ESCALANTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2026
REGULAR 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, Tara Woolsey, Marlene Stowe, Ryan Cottam, City Attorney Barry Huntington and City Recorder Stephanie Steed. Council member Chad Lyman was excused.

Also present were Brent Pickering, Jennifer Thomas, Julie Brugger and Myron Carter.

Mayor Torgersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
Council member Woolsey moved to adopt the agenda as written. Council member Orme seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Woolsey, Orme and Cottam voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2026 MEETING
Council member Stowe moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2026 meeting as written. Council member Woolsey seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Woolsey, Orme, Stowe and Cottam voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
DISTRICT RANGER JENNIFER THOMAS
Ms. Thomas reported that the Forest Service has been conducting controlled burning in the Iron Draw and Pockets area over the past few days, with crews monitoring the process. Ms. Thomas explained the ongoing hiring efforts for local positions and upcoming recruitment for the fire season starting October 30th.

PLANNING AND ZONING ITEMS
PLANNING AND ZONING UPDATES
There were no Planning and Zoning updates at this time.

SCHEDULED ITEMS
MYRON CARTER - WATER METER
Mr. Carter explained that his property on Pine Creek Road consists of two separate parcels having a home on each parcel. Mr. Carter said to avoid having multiple residences on separate lots served by a single meter, he is requesting an additional water meter specifically for the log home parcel. **Council member Orme moved to approve the water meter for Mr. Carter for his log home on Pine Creek Road. Council member Woolsey seconded the motion. Motion carried with Council members Stowe, Cottam, Orme and Woolsey voting aye.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS
ADMINISTRATIVE
City Recorder Steed reported on the Business License Conference and thanked the Council for sending her.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Brent Pickering reported that the old gym will be out of service for a few weeks while the floor is refinished.

Mr. Pickering reported that the current backhoe is experiencing overheating issues. Mr. Pickering explained the shop cleaned and rebuilt the thermostat on the backhoe, but it continues to run hotter than recommended standards and is reaching the end of its useful lifespan. Mr. Pickering said he has looked into replacement options, including a 2018 Case 590M with 600 hours which will include new tires and backhoe teeth for $95,000.00. Mr. Pickering said alternatively, a brand new unit would cost around $180,000.00.

Council member Orme asked Mr. Pickering if the fencing for the landfill was picked up.
Mr. Pickering said it will be delivered this week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT
The Fire Department was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS
MAYOR MELANI TORGERSEN
Mayor Torgersen said it is time to start putting Christmas lights up and decorating the park for the Annual Turn On The Lights event which is scheduled for November 24, 2026.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHAD LYMAN
Council member Lyman was not present at said meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER TARA WOOLSEY
Council member Woolsey had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN COTTAM
Council member Cottam had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARLENE STOWE
Council member Stowe reported on her discussion with Lenza Wilson regarding the park lights. Council member Stowe said Mr. Wilson will complete the light repairs on Main Street prior to addressing the lights at the park. Council member Stowe explained that the park lights need a new cell and an inspection, and she indicated that a full report will be presented to the City Council once further details are available.

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

CLOSED MEETING

There was no closed meeting needed at this time.

Mayor Torgersen adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

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Stephanie Steed, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

Date minutes approved: 11/10/2026