

**ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2026
REGULAR MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
WORK MEETING/ELECTRONIC MEETING - 6:00 P.M.
ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 65 NORTH CENTER STREET**

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, Ryan Cottam, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed.

Also present were Bill Weppner, Margie Weppner, Tara Woolsey, Krystal Gurr, Terry Olsen, Paula Shakespear, Lisa Young, Nancy Porter, Jenny Evans, Victory Crawford and Richard Crawford,

Roger Carter and Megan Haws 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, Orme and Cottam voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2026 MEETING

Council member Orme moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026 meeting as written. Council member Stowe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Orme, Lyman, Stowe and Cottam voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner said he is an Escalante City water customer and commented on the importance of water infrastructure Mr. Weppner explained the School Board was willing to draw up an interlocal agreement with the City to use their well but was rejected by the city council in 2006. Mr. Wepner said he feels the city needs to revisit this and take advantage of it.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS

PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES

There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS

ROASTED ROOT CAFE - LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSENT -FULL SERVICE RESTAURANT - 475 W MAIN

City Recorder Steed explained this is a local authority consent for the Roasted Root Cafe, which is needed so they can apply for their liquor license with the State. **Council member Wison moved to approve the Local Authority Consent for Roasted Root Cafe. Council member**

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

ESCALANTE CANYON INN - BUSINESS LICENSE - 475 W MAIN

City Recorder Steed explained this is the former Circle D motel, now operating under new ownership as the Escalante Canyon Inn. City Recorder Steed said the Escalante Canyon Inn has everything required for a business license as a motel. **Council member Wilson moved to approve the Business License for Escalante Canyon Inn. Council member Lyman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council member Orme, Stowe, Cottam, Wilson and Lyman voting aye.**

BIDS FOR AIRPORT HANGER

Council member Wilson explained the city received one bid from Jenny Evans for \$200.00 a month to lease the Airport Hangar. **Council member Wilson moved to accept the bid for the Airport Hangar from Jenny Evans who will share the space with McKade Cook for \$200.00 per month. Council member Cottam seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Wilson, Lyman, Cottam, Stowe and Orme voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

City Recorder Steed said the Public Hearing on the Business License Ordinance is scheduled for March 3, 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department had nothing to report at this time.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

BILL WEPPNER

Mr. Weppner reported on recent call-outs, the reimbursement process for the Posy Lake fire, and voiced concerns regarding maintenance of the Hole in the Rock Road. Attorney Huntington indicated that efforts are ongoing for the lawsuit related to Hole in the Rock Road repairs. Mayor Torgersen stated that her research into the Posy Lake fire reimbursement indicates that the State or Josh Soper should be contacted.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN

Mayor Torgersen had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN

Council member Lyman reported the SCADA company is currently working on the water system.

COUNCIL MEMBER LENZA WILSON

Council Member Wilson commented that the back rollup door at the Airport Hanger is in poor condition and requires repair or removal. Council member Wilson suggested that if the door is needed, the Council should consider replacing it; otherwise, it should be eliminated.

Council member Wilson explained that Sphere one is still trying to locate parts for the fuel

system at the airport.

COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM

Council member Cottam said Council member Lyman has been updating him on the chip seal project. Mayor Torgersen said we need to coordinate with the county regarding the high-priority road section in front of the Crosiers' property. Public Works employee Terry Olsen said he is in contact with Jay Brooks from the County, and they are waiting to finalize the scheduling.

Council member Wilson said he will blade the water tank road.

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

CLOSED MEETING

There was no closed meeting needed at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Mayor Torgersen opened the work meeting at 6:15 p.m. in the Escalante City Council Chambers.

Present at said meeting were Mayor Torgersen, Council members Orme, Wilson, Stowe, Lyman, Cottam, City Attorney Huntington and City Recorder Steed.

Also present were City Treasurer Nancy Porter, Planning and Zoning Chair Tara Woolsey, Planning and Zoning Commissioners Paula Shakespear, Krystal Gurr, Terry Olsen and Escalante Cemetery District member Lisa Young,

Roger Carter and Escalante Cemetery District member Megan Haws joined electronically.

The work meeting was a training session with Roger Carter from Five County Association on Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and Ethics.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the work meeting/training at 6:45 p.m.

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

Date minutes approved: 03/03/2026