

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 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 and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman arrived at 6:07 p.m. City Attorney Barry Huntington joined electronically.

Also present were Savannah Pickering, Fred Spencer, DeEtte Spencer, Sonata Griffin, Ellie Nelson, Rylee Frei, Jessie McDonald, Amre Jenkins, Taylie Carlisle, Kevin Griffin, Lindsey Lindsay, Dan Meisenbach, Sherri Meisenbach, Terence Tontlewicz, Victory Crawford and Ryan Cottam.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2025 MEETING**

**Council member Orme moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe and Porter voting aye. Council member Wilson abstained because he was not present at said meeting.**

**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**

**ESCALANTE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL – DONATION**

**KEVIN GRIFFIN**

Mr. Griffin said last year the Boys Basketball Team approached the City for help paying for the motel rooms at State Basketball. Mr. Griffin said they have had three overnight stays this year and have spent \$2,100.00 on motel rooms. Mr. Griffin explained the rooms for State Basketball are in Richfield and will be \$301.00 before tax per room. Mr. Griffin said they are asking the City for \$1,000.00 to pay for the motel rooms for State Basketball. Mayor Torgersen said the City donates \$700.00 for events but this is different. Mr. Griffin said in no way do we expect or

feel like we are owed this but we are asking for help with the room budget. Council member Stowe said she feels like we should donate to the Boys Basketball Team. Mr. Griffin said \$700.00 would be great. Council member Orme said hotel rooms are a different discussion than asking for equipment. Council member Orme said when it is equipment and you have done fundraisers and have a goal, she feels comfortable in donating to that. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Porter moved to donate \$700.00 to the Boys Basketball Team to go towards motel rooms at State Basketball. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.** Mayor Torgersen said she would like to ask the Boys Basketball Team to do some community service for the donation. Mayor Torgersen said her idea would be cleaning around the dumpsters. Mr. Griffin said they would be happy to clean around the dumpsters and thanked the Council for the donation.

Council member Lyman arrived at this time.

### **ESCALANTE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL – DONATION**

#### **SANATA GRIFFIN**

Ms. Griffin said the Girls Basketball Team has been working hard this year and is excited to have the opportunity to attend State Basketball. Ms. Griffin said the Girls Basketball Team needs your support to help cover and contribute to our travel expenses.

#### **ELLIE NELSON**

Ms. Nelson said your donation will ensure our athletes can represent our community with pride and compete at their highest level. Ms. Nelson said any contribution would have a huge impact. Ms. Nelson said please consider supporting our team, any donation will help. **Council member Porter moved to donate \$700.00 to the Girls Basketball Team to help cover their expenses at State Basketball. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Porter, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

Mayor Torgersen said she would like to ask the Girls Basketball to do some community service for the donation and clean around the dumpsters.

### **ESCALANTE OUTFITTERS – LOCAL CONSENT**

Mayor Torgersen said Escalante Outfitters is asking us to sign their local consent for their alcohol license. Mayor Torgersen said this has to be done every year. **Council member Wilson moved to approve the Local Consent for Escalante Outfitters. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

### **LINDSEY LINDSAY – INSURANCE DONATION FOR JR. RODEO**

Ms. Lindsay said she is requesting some help from the city to cover the cost of insurance for the Junior Rodeo series. Ms. Lindsay said the amount for the insurance is \$504.75. Ms. Lindsay said the donation the City made last year was a huge help, and she is really grateful for that. Ms. Lindsay said she does not want to come to the city every year for a donation and she hopes to be able to be independent in the next year or two. Ms. Lindsay said she would appreciate some help from the city again this year. Council member Orme asked how many participants she will have this year. Ms. Lindsay said she does not know, but last year she had around thirty kids. Ms. Lindsay said she hopes to have a better turnout this year. **Council member Stowe moved to pay for the insurance in the amount of \$504.75. Council member Porter seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT – PARKING SIGNS**

City Recorder Steed said the Fire Department is asking the City to purchase six signs that say Firefighter parking only. Mayor Torgersen said who uses the parking right now. City Recorder Steed said Firefighters, EMS and the Police use the parking. Council member Porter said if he is not mistaken, the Dental Clinic also uses the parking but will be moving to the new building in a few months. Mayor Torgersen said it is also used by people when there are events in the park. Mayor Torgersen asked the Council how they felt about signs that say firefighter parking only. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Lyman moved to purchase signs that say emergency personnel parking only. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

### **COMMUNITY PARK PROJECT**

Mayor Torgersen said she and City Recorder Steed had a meeting with Sunrise Engineering about a possible grant to put in pickleball courts. Mayor Torgersen said there are a lot of people that are interested in pickleball and she would like to know the council's thoughts. City Recorder Steed said the grant would be around \$200,000.00 with a city match of twenty percent. This item was discussed at length. **Council member Wilson moved to move forward with pursuing a grant for Pickleball Courts at the Mohr Christensen Park. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson, Orme and Porter voting aye.**

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

City Recorder Steed explained with the Federal Grant temporary freeze we are not sure if we will be getting our pay request for the turnouts until the freeze is over. City Recorder Steed said the request is for \$73,786.71 for the turnout gear that is due on March 3, 2025. City Recorder Steed said she has a call into the grant office to see what we need to do.

City Recorder Steed explained there will be a public hearing on March 4, 2025 to adopt the 2025 Water Conservation Plan.

City Recorder Steed said the Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference is April 16-18, 2025 in Saint George. City Recorder Steed said if anyone is interested in going let her know so she can reserve motel rooms.

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**

The Fire Department had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN**

Mayor Torgersen had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN**

Council member Lyman said he has been in contact with Dave Dodds from the County regarding the chip seal project. Council member Lyman said the project will be \$30,000.00 a mile and he will need to report how many miles the City needs done this year.

Council member Lyman said he has contacted Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to see if they have a used dump truck that the city could look at purchasing to upgrade what we currently have.

**COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON**

Council member Wilson said he has received some lighting equipment for runway lights at the airport.

Council member Wilson said he Spent several hours this weekend filling holes and grading the water tanks road.

**COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER**

Council member Porter had nothing to report at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE**

Council member Stowe said she will be contacting the public works department to show them where the signs need to be installed at the Park and Multi-Purpose Building. Council member Stowe said she would like the signs up by the end of April.

Council member Stowe said Karen Munson has approached her about the Heritage Park Flag but she does not know what happened to it. Council member Stowe said if the flag is missing, she does not want the flagpole that was donated put in.

Council member Wilson asked if the City could take the parking and one way signs down at the old Elementary School. Mayor Torgersen said she will have the City Public Works Employees take them down.

**COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME**

Council member Orme said after some review the state has sent some things that they want to see improving on the landfill, and the city's been doing an excellent job working on it. Council member Orme said we have some things that we were out of compliance with, but we have a plan to fix all of it. Council member Orme said our first step is to get a survey on the Landfill property and fence all the way around it.

**UNPAID BILLS**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session needed at this time.

**Council member Stowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Stephanie Steed\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Steed, MMC  
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 3/4/2025