

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2025
PUBLIC HEARING/ELECTRONIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.
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, Chad Lyman, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Dan Meisenbach, Sherri Meisenbach, Fred Spencer and Victory Crawford.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2025 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, Stowe and Porter voting aye.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Orme moved to open the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Lyman, Wilson and Orme voting aye.

ORDINANCE 2025-11 AMENDING ORDINANCE 8.04.060 (B) DELINQUENCY - LATE FEE FROM \$5.00 A MONTH TO \$15.00 A MONTH.

City Recorder Steed explained Ordinance 2025-11 and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. City Recorder Steed said there has not been an increase in late fees for over twenty years.

There were no comments from the public.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Council member Orme moved to close the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Orme, Lyman, Wilson, Porter and Stowe voting aye.

DECISION ON ORDINANCE 2025-11 AMENDING ORDINANCE 8.04.060 (B) DELINQUENCY - LATE FEE FROM \$5.00 A MONTH TO \$15.00 A MONTH.

Mayor Torgersen asked if there was any need for further discussion.

Council member Porter moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-11. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Wilson, Porter, Lyman and Orme voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner expressed concerns about prolonged wildfire smoke pollution affecting sensitive populations in the area. Mr. Weppner said he has contacted local, state and federal authorities about smoke exposure risks and potential health impacts. Mr. Weppner asked the Council to get involved and emphasized the importance of monitoring not only air pollution but also potential chemical contaminants in the smoke that could affect water quality.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

RIGGIN PORTER - COLOR-COUNTRY RODEO TEAM - DONATION

Mayor Torgersen said Mr. Porter is not in attendance and asked for a motion to table this item.

Council member Lyman moved to table this item until Mr. Porter can be in attendance.

Council member Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Porter, Orme and Wilson voting aye.

SHERRI MEISENBACH - CAR SHOW DONATION

Mrs. Meisenbach said she is here representing the Escalante Lions Club. Mrs. Meisenbach asked the Council to donate \$700.00 to the Moqui Motor Madness Car Show, which will be used for T-shirts, advertisements, and trophies. **Council member Wilson moved to donate \$700.00 to the Lions Club for the Moqui Motor Madness Car Show. Council member Porter seconded the motion.** Council member Lyman asked if the T-shirts are for the participants or to purchase. Mrs. Meisenbach said both. **Motion carried with Council members Orme, Stowe, Porter, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

AIRPORT CONSULTANT ENGINEERING SERVICE

Council member Wilson said every five years the city is required to advertise and solicit statements of qualifications and experience from consulting firms to provide professional airport planning services and professional engineering services. Council member Wilson explained that the City received one proposal which was from Lochner. Council member Wilson explained Lochner is the City's current engineering firm and has always provided great service in both engineering and planning. Council member Wilson said City Recorder Steed advertised for both planning services and professional engineering services. **Council member Wilson moved to obtain Lochner as our Professional Engineering Consultants. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, Porter, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

AIRPORT CONSULTANT PLANNING SERVICE

Council member Wilson moved to obtain Lochner as our Professional Planning Consultants. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Porter, Stowe, Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.

BILL WEPPNER - REIMBURSEMENT FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION ON FEDERAL LAND

Mr. Weppner said he is asking for authorization from the City Council to submit a reimbursement claim for \$1,168.29 for the fire department's response to a July 5, 2025 incident at the Posy Lake Campground. Mr. Weppner explained that the claim would be supported by meeting minutes and detailed costs, including the use of 1,750 gallons of water. Mr. Weppner said the submission letter should be signed by Chief Porter and Mayor Torgersen. Mr. Weppner requested that the reimbursement be applied to the fire department's budget.

Council member Stowe moved to have Mr. Weppner move forward and submit a reimbursement claim for the July 5, 2025 Posy Lake Campground incident in the amount of \$1,168.29. 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 said the budget and financial reports are available for review.

City Recorder Steed said the annual audit is scheduled for September 4, 2025.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said due to dry conditions and fire danger the Fire Department did not shoot off fireworks for the 24 of July Celebration. Mr. Weppner said the fireworks and equipment are stored in the trailer at the City Yard. Mr. Weppner said during the 24 July Celebration they had vendors blocking the Fire Department entrance and would like to implement cones and tape for fire station entrance during events.

Mr. Weppner reminded everyone of the fire restrictions statewide.

Mr. Weppner said the fire department is still having issues with the pagers and radios not working.

Mayor Torgersen said next year is the 150 year celebration for Escalante City and the 250 year celebration for the United States of America and she would like to have small fireworks displays for New Year's and the 4th of July. Mayor Torgersen asked Mr. Weppner to talk to the Fire Department about doing the firework displays.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN

Mayor Torgersen said the 24th of July Celebration was a success.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman explained Jay Brooks with the County said they have enough oil to chip seal a couple more miles of roads for the City. Council member Lyman said he will coordinate with the county on chip sealing 100 North, 200 North, the old sawmill hill, the road in front of Ryan Crosier's home and the water tank road.

Council member Lyman said the County has been filling potholes and he would like to thank them for taking care of us. Council member Lyman said the County works well with the City and our employees.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson thanked the city staff and volunteers for their work on the July 24th event.

Council member Wilson explained he has the electrical outlets and the lightning arrester on the Fire Station. Council member Wilson said he would like to add more outlets on the North side of the Fire Station to support events in the park.

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 attending a zoom call on the America 250 year celebration.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

Council member Wilson stated a conflict of interest due to having an invoice on the unpaid bills list. **Council member Orme moved to pay the unpaid bills. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Orme, Lyman and Porter voting aye. Council member Wilson abstained.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session needed at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

/s/ Stephanie Steed
Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 9/2/2025