

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
WORK 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 Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, Marlene Stowe, Chad Lyman, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Blaine Porter was excused.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Fred Spencer, DeEtte Spencer, Harriet Priska, Margie Weppner, Terence Tontlewicz, David Cooper, Lawrence Barnes, Public Works Brent Pickering, Julie Brugger, Riffin Porter, Lori Porter 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 Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson and Orme voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2025 MEETING

Council member Orme moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman and Stowe voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

JENIFER THOMAS

Ms. Thomas said she is the new Forest Service District Ranger and informed the council that wood permits can no longer be sold at the Visitor Center, with Red Canyon being the closest location.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

RESOLUTION 2025-13 DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY

City Recorder Steed explained why it is important to adopt this resolution.

Council member Orme read the resolution. **Council member Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-13 Declaring a State of Emergency. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Lyman, Wilson and Orme voting aye.**

RIGGIN PORTER - COLOR-COUNTRY RODEO TEAM - DONATION

Mr. Porter said he is a member of the Color-Country Rodeo Team and they are asking for a sponsorship donation. Mr. Porter explained that the team comprises members from various communities including Escalante, Panguitch, Kanab, Piute, and surrounding areas. Council member Orme asked the number of Escalante team members. Mr. Porter said there are four. Mr. Porter said the donation would be used to host the rodeos. Mayor Torgersen suggested that in exchange for the donation, the City would like to see some community service, such as cleaning dumpsters, painting curbs, or cleaning gutters. **Council member Orme moved to donate \$400.00 to the Color County Rodeo Team. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Stowe, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

HARRIET PRISKA – CONSTITUTION WEEK PROCLAMATION

Ms. Priska read the Constitution Week Proclamation and asked Mayor Torgersen to sign it.

WATER PURCHASE AND BASE FEE FOR WATER HYDRANT METER USE

City Recorder Steed said Council member Porter would like to modify water meter fees for bulk water sales from the fire hydrant meter. City Recorder Steed said currently the City charges \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons, but Council Member Porter suggested implementing a base rate plus additional charges for water usage. This item was discussed and a work meeting will be scheduled. **Council member Lyman moved to table this item and schedule a work meeting. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

City Recorder Steed said she, Treasurer Nancy Porter and Council member Stowe, attended an America 250 meeting where cities were asked to organize a veterans' tribute for the 250-year celebration. City Recorder Steed explained this tribute would include placing flags at the cemetery for the 9/11 National Day of Service. City Recorder Steed said they would like to suggest involving the sixth graders in this effort, as the City has previously provided them with a donation for their trip to Washington D.C. This item was discussed at length and it was decided that the city would organize a citywide cleanup, place flags at the cemetery, and distribute flyers encouraging community participation.

RESOLUTION 2025-12 - CANCEL NOVEMBER 4, 2025 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

City Recorder Steed explained Resolution 2025-12. City Recorder Steed explained Utah Code allows Municipal Elections to be canceled if no proposition is to appear on the ballot, write-in candidacy has passed and each municipal officer candidate is unopposed. City Recorder said if this resolution is passed the general municipal elections November 4, 2025 will be canceled and Melani Torgersen will be declared elected to the office of Mayor, A. Chad Lyman and Sally Orme will be declared elected to office of City Council. **Council member Wilson moved to adopt resolution 2025-12 cancelling the November 4, 2025 Municipal General Elections. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe,**

Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

City Recorder Steed extended her gratitude to Sheriff Houston, his department, the Fire Department, 506, Mayor Torgersen, Council Members, City Staff, Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Rich White, and Pete Keers from the Division of Drinking Water for their assistance during the water emergency. City Recorder Steed acknowledged the stressful nature of the period and expressed appreciation to the community for their understanding.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Brent Pickering said the City experienced a water emergency due to a mudslide that may have contaminated the water supply. Mr. Pickering explained the affected spring has been put back into the system after conducting extensive cleaning and flushing of the lines. Mr. Pickering said they have sent six samples for testing today and will send six more out tomorrow. Mayor Torgersen said she appreciates the employees and the State is very impressed with how fast they were contacted. Mr. Pickering explained if the tests all come back clean the City will be able to lift the boil order.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said the Fire Department raised the flag for the car show and there was a lot of respect from the community.

Mr. Weppner said City Recorder Steed paged out the Fire Department and 506 to help get the word out about the water emergency. Mr. Weppner said they went from house to house handing out flyers.

Mr. Weppner said he is in agreement with the water hydrant meter rates as discussed above. Mr. Weppner said they would like the Council to consider charging a higher rate for water to fight fires on Federal and State Land.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGENSEN

Mayor Torgersen expressed gratitude for the collaborative response from city staff, Council members, law enforcement, and the community, who worked together to address the situation without any negative backlash. Mayor Torgersen explained the alerts will continue coming through the phone until the boil order is lifted. City Recorder Steed said the City Website will have updates on the water.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman explained after hiking with Brent Pickering up to the Springs, Mr. Pickering told him he appreciated how everyone came together to help. Council member Lyman said he appreciated the town and everyone who helped. Council member Lyman said he also wants to express gratitude to Ruby's Inn, Associated Foods and Coco-Cola for donating water.

Council member Lyman said we have an awesome community and good members outside the community willing to help us. Council member Lyman said sometimes it's bad things that bring us together.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson said an individual was interested in the possibility of building a hanger at the Airport to do aircraft maintenance work.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe said she is grateful that the Lions Club took the time to clean up after the Car Show. Council member Stowe said the park was left in pristine condition.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme had nothing to report at this time.

UNPAID BILLS

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session needed at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Mayor Torgersen called the work meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at the work meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Orme, Wilson, Stowe, Lyman, and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Porter and City Attorney Huntington were excused.

There was no one else present.

The work meeting was to work on the Capital Asset Self-Inventory (CASI) and discuss future projects.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 10/7/2025