

**MINUTES OF THE
MIDWAY CITY COUNCIL
(Strategic Planning Meeting)**

**Thursday, 30 January 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Valais Clubhouse
1325 N Valais Parkway, Midway, Utah**

Note: Notices/agendas were posted at 7-Eleven, The Market Express, the United States Post Office, the Midway City Office Building, and the Midway Community Center. Notices/agendas were provided to the Mayor, City Council, Planning Director, and The Wasatch Wave. The public notice/agenda was published on the Utah State Public Notice Website and on the City's website. A copy of the public notice/agenda is contained in the supplemental file for the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:46 p.m.

Members Present

Celeste Johnson, Mayor
Jeff Drury, Council Member
Lisa Orme, Council Member
Kevin Payne, Council Member
Craig Simons, Council Member
JC Simonsen, Council Member

Staff Present

Michael Henke, City Planning Director
Nancy Simons, Accounting (Left after the budget section of the meeting.)

Brad Wilson, City Recorder

Others Present

Grace Doerfler, KCPW (Arrived at 1:45 p.m.)
Susette Gertsch (Arrived at 2:18 p.m.)
Nancy O'Toole, Mountainland Association of Governments (Participated electronically from 1:20 p.m. to approximately 1:30 p.m.)

2. Housekeeping

2a. Mayor Pro Tempore – Discuss electing a mayor pro tempore.

The attendees discussed who should be the mayor pro tempore for 2025. It was proposed that Council Member Payne serve as mayor pro tempore.

2b. Committees and Assignments – Discuss committees and council assignments.

Council assignments were reviewed and discussed. Continued participation in the Utah League of Cities and Towns and hiring a state legislative lobbyist were also discussed. It was proposed that Council Member Simons oversee the Public Works Department.

2c. Organizational Structure – Discuss the City’s organizational structure.

Mayor Johnson reviewed the organizational structure of the City’s employees. Hiring a city manager was discussed.

2d. 2025 Calendar – Discuss the calendar for 2025 including the dates for regular council meetings, budget meetings, summer party, etc.

The attendees discussed the calendar for 2025. They discussed the need for more strategic planning and the Council determining the direction of the City.

The following changes were proposed:

- The council meeting, held on the first Tuesday of each month, should focus on strategic planning, begin at 6 p.m., be held in a conference room in the Community Center, and dinner would be provided.
- Priorities would be determined at the first strategic planning meeting.
- The council meeting, held on the third Tuesday of each month, would continue unchanged but would begin at 5:00 p.m. Dinner would not be provided.
- Regular work meetings would no longer be held.
- The consent agenda should be used more effectively.

2e. Council Meeting Prayers / Inspirational Thoughts – Discuss prayers and inspirational thoughts at council meetings.

The attendees discussed the prayers and inspirational thoughts given at council meetings. The Council proposed no changes to the practice.

3. Budget

3a. Housing Stipend (Gage Anderson – Public Works Technician) – Discuss a housing stipend for employees who live outside of the Wasatch County School District.

Gage Anderson gave a presentation and made the following comments:

- Was unable to purchase a house in the Heber Valley because they were too expensive.
- Suggested the same stipend for those who lived outside of Wasatch County as those who lived in the County.
- Suggested allowing employees to drive a city vehicle to and from work. Noted that it could be a more fuel-efficient model, and employees could also carpool in the vehicle.
- Also suggested a per mile reimbursement that would be included in an employee’s paycheck and therefore taxed.

- Stayed at his parent's house when on call. Some public works employees stayed in a camper at the public works yard when they were on call.

Note: A copy of Mr. Anderson's presentation is contained in the supplemental file for the meeting.

The attendees discussed the following items:

- Installing sleeping accommodations in the public works building.
- Liability with commuting in a city vehicle.
- The difficulty hiring employees who lived in Heber Valley.
- The request would be discussed during upcoming budget meetings.

3b. FY 2025 Budget Amendment (Nancy Simons) – Review an amendment to the FY 2025 Budget.

Nancy Simons gave a presentation on the proposed budget amendment and specifically reviewed the proposed changes.

Note: A copy of the proposed amendment is contained in the supplemental file for the meeting.

3c. Transient Room Tax (Nancy Simons) – Review the Transient Room Tax.

Nancy Simons reviewed the amount of transient room tax received since 2020.

3d. Resort Communities Tax (Brad Wilson) – Review the Resort Communities Tax.

Brad Wilson reviewed a memo regarding the Resort Communities Tax. He indicated that Midway City did not meet the requirements to continue levying the tax.

The attendees discussed the Tax and how to meet the requirements.

3e. Fee Schedule – Review the City's fee schedule.

The attendees did not discuss the fee schedule.

3f. FY 2026 Budget – Reminder for council members to meet with their assigned department supervisors to prepare for the FY 2026 Budget.

Mayor Johnson asked the council members to meet with the department supervisors, for which they were responsible, to prepare for the FY 2026 Budget.

Motion: Without objection, Mayor Johnson recessed the meeting at 12:09 p.m. She reconvened the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

4. TAP Tax

Camille Palmer reviewed past and current awards of trails, arts, and parks (TAP) funds. She and the attendees reviewed the application process for the funds and discussed possible changes. They also discussed what information on the applications should be private.

5. Ice Rink

5a. Awarded Grant – Discuss how to use a \$600,000 grant awarded to the City.

5b. Additional Grant – Discuss a potential \$1 million grant to cover the City's ice rink.

The attendees discussed the following items:

- Operation of the rink.
- Using awarded and possible grant money to build an activity building, which would replace the ticket and warming trailers, replacing the concrete slab and piping, and covering the rink.
- Plan and design for the Town Square. Incorporating that plan into the rink.
- Use of the rink during the summer.

Note: Nancy O'Toole, grant writer for the Mountainland Association of Governments, joined by phone at 1:20 p.m.

- Match requirements for the grants.
- Obtaining quotes to determine costs.
- Design of the proposed activities building.
- Replacing the existing trailers.

Note: Ms. O'Toole discontinued participating at approximately 1:30 p.m.

6. Soldier Hollow Committee / 2034 Olympics – Review by Mayor Johnson.

The Committee and Olympics were not discussed.

7. Law Enforcement

7a. Feedback – Receive feedback on law enforcement provided to the City.

7b. Reports – Receive feedback on law enforcement reports provided to the Council.

7c. Use of Officer – Discuss the use of the law enforcement officer provided by Heber City.

The attendees discussed law enforcement. They also discussed the cost for dispatch.

Note: Grace Doerfler, reporter for KPCW, arrived at 1:45 p.m.

The attendees discussed the duplication of duties between the Wasatch County Sheriff's Office and the Heber City Police Department.

8. Safety Day for Motorized Bicycles – Discuss a safety day for motorized bicycles and similar vehicles possibly in conjunction with Founders' Day.

The attendees discussed promoting bicycle safety including during Founders' Day, school safety fairs, the Midway Farmers' Market, and local bike shops.

9. Sign Ordinance – Discuss the recently adopted sign ordinance and if it needs to be amended.

The attendees discussed the following items regarding the sign ordinance:

- The implications of the ordinance were not understood.
- A lot of people spoke to council members about it.
- It needed to be reconsidered.
- Should the City help businesses replace their existing signs which were now noncompliant?
- Everyone concerned should be brought together to discuss the new regulations and determine what the City could do to help businesses.
- The charm of Midway needed to be preserved.
- Change was a process.
- No negative comments were received when the proposed ordinance was discussed by the Midway Business Alliance (MBA).
- Lawn signs had been prohibited on both public and private property for some time.
- Communication between the City, business owners, and residents should be improved.
- The City had enforced sign regulations for a long time.
- Residents and the General Plan sought a nice community.
- The Planning Department should not be doing code enforcement.
- The regulations were not uniformly enforced throughout the City.
- Should signs be allowed on public property? What kind of signs should be allowed?
- Construction signs with needed information should be allowed but not signs with advertising.
- The Building Department did not stop building inspections because of signs.

- The ordinance was a compromise regarding a-frame signs.

Note: Suzette Gertsch arrived at 2:18 p.m.

- Several businesses did what they wanted regarding signs.
- Many business owners could not attend the MBA.
- The City should find out which parts of the ordinance the business owners disliked.
- Some business owners thought existing signs were exempt.

Several council members wanted to review the ordinance. A majority wanted to wait before considering any changes.

10. Open Space Update – Receive an update on open space preservation.


Mayor Johnson reviewed the following items:

- Preserving the Lundin farm.
- A lawsuit filed against the Lundin family regarding a first right of refusal.
- The use of remaining open space funds.
- Issuing additional bonds.
- Use of green belt taxes, paid when a property was developed, for the preservation of agricultural land.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Council Member Drury moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.



Celeste Johnson, Mayor



Brad Wilson, Recorder