

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 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 Sally Orme, Lenza Wilson, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman joined electronically.

Council members Marlene Stowe and Blaine Porter were excused.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Savannah Pickering, Tate Pickering, Julie Brugger and Marlee Cottam.

Ashley Coombs 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 Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Wilson and Orme voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2025 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme and Lyman voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

JULIE BRUGGER

Ms. Brugger said she would like to request a moment of silence for two people who are not in attendance tonight with one never being in attendance again. Ms. Brugger said she appreciates that they attended the meetings regularly and was interested in what was going on around town. Mayor Torgersen said she was also going to ask for a moment of silence for these two individuals.

There was a moment of silence 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 STUDENT COUNCIL - VOLUNTEER FOR GOOD PROJECT****MARLEE COTTAM**

Ms. Cottam said she is here representing the Escalante High School Student Council.

Ms. Cottam explained the Volunteer for Good program and said they aim to track volunteering hours and coordinate community service projects. Ms. Cottam said she is here to see if the City has any community service they can do. Mayor Torgersen said she would like the group to help with our first annual "Light the Park" Christmas event on November 25th, which will include hanging Christmas lights on Main Street and a celebration featuring hot chocolate, donuts and Santa arriving on a fire truck. Council member Orme said if there is anything the City can do to help the club to please let the city know.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - EQUIPMENT

Mr. Weppner explained the fire department is requesting approval to purchase equipment totaling \$4,662.59, including a 4-foot DM pipe pole, two 36-inch brooms, a steel leaf blower, an electric chainsaw with accessories, and a steel cut-off saw. City Recorder Steed said there is enough money in the budget to cover this request. **Council member Orme moved to approve the purchase of the equipment listed above. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

CITY COUNCIL VACANT SEAT

Council member Wilson moved to accept Council Member Porter's resignation and thanks for his work. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mayor Torgersen said she would like to move forward with the current health insurance employee benefit package. **Council member Orme moved to move forward with the current health insurance package for employees. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman and Orme voting aye.**

RESOLUTION 2025-12 APPOINTING A CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND RECORDS OFFICER(S) IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT DATA PRIVACY ACT (GDPA)

City Recorder Steed explained to be in compliance with the Government Data Privacy Act the City is required to appoint a Chief Administrative Officer and Records Officers. City Recorder Steed explained Resolution 2025-12. **Council member Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Lyman, Orme and Wilson voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

City Recorder Steed said the City Office has officially moved to 65 North Center as of today.

City Recorder Steed explained that with the help of Callie Ward with Utah State University extension, the City has applied for a grant to renovate the upstairs of the old Community Center.

Council member Orme asked if Council Meetings will remain in the current council chambers. City Recorder Steed said the Council Chambers will be relocated to the same building as the new office.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner shared the insight from recent serious incidents involving the Fire and Rescue Department, emphasizing their strong teamwork and commitment to risk mitigation, while also acknowledging the need for improved communication with elected officials. Mayor Torgersen said she appreciates the Fire Department and attends some of their meetings. Mayor Torgersen said her oldest son was at the Airport incident and was very impressed with how everyone worked together and how well things were run.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen said there will be the first annual “Light The Park” Christmas celebration on November 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Torgersen said the fire truck will escort Santa followed by Council member Wilson's Christmas train.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman gave an update on the water project including culvert installation and road base work.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson said he will install the power for the new Christmas swag on Main Street.

Council member Wilson expressed gratitude for the emergency services' quick response at the airport. Council member Wilson said they did an amazing job.

Council member Wilson said we need a source to get large rocks for airport improvements to prevent future washouts. Council member Wilson said we will need 4 dump truck loads of big rock and Council member Lyman said he will check on availability.

Council member Wilson said he is working on updating the hangar lease at the airport, and would like to send out requests for proposals and consult with local pilots.

COUNCIL MEMBER BLAINE PORTER

Council member Porter was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE

Council member Stowe was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLY ORME

Council member Orme said the sewer lines were cleaned and they needed it due to being full of grease, rocks and wipes.

UNPAID BILLS

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

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

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

Date minutes approved: 11/18/2025