

Mendon City Council Minutes

Convened: April 9, 2026 | Meeting location 15 North Main Street, Mendon City Meeting Room

Meeting called by	Mayor Ed Buist	City Attendees:	
Type of meeting	City Council Public Hearing	Amy Garbe	Marilyn Atkinson
Minutes	Stephanie Miller	Art Heers	Daphne Carlson
		Bob Jepsen	Eric Dursteler
		Brian Myers	Kirk Taylor
Absent	Ben Watkins		Laura Hampton

TIME: 6:00 PM

Call to Order: There being four members present and four members representing a quorum, Mayor Buist called the meeting to order.

Others Present:

Brad Olsen Kristi Olsen Blaine Taylor Allie Norris Carol Swartz Kim Nielson
Dawson Jessup Bronden Jessup Sadie Robins

Pledge of Allegiance: City Clerk Stephanie Miller

Invocation: Councilmember Amy Garbe

Welcome: Mayor Buist welcomed everyone.

Agenda

Agenda Adoption: A copy of the notice and the agenda for this meeting was posted on the Utah Public Notice Website, Mendon City's Website, posted at the City Office, the Post Office. It was also provided to each member of the governing body. All provided more than forty-eight hours before meeting time.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for March 12, 2026 have been reviewed.

Motion: Councilmember Garbe motions to accept the March 12, 2026 minutes.
Councilmember Myers seconds the motion.

Action: Voting is unanimous and March 12, 2026 minutes are accepted.

Approval of Bills: Bills for March and April have been reviewed by all councilmembers present.

Motion: Councilmember Jepson motions to accept and pay the bills as submitted.
Councilmember Garbe seconds the motion.

Action: Voting in unanimous and motion is approved.

Minutes:

Topic 1- Citizen Participation/Comment (6:04 PM) There was none.

Topic 2- MS Bike Tour – Mary Walter (6:05 PM) Mary is with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. They're a non-profit organization with the goal to cure MS. There's over a million people in the United States that live with MS. She runs the charity bike ride. It's been in Logan since 1992. This is a ride. It's not a race. It's inclusive of all abilities. They're raising over \$800,000 for MS research and to provide services for those people affected by MS. What makes their event special is to have volunteers and have the community involved. A participant, Alicia, was introduced. She rides a hand cycle. She shared her experiences participating in the ride. She's had multiple sclerosis for 26 years. The last rest stop will be at the Mountainside Elementary School. Mary was asked to make those impacted that live and travel along the route through Mendon aware of what is going to be happening. She was asked to be sure things were left as clean as they found it. The Mayor and City Council were supportive of the event.

Topic 3- Cemetery Sexton – Eric Bowen (6:18 PM) Eric gave a quarterly report on what has been happening at the cemetery. Since January 1st, there have been nine burials. Since Memorial Day in 2025 there have been 21 burials. Currently there is a total of 1,346 burials in the Mendon cemetery. Eric has been Mendon's sexton for 20 years, and during that time

has done 310 burials. Rusty helps mark the graves. Mayor Buist said there needs to be some signage for liability at the cemetery. A discussion on road replacement and installing new water lines was had. In the next two years the lawn mower will need to be replaced. City Treasurer Daphne Carlson explained to the council that the perpetual fund is specifically for expansion, improvements, watering, and other things similar. The mower will need to be budgeted for out of the city general funds. Mayor Buist expressed appreciation to Eric for the work he does.

Topic 4 –Youth Council Report and Pickleball League Proposal. (6:28 PM) Mendon City Youth Council Mayor Allie Norris gave a report of the youth council’s activities. In **January**, they toured the Mendon Fire Station and learned about how it runs, what type of vehicles they have, and what supplies they have in those vehicles. Amara Smith was the youth councilmember over the event where they asked the two new Mendon City Councilmembers, Art Heers and Ben Watkins, about why they joined city council and what they do for it. In **February**, they had a senior night. Amara Smith was also in charge of this activity. They invited seniors and youth to come, and had a get to know you activity, with the seniors partnered with the youth. They played games and tied fleece blankets to be donated. and had refreshments. In **March** they had nine youth from their leadership team, some members of the council, and two adult leaders attend the Utah Youth Council Leadership Conference at USU. Council members selected to attend the conference was based off attendance at past activities. Money from their potato fundraiser held in September was used to fund this. Some takeaways from the conference was the difference between discourse and debating. When debating, you listen to the points to argue. And discourse, you listen to understand. The other one was to be a leader; you have to empower others. It's not about you, it's about them. Allie thanked Mayor Buist and his wife for attending the banquet. Also in March, youth councilmember Lila Bingham was over filling Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Youth councilmember Dawson Jessop is in charge of their closing social in May. Registration is now open for the 2026-27 Youth Council Year and closes April 30th. Youth who have been previously have been on the youth council need to re-register each year.

An update about Legacy Park was given. Nicole Norris has met with the Utah Soccer Association, and they are working on their side of things. There have been two grant applications submitted. Thanks to Lisa Robbins for filling out the RAPZ grant application, and to Amy Garbe for filling out the CPR grant application. Nicole Norris is also working with the United States Tennis Association on a \$70,000 grant to help build the tennis courts. The pickleball courts will be surfaced once the overnight temperatures are warm enough. Daphne Carlson talked with Eric Dursteler earlier today about the timing of the pickleball court resurfacing. They are hoping that that will be finished up by the end of April 1st of May, so that Daphne can exercise that program by the end of this fiscal year.

Councilmember Myers said he has been assigned to be over water. Part of that responsibility is the dyer's woad service project that he'd like to coordinate with the youth council. Ordinarily it's been done in May, but it's growth is a month ahead this year. There is concern about waiting until May. Once it goes to seed, you've got to clip the heads and make sure you get all the seeds. Youth councilmember Emma Goates is over that. There is information from the county on Mendon's city website. She was asked to look into it and contact Councilmember Myers.

(6:36) Pickleball Proposal Youth councilmembers Sadie Robbins and Dawson Jessup were here to present their proposal to the city council. The city has recently installed two pickleball courts. They would like to use those courts to help raise money for improvements to the existing courts as well as to help pay for the installation of additional courts. They came to propose a fund-raising effort to benefit Mendon City and its residents.

They want to launch a pickleball league and formalize local play into structured leagues with a modest registration fee that can go to a dedicated pickleball court fund. Based on the projections of eight local players, in two league matches a week, they can net over \$2,500 in 2026 and over \$3,800 in future years.

This would be a restricted fund that can be used to upgrade courts to help raise money to pay for the three additional courts. And better yet, they can invest raised funds as a one-to-one match for state recreation grants, doubling their investment. This isn't just about a game with a funny name. It's about mental health for our seniors, a safe outlet for our teenagers, and we simply need to spend time on our local courts instead of driving to the next city over to use their facilities. They've already mapped out the logistics, liability waivers, noise mitigation, and the volunteers. The City Council was asked you to authorize the Youth Council to pilot this league for one season and prove that the pickleball community is ready to pull its own weight and help build the future of our courts and pickleball community. Discussion was had that restrooms were available at the city square if needed. The Youth Council would provide water, and would need to purchase pickleballs.

Motion: Councilmember Heers made a motion to support the Youth Council to pilot a pickleball league. It was seconded by Councilmember Garbe.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

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Topic 5- Discussion about Motorcycles, ATV's, E-Bikes, and Scooters (6:43 PM) Recently there have been complaints to staff about kids riding through town and through the parks on motorized bikes, which is illegal. A letter to the community was written by the Mayor:

"March 31, 2026

Mendon Residents and Surrounding Area Friends,

With spring approaching, we are reminded of what a beautiful place we live in. We are so blessed to live in Mendon.

We are asking for help from our community as the seasons change. With the nicer weather, motorcycles, ATV's, E-bikes, and scooters are brought out of storage. It is important to remember that our city streets are not a place for our kids to be riding motorized vehicles on. Licensing is still the law, even in small towns. We have observed and received several complaints from citizens of underaged kids not only riding but speeding on our city streets and parks. This is a liability for Mendon City. Our concern is for the safety of all who live and visit here, and we certainly do not want any harm to come to our young riders, or for them to cause harm to others. Please help us with this problem by encouraging your kids to ride these vehicles above town on the dirt roads. We have an agreement with law enforcement that adults can escort underaged riders on our streets to the dirt roads above town without issue. The Cache County Sheriff's office, with whom we contract, will be monitoring. Citations and impounding are possibilities. But let's do our best to not have to do that. Let's keep everyone safe and happy.

Any concerns can be brought forward to the city council by email or by attending city council meeting. Thank you and have a great spring season!

Regards,

Mendon Mayor and City Council "

Mayor Buist reiterated that his main concern is the safety of the kids, and the liability of the city. He also wanted it to be clear that a parent can escort an underage rider riding their own bike out of town to ride on the mountain trails. As far as the off-road, they'll need to be 14, take a class, and get an off-road certificate. They must be following the speed limit and be licensed. If that same underage rider is riding out of town without a parent, it is not ok. Deputy Spence said if law enforcement catches them, they will be cited and their bike impounded, which is state law.

Topic 6- Fire District Vouchers – Executive George Daines (7:02 PM) Executive Daines shared a voucher proposal for the fire district. Mayor Buist said he'd hate to see it go to a fire district and Mendon's fire station is closed down. Mendon's fire department has the highest rating you can get which blesses Mendon residents to have low home fire insurance. Mendon has a lot of local volunteers and EMS. What the county is levying right now is

\$74.52 a year for Mendon home with the appraised value of \$600,000. Currently there is a charge of \$5.45 on each water utility bill for CCEMS (Emergency Management) that would be discontinued, which will offset some of the costs if the fire district goes with the voucher system. City Treasurer Daphne Carlson confirmed that Mendon City has never levied money for fire protection. Executive Daines said he arrived in the executive position 5 months ago. There were several mayors that came forward saying they didn't want a fire district. He's been trying to balance both things and realized that we are not going to be able to have a unified fire district if the cities don't want it. He came up with an idea to do something a little bit different, the voucher alternative. The participating cities would retain complete operation control of fire and EMS in their city. If participating cities don't want to have their own fire department, they can contract with another city that does. An example is Nibley City contracting with Hyrum City for fire and EMS services.

The fire board, which is composed of elected city and county people, would remain the same. He felt it would be best to expand the fire board in the future and include more cities on the board, so it was clear that it was a city-run operation. Adding Providence on the south, Hyde Park on the North. A representative would be selected to represent the smaller towns of Mendon, Wellsville, Paradise, River Heights, and Millville. The participating cities would meet and decide a baseline levy for everybody in the county. The levy would be based on their taxable baseline, which the county would collect and give 100 % to the fireboard to distribute 100 % back to the cities. Someone in the unincorporated county would have the same base levy based upon the taxable value of their property.

The fire board would act as the collection agency, but not the management. The money has to be used for fire or EMS, but can be held over a series of years to build up money to buy equipment, build a station, or whatever the city chooses to do. The cities can decide how long they want the county to run EMS or how to organize EMS.

The county fire assets would be liquidated and divided amongst the members in the county. There is some equipment that needs to stay available. For example, the county has put six pumper trucks in the perimeter in rural cities. They are in rural cities because there are unincorporated areas next to the cities that don't have fire hydrants, and areas that are next to the mountains where fires can come down from. Unincorporated areas will be contracted from the county to be served by cities with fire departments in that area. Mendon currently provides service to all of Petersboro to the north, and to the county area south of Mendon to Maple Rise.

The voucher system would probably not be in place before 2028. The current problem is double taxation between the cities, where we tax Logan for the county fire, but we don't give anything back to Logan. It's the same thing with Providence and North Logan. But, when you start talking about wildland fires, that benefits everybody in the county, it is anticipated those kind of services would be done on a county basis which would continue to be funded by county general funds. Cities that send fire fighters to fight wildfires will retain money that is paid to them for that service. Mendon currently budgets \$125,000 annually for fire.

Executive Daines advice to the cities is to set the base level low. If you need more money, then take it out of your general fund. An interlocal agreement currently exists that fire departments help each other when help is needed to fight a fire.

Topic 7: PUBLIC HEARING: Regulation of Manufactured Housing Ordinance 2026-01. (8:16 PM)

Motion: Councilmember Jepsen made a motion to close city council meeting, and to open public hearing on Regulation of Manufactured Housing Ordinance 2026-01. It was seconded by Councilmember Garbe.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

This ordinance regulates manufactured houses, mobile homes, and recreational vehicles. They're permitted as only single-family dwelling units. They shall not be used as accessory dwelling units or short-term rentals. They're to be put on permanent footing and foundations, and they have to meet code. Manufactured homes have to be new at the time of installation and be able to meet snow load specifications. They have a minimum width and a minimum gross floor of 1,000 square feet. They have to meet Utah code. They shall not be excluded from zones permitting single-family dwellings unless it's in an area that has recorded covenants and conditions and restrictions, CCRs, of a subdivision. Mobile homes, recreational vehicles, and fifth wheels can be used only within licensed mobile home parks or recreational vehicle parks.

Mobile homes, recreational vehicles, and fifth wheels shall not be used as permanent or temporary residences on individual building lots. They can be lived in on a lot where they are building a house or making changes to the house, but not longer than two years, and if they've got an active building permit.

Public Comment: Mayor Buist opened the floor for comment from the public. There was none.

Motion: Councilmember Jepsen made a motion to close the public hearing and reopen council meeting. It was seconded by Councilmember Heers.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Discussion: Councilmember Jepsen asked if there is code of what can and cannot be in trailer parks. Code allows 2006 mobile homes, recreation vehicles, and fifth wheels within licensed mobile home parks and recreation vehicle parks.

Motion: Councilmember Myers motioned to approve amendments to Ordinance 2026-01, regulation of the Manufactured Housing Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilmember Garbe.

Voting: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Topic 8: PUBLIC HEARING: Meeting Room Agreement and Policy (8:26 PM)

Motion: Councilmember Garbe made the motion to close city council meeting and to open public hearing on the Meeting Room Agreement and Policy. It was seconded by Councilmember Jepsen.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

It was discussed that a \$150 deposit be required that would be refunded if there are no damages to the building. We are asking a \$35 an hour fee for anyone who needs to use the audio visual. There needs to be a trained city employee there to run it. Mayor Buist read the Mendon City meeting room policy.

“Mendon City meeting room is dedicated to the citizens of Mendon for the purpose of holding meetings of all kind. This includes meeting of government, committee, church, school, social, and any other meeting that is for the betterment and benefit of the citizens of Mendon. The room will be scheduled through the city clerk. Purpose of meeting must be cleared by the city clerk, mayor, and council member over the buildings.

(That would be Council Member Myers.) Mendon City Council meetings and planning and zoning meetings, as well as city business meetings, will hold precedence over all other meetings. However, they are generally scheduled on regular dates. The room will not be used as an event center. Such activities need scheduled in the Mendon station. Food and drinks are not allowed in the meeting room. The outside patio can be used for refreshments as needed. No fee will be charged for the use of the meeting room. However, this may change in the future depending on usage and upkeep. Users will be charged for any damage caused during their meeting time for the amount needed to repair and replace, damages incurred.”

Public Comment: There was none.

Motion: Councilmember Garbe made the motion to close the public hearing and reopen the council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jepsen.

Voting: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Discussion: There was none.

Motion: Councilmember Myers made a motion to approve the meeting room agreement and policy. Councilmember Garbe seconded the motion.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Topic 9: PUBLIC HEARING: Approval of the 2026-2028 Cache County Law Enforcement Contract. (8:30 PM)

Motion: Councilmember Garbe made a motion to close city council meeting, and to open public hearing on the 2026-2028 Cache County Law Enforcement Contract. It was seconded by Councilmember Jepsen.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Cache County renews it's contracts for 3 years at a time. Basically, its all the same type and same hours. The difference being the increase of costs. The contracted amount for 2026-2027 is \$16,980. 2027-2028 will increase to \$18,112. 2028-2029 will be \$19,224. The animal control will continue as has been which is approximately \$3,600 a year. We put in our budget \$4,500 because we include the purchase of dog tags and other things that go along with that.

Public Comment: There was none.

Motion: Councilmember Heers motioned to close the public hearing and reopen the council meeting. Councilmember Myers seconded the motion.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Discussion: There was none.

Motion: Councilmember Jepsen motioned to approve the 2026-2028 Cache County Law Enforcement Contract. It was seconded by Councilmember Garbe.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Topic 10: Law Enforcement Liaison – Deputy Spence (8:33 PM) Mayor Buist said that we already discussed ATV's, etc. We won't be having another council meeting before May Day. He asked Deputy Spence to have someone meet him by the Mendon Station as they come from the fire station. He doesn't know if Deputy Spence will get two or three officers here, but we need the road closed up by the highway, and then on the north and south intersection of Main Street at 100 North.

Topic 11: City Engineer – Eric Dursteler (8:36 PM) Eric said we had four bidders submit bids for the 300 North Street (200 West to 364 West) Street Improvement Project to be partially funded with COG money. The results were as follows: Forefront General Contractor - \$231,533; Cache Valley Excavation, LLC - \$271,715; Staker Parson Companies -

\$273,824; Kilgore (LeGrand Johnson Construction Co.) - \$293,877. After checking references, Eric recommended the council approve the bid from Cache Valley Excavation, LLC for \$271,715.

Motion: Councilmember Jepsen motioned to approve the bid for the 300 North Street (200 West to 364 West) Street improvement project be awarded to Cache Valley Excavation, LLC, for \$271,715. It was seconded by Councilmember Garbe.

Action: Voting is unanimous and motion is approved.

Topic 12: Public Works Director – Kirk Taylor (8:53 PM) Kirk asked the mayor if he was planning to add money to the budget being prepared, to finish the landscaping around the meeting room. The mayor was going to discuss it with Kirk. Kirk has spent the last three days spraying dandelions in the parks, and needs to spray for more in the cemetery. He needs to get the tank set up and start watering the trees at the trailhead. He walked up there recently and noticed the wind has pushed a couple of the trees over a bit. He would like to hear a report from Landis from Cache County to know where they are at with the project. There is some pothole patching to do.

He split the stream on Tuesday. Last year the overall volume of water between Mendon's spring and what was in the creek was 456 gallons a minute. That is taking a measurement out of the creek. This year it was 416. We have had a drop of 40 gallons per minute. After the split, we have 20 gallons per minute less than we had last year coming into our system, which totals 208 gallons a minute. That is what we have coming in from our spring. Like every other year, we will be supplementing with wells because that doesn't cover it. The tank is about 8 feet full consistently. Starting in the hotter months, our springs don't replenish it quick enough so it hovers at half full. The city depends on Kirk to keep us updated on the water situation and if some restrictions need to be put in place. We don't know for sure if some restrictions will need to be put in place until later in the season.

Kirk and Bob tried to meet with Kirt today and he wasn't able to. They still need to meet with him and discuss what is happening on that dead end street. It has to do with property lines and fencing that could squeeze things up and make things tight for even snow removal and the ability to turn around. He wants to see if we can work with the canal company because they have a pretty good chunk of right-of-way through there where the siphon is. Maybe try to expand that parking a little bit if we can give the property owner on the west side more of an apron approach on the south side of his driveway so he can back stuff up. They will have a meeting and report on that at the next council meeting.

Brian Myers- (9:01 PM) The projector in the Mendon station needs to be replaced. Kirk has been given a bid by AIS for parts, labor, engineering, and taxes for just under \$7,000. Councilmember Garbe asked about the projector in the attic. Staff said they believe it was

had been surplus, put up for sale and never sold. It is old and we don't want to put it up in the station. The sound system is still requested for quite often.

May Day is coming along. The number of participants continues to increase each year. Most plans seem to be under control and are moving forward.

Amy Garbe- (9:03 PM) She is working on grants. There are some that we're waiting on and others that are being looked at. She will ask some questions at the next meeting about doing a newsletter.

Councilmember Myers said he was under the impression from Councilmember Jepsen that we typically will fund up to \$2,000 for service project money towards the youth council out of the water budget. The service the youth council takes care of the dyers woad around the city's water tanks. Discussion continued about the county's dyers woad program and if the youth council could participate in that and earn \$10 for each bag filled with dyers woad from the county. The discussion ended with saying it could be looked into.

Ben Watkins- (9:06 PM) Councilmember Watkins was not in attendance. He sent the council his report by email. " Had a conversation with Ryan Zollinger, on Millville City Council. He talked about how Millville originally was going to share the cost of Hyrum's sewer treatment plant, essentially become part of a sewer district with them. But after looking at the cost/benefit, Millville opted to be a *customer* of Hyrum's instead, which made a lot more sense. I didn't quite catch all the reasoning behind it, but we may want to talk more with Millville.

History Committee update ... I've been getting some letters out, and have had mixed response. I'm trying to get a "dream team" together now, but at some point I'll just shoot out a general petition on 411 for people to serve and see what happens. Results so far:

- Dominic Sur - good to go!
- Karole & Rod Sorensen, Valerie Larsen, Richard Watkins - all thinking about it
- Lisa Bird - considered it, but declined due to health
- Jamie Judy - declined due to conflict with Library Board meetings on 4th Thursdays"

Art Heers- (9:06 PM) Councilmember Heers attended the mosquito abatement meeting. Because of the early warm months there are some early mosquitos. They are not the kind that are real dangerous. Those don't come until later in the summer. They are carefully managing spraying so they don't run out of product by the end of year.

He talked with Landis who works for Cache County about getting a conditional use permit so the Wayne's Loop Trail could be opened to the public. He was told the county is getting and putting up signs that are necessary for the road going up there, letting the public know it would be closed during the winter months. It should take a week or two. The project is completed; except they are not going to do the asphalt until later.

He'd like to have a meeting with Councilmember Watkins and Councilmember Garbe to talk about trails. We've got to get a trails committee together before we proceed. Ron Campbell told him maybe there could be a discussion with the canal company about a trail that would go alongside the canal. In the past, the canal companies have been kind of against that, while UDOT has been in favor of it. A trail, is used for maintenance by the canal company. Mayor Buist thinks that's something that should be discussed with the canal company. It was suggested Councilmember Heers got in contact with Kirt Lindley, who is over maintenance of that canal. We're not only dealing with the local canal company, but we're dealing with the Federal Bureau of Reclamation on that. Down the road, long term, they are looking to eventually pipe that canal for a number of reasons. And when that canal is piped, that may change something.

Bob Jepsen- (9:13 PM) Councilmember Jepsen said his tablet won't hold a charge. There is a chance he will need a new tablet. He will bring it to the office for Daphne to look at.

Kirk gave him a breakdown sheet from Rocky Mountain Power about 43 lights they are looking at replacing with LEDs. The cost estimate for those replacements are about \$10,000, which might be put into next year's budget for streets. Kirk asked them for 3,000K lights to put in.

In the last windstorm we had some good size branches fall out of some poplar trees onto the road in the area of 100 North and 200 West. The question is if the city didn't plant the trees why should they be our responsibility? They are on city property so the city is responsible. The city has to do something about the trees and should visit with the home owner of how best to address the problem. If the trees are taken down the stumps will also need to come out. Mayor Buist said the solution is that trees are not to be planted in the right-of-way that's owned by the city.

There are some cosmetic things that he needs to get done at the cemetery that he is hoping to have done for Memorial Day.

Mayor Buist – (9:27) The mayor asked Councilmember Garbe to get with the planning and zoning and put together an ordinance that does not allow tree planting in the city right-of-way anymore.

The Mayor and City Clerk met with Michael LeFever about the painting he is beginning to paint to hang in the Mendon City meeting room. He has investors. The painting will cost \$40,000, \$50,000. He is donating the painting to us. We will own that. He wanted the Mayor to sign an agreement that any reproductions, any copies, he owns the right to. The Mayor agreed with that did sign the agreement. It's going to be 7 feet by 14 feet. That's 8 foot something in between the bottom of our crown molding and our chair rail. He asked if was ok to cover up a plate near the top of the wall. The Mayor checked with the company that put in our AV. There is nothing in that right now. It was put for future possible use, so we said he could cover it up.

Mayor Buist entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilmember Jepsen made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Councilmember Garbe.

Vote: The voting is unanimous and motion is approved

Adjourned (9:30 PM)