eric Stout from Boulder would like to pick up the old wreaths and repurpose them. The Council is in favor of Mr. Stout taking the old Wreaths.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS ADMINISTRATIVE**

City Recorder Steed said the budget and financial reports are available for review.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT BILL WEPPNER**

Mr. Weppner said since the last meeting there have been a number of call outs including two false fire alarms. Mr. Weppner explained one false fire alarm was Turn About Ranch and one was the Circle D Motel. Mr. Weppner asked the City to follow their Ordinance on the false fire alarm penalties and asked if the money could go towards a trailer to store the fireworks.

Mr. Weppner said there are ongoing issues with the new radios and a lack of effective communication from the county. Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department needs a reliable pager system. This item was discussed at length and Mayor Torgersen will contact County Sheriff Houston to see what can be done.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN**

Mayor Torgersen had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN**

Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON**

Council member Wilson thanked the City and the community in general for all the support for the Christmas Light Train. Council member Wilson said all the expenses this year were covered by donations.

Council member Wilson said he and City Recorder Steed met with Armstong Engineering to go over the long-term plan for the Airport. Council member Wilson explained this is a twenty-year plan that is required by the FAA. Council member Wilson said the Surface Weather Observation Station (AWOS) is scheduled for 2026.

**COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER**

Council member Porter said the Annual Water Conference is coming up and, in his opinion, we do not want to do like the past and leave our community unprotected. Council member Porter said he would like to look at how many Continuing Education Unit's (CEU's) everyone has and decide who to send. Council member Porter said we do need to send Brent Pickering to the Wastewater Certification Class. This item was discussed at length.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE**

Council member Stowe had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME**

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

**UNPAID BILLS**

**Council member Stowe moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Wilson and Porter voting aye.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session needed at this time.

**Council member Porter moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m.**

**Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.**

/s/ Stephanie Steed  
Stephanie Steed, MMC  
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 1/21/2025