

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

Also present were Bill Weppner, Vernon Benson, Becca Benson, DeEtte Spencer and Jenny Evans.

Ashley Coombs joined electronically.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025 MEETING

Council member Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting as written. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman and Stowe voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VERNON BENSON

Mr. Benson said this is a formal request for road maintenance at 1200 South Center and 600 West. Mr. Benson said he has been a resident since 2001 on this dedicated Class C road, which requires all-weather access for emergency vehicles. Mr. Benson said since Class C roads are state-funded, they are seeking approval for maintenance, including crowning and road improvements. Mayor Torgersen said Council member Lyman can provide more details if you wish to discuss this further after the meeting, as the Council cannot take formal action now.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

DESTINATION CAFE - LOCAL CONSENT

City Recorder Steed explained there will be new owners of this business and they would like to get started on their alcohol license before they take ownership. **Council member Wilson moved to approve the Local Consent for Destination Cafe pending the purchase. Council member**

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

ADOPT ESCALANTE CITY PRIVACY PROGRAM POLICY

City Recorder Steed explained the Escalante City Privacy Program Policy (attached).

Council member Orme moved to adopt the Escalante City Privacy Program Policy.

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

CHRISTMAS BONUS

Mayor Torgersen asked if the Council would like to do the bonuses the same that we have done in the past including cheese for all volunteers, employees and Council. **Council member Orme moved to give cheese and bonuses as we have done in the past. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

AIRPORT HANGER LEASE

Council member Wilson suggested modifications to the airport hangar lease, including increasing the lease amount by approximately \$200.00 to \$250.00, strengthening maintenance responsibilities, and prohibiting non-aircraft storage. Council member Wilson said he would like to add specific repair thresholds in the lease, with lessees responsible for routine maintenance, while major repairs above a certain amount would be handled by the city. Council member Wilson said he will draft these changes and send them to City Attorney Huntington for review before issuing a request for bids. Mayor Torgersen proposed adding a city employee to oversee airport operations. This item was discussed at length.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Department had nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department was not present at said meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said the past few weeks have been really hard on the department, emotionally, psychologically and physically. Mr. Weppner said you do not know what you have until you lose it.

Mr. Weppner explained the critical issue of the paging system not working effectively for the department, emphasizing its importance for communication during incidents. Mr. Weppner said the Department needs better engagement and recruitment of volunteers to ensure adequate response to emergencies, setting a minimum standard of consistent attendance at training and incidents. Mr. Weppner also expressed frustration with the current text messaging system and the overall inefficiency of the paging system, suggesting the need for technical expertise to address these issues.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen announced the park and main street lighting ceremony is next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. for a relaxed community gathering. Mayor Torgersen said activities include turning on lights and music, the Fire Department bringing a special guest for children, Council member Wilson possibly bringing his train, and serving doughnuts and hot chocolate.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman reported that the rock for the Airport would cost approximately \$800.00 to \$900.00 per load.

Council Member Lyman commended Precision's work on the spring project, stating they did a fantastic job. Council member Lyman said Chad Cottam and Brent Pickering kept him updated on the project and said that Precision was able to construct walls containing a good portion of the water. Council member Lyman said the grass seeding and hay spreading were also completed, and the results are excellent.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council member Wilson said he and City Recorder Steed had a meeting with the FAA, Utah State Aeronautics and city engineers discussing several infrastructure projects, including the rehabilitation of the airport apron and the installation of a weather station. Council member Wilson explained the airport apron project would require significant work and federal funding, with the FAA contributing 95% of the cost. Council member Wilson explained a less expensive weather system, costing approximately \$25,000. Council member Wilson said this system, while significantly cheaper than a full \$380,000 AWOS system, would offer most of the same capabilities.

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

CLOSED MEETING

There was no closed meeting at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 12/2/2025