

Mendon City Council Minutes

*Convened: July 9, 2026 / Meeting location 15 North Main Street,
Mendon City Meeting Room*

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

Absent

Time: 6:00 PM

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

Others Present:

Jessie Eiman

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Amy Garbe

Invocation: Treasurer Daphne Carlson

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:

The June 11, 2026 minutes have been reviewed.

Motion:

Councilmember Garbe motions to accept the June 11, 2026 minutes with changes made. Councilmember Watkins seconds the motion.

Action: Voting is unanimous and June 11, 2026 minutes are accepted.

Approval of Bills: June, 2026

Motion:

Councilmember Myers motions to approve the June, 2026 bills. Councilmember Garbe seconds the motion.

Action: Voting is unanimous and June, 2026 bills are accepted.

Councilmember Bob Jepsen lost his mother this week. The city presented him with a gift basket.

Minutes:

Topic 1- Citizen Participation/Comment (6:08 PM): Mayor asked if there was anyone in attendance that wanted to make comments. There was none.

Topic 3 – Youth Council Oath of Office and Report (6:09 PM): Youth Council Mayor Sadie Robbins, Youth Council Recorder Emma Goates, and Youth Council members Jackson Mickelsen, Dawson Jessup, Juliet Cannon, and Aaron Choate were given the oath of office by Mayor Ed Buist. Youth Councilmembers Lila Bingham and Allie Norris (Legacy Park liaison) were not in attendance.

Youth Mayor Report – Sadie Robbins (6:12 PM): Mayor Buist announced that approximately \$20,000 remains in Youth Council funds. A portion of those funds has been designated for improvements to the pickleball court area. The city recently received an estimate of approximately \$12,000 to install electrical power at the pickleball courts. After discussing the matter with the City Councilmember overseeing the project, the Mayor Buist expressed support for using Youth Council funds for the electrical installation unless there are significant objections from the Youth Council.

Youth Council Mayor Sadie Robbins reported that the Youth Council met during June. Members planned activities for the upcoming year. City Council confirmed with the Youth Council that they planned to participate in the upcoming Pioneer Days parade. A question regarding Youth Council applications was asked. The Youth Mayor believed applications were still being accepted but would verify.

City Council congratulated the new Youth Council mayor and expressed appreciation for the group's service. Staff also noted they would be discussing assistance with the holiday lights project.

Topic 2 – Cemetery Sexton Report – Eric Bowen (6:15 PM) The Cemetery Sexton presented his quarterly report. He reported that six burials had taken place during the last quarter. He reported dogs running through the cemetery. The Mayor told him to call animal control and report it so they can respond promptly.

The Sexton reported: Cemetery grounds are being regularly watered during the hot summer weather. Work is expected to begin this fall on the next cemetery expansion section (Section A). Planning for future sections will continue as needed. A brief discussion followed regarding scheduling conflicts with funeral services and coordination with the funeral home. The council thanked the Cemetery Sexton for his report and reaffirmed the value of quarterly updates to maintain open communication between staff and the council. The next quarterly report is expected in October.

Topic 4 - Public Hearing – Nemelka Annexation (6:19 PM)

Motion:

Councilmember Watkins made a motion to close city council meeting and open a public hearing for the Nemelka Annexation. Councilmember Jepsen seconded the motion.

Action:

Councilmembers Garbe, Watkins, Jepsen, Myers, and Heers voted aye. The motion passed

Discussion:

The city recorder reported that the City Council approved the annexation petition on May 14, 2026. The petition was reviewed by legal counsel and found to comply with Utah law. Required public

notices were posted and published. The required 30-day protest period concluded with no protests filed. The annexation was being presented for final council consideration.

Public Comment:

The mayor opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received.

Motion:

Councilmember Jepsen motioned to close the public hearing and open council meeting.

Councilmember Myers seconded the motion.

Action:

Councilmembers Garbe, Watkins, Jepsen, Myers, and Heers voted aye. The motion passed.

Discussion:

The mayor presented Ordinance 2026-02, correcting the ordinance number before reading the ordinance into the record. The ordinance annexes Cache County Parcel No. 11-011-0037 (1.58 acres) into Mendon City; Extends the city's corporate boundaries; Zones the property R-1 Single-Family Residential; Directs the filing of the ordinance and annexation plat with the Utah Lieutenant Governor's Office within 60 days; Specifies that the annexation becomes effective upon issuance of the Certificate of Annexation by the Lieutenant Governor and recording by the Cache County Recorder.

Motion:

Councilmember Jepsen motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-02. Councilmember Watkins seconded the motion.

Action:

Councilmembers Garbe, Watkins, Jepsen, Myers, and Heers voted aye. The motion passed.

Topic 5 – Library – Jessie Eiman (6:28 PM)

Library Director Jessie Eiman presented the annual library update at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Over the past 12 months: More than 700 books were added to the library collection; Program attendance increased significantly, including approximately 30% growth in craft program attendance

and approximately 65% growth in story time attendance. Story time continues to attract strong participation from both residents and neighboring communities.

The director reported there has been no update regarding the future of the Cache County Library system. Discussions remains on hold until after the November election, when several communities will vote on forming a consortium to acquire and operate the county library system.

The Library Board discussed amending its bylaws to allow residents from neighboring service areas, in addition to Mendon residents, to serve on the board due to ongoing difficulty filling all nine board positions. Council discussion included that any bylaw amendments should first be approved by the Library Board and then presented to the City Council for approval. Discussion of whether the board size could be reduced from nine members to seven, noting that state guidance allows seven to nine members while maintaining an odd number for voting purposes. Consideration of future changes based on potential county funding and expanded library service areas. Discussion of possible eligibility language for board membership, including residents of areas receiving city services or communities that may be served by the library in the future. The council encouraged the Library Board to continue evaluating the proposed bylaw revisions and return with a recommendation when appropriate.

The library director updated the council on technology improvements and ongoing information technology issues, including: The transition to the city's .gov domain and increased monthly service costs; Delays in implementing Google Workspace compatibility required for state library operations; Continued technical issues following installation of new library computers, including difficulties restoring legacy software; A temporary disruption of phone service that was ultimately resolved. The director reported that additional costs associated with the technology transition totaled approximately \$2,570, which the library believes the money should be reimbursed to the library. The mayor directed staff to meet with the library director and the city's technology provider to review the issues and seek an appropriate resolution, noting that the vendor has recently been responsive to city concerns.

A council member asked whether books purchased through a previous donation had arrived. The library director reported they had not yet been received. The mayor reminded the council that proceeds from approximately \$42,500 in donated book sales are intended to benefit the library. The mayor discussed the goal of using those proceeds as a long-term funding source to help support library operations, including employee compensation, similar to an endowment or legacy fund. The council discussed improving the handling of library finances by routing expenditures and donations

through the city's financial system to provide greater consistency and accountability. The library director explained that, in addition to the city's annual library appropriation, the library also receives grants and private donations that support library operations and purchases. The mayor requested that the library director meet with city staff to review current financial procedures, reconcile library accounts, and ensure all funding and expenditures are processed through appropriate city financial channels. Council members agreed the review is intended to improve financial oversight and consistency rather than address any specific concerns about library operations.

The council thanked the library director and staff for their continued work and service.

Topic 6: Law Enforcement – Deputy Spence (6:45 PM)

Deputy Spence from the Cache County Sheriff's Office provided a brief public safety update. He reported a noticeable decrease in e-bike-related issues following recent enforcement and public education efforts. Routine patrols have continued without significant incidents.

Coordination with city staff is underway for traffic control and public safety during the upcoming July 24th celebration. Deputy Spence outlined traffic and event plans: Closure of a portion of Center Street to accommodate event activities; Designated space for food trucks while maintaining local access for nearby residents; Traffic control measures designed to improve pedestrian safety and event flow.

The mayor emphasized keeping food trucks and event activities on the north side of the roadway to minimize impacts on nearby residents. City staff requested designated parking for employees working during the event. The Sheriff's Office agreed to reserve parking spaces for city staff and indicated additional parking could be accommodated if needed. The deputy also confirmed there will be multiple deputies assigned throughout the day and evening. Security escorts will be available for scheduled cash pickups during the event. Staff should coordinate any additional parking or logistical needs in advance.

Council members expressed appreciation for the Sheriff's Office's partnership and planning efforts. The mayor specifically thanked deputies for their continued communication and public education regarding safe operation of e-bikes and other motorized devices.

A discussion followed regarding electric one-wheel devices being operated in parks and athletic fields, including concerns about riders traveling at high speeds near children and through active sporting events. The deputy explained that these devices are subject to the same applicable state regulations as other motorized electric vehicles and stated that enforcement action can be taken when unsafe or unlawful operation is observed. The mayor encouraged continued enforcement and education to promote safety during community events and in city parks. The council thanked the deputy and the Cache County Sheriff's Office for their continued service and support of the community.

The mayor thanked the Cache County Sheriff's Office for its assistance with enforcement of the city's temporary restrictions on personal fireworks. The deputy reported that public response to the restrictions has been overwhelmingly positive, with relatively few complaints. Most concerns have come from individuals with a commercial interest in fireworks sales. Sheriff's deputies provided additional patrols during the holiday period and issued approximately 12 citations for fireworks violations. The mayor noted that the absence of widespread personal fireworks significantly reduced noise and fire risk during the July 4th celebration and emphasized the educational opportunity for families to discuss wildfire prevention with children. The deputy agreed that reducing fireworks is an important public safety measure, particularly given current wildfire conditions, and confirmed the Sheriff's Office will continue enforcement efforts as needed.

Topic 7 – City Engineer – Eric Dursteler (6:56 PM)

The City Engineer reported that construction on 300 North remains in progress. Minor delays have occurred due to relocation of a utility pole and associated utility infrastructure. Additional road base has been placed in areas requiring elevation adjustments and improved roadway support. Driveway approaches are being modified as part of the roadway improvements. Council members noted that while some nearby residents are growing impatient with construction, the project continues to move forward. It was also noted that utility providers are completing gas line improvements in coordination with the road project.

The City Engineer reported that improvements at Legacy Park have been completed. Recent work included removal and tapering of curb islands to improve access and plans to apply yellow caution paint to newly modified curb areas to improve visibility. Council members shared positive feedback received from park users. At the suggestion of park users, staff agreed to add pavement markings to highlight elevation changes and improve pedestrian safety. A brief discussion was held regarding

erosion concerns around newly modified landscaping. Staff indicated that established grass should stabilize the area once fully rooted.

Eric Dursteler presented a contract for installation of electrical service supporting park operations at the pickleball court area. The contract amount is approximately \$12,074. The mayor confirmed the project will be funded from available Youth Council improvement funds previously discussed. Staff reported that sufficient funds remain to cover the contract amount. The council discussed the need to continue fundraising to provide matching funds for future grant opportunities related to park improvements. The mayor confirmed that construction can proceed after the gas utility company finishes its work.

Topic 8 – Public Works Director – Kirk Taylor (7:02 PM)

Kirk reported continued progress on landscaping improvements round the meeting room. Slurry application is scheduled for the following week. Park improvements continue, including site excavation and preparation work by Parks staff, and installation of forms for the playground seating wall and surrounding curb. Delivery of the new playground equipment is anticipated in mid-July, subject to the manufacturer's shipping schedule. Staff are preparing for the July 24th celebration, including installation of event signage and other logistical preparations. Following the holiday, the county is scheduled to complete chip seal work on designated city streets. Planned maintenance also includes sealing the parking lots at the pickleball courts and City Hall. Kirk reported an increase in water main repairs and utility-related excavation work, noting that establishing appropriate excavation fees will help offset maintenance and restoration costs.

The council thanked the Public Works and Parks crews for their continued work.

Topic 9 – Councilmembers Reports (7:04 PM)

Brian Myers (7:05 PM)

Councilmember Myers reported that new window blinds have been installed in City Hall. He received a letter from Utah Water Users Association requesting an annual due of \$110. Plans are underway to repaint the Mendon Station later in the summer.

Amy Garbe (7:07 PM)

Amy received an email from Jessica DeGraw with Utah Common Ground about discussing AI.

Mendon City has received responses from several property owners after junk vehicle notification letters were mailed. Some property owners have made progress toward compliance, while others have not responded or taken corrective action. The council discussed sending individualized follow-up letters to remaining non-compliant property owners. Property owners who have communicated with the city while requesting a timeline or plan for achieving compliance need to be followed up with providing information on resources available for removal of unwanted vehicles. The mayor noted that code enforcement efforts are generally initiated in response to citizen complaints rather than proactive inspections. Staff was authorized to continue follow-up efforts and, if necessary, coordinate with the Cache County Sheriff's Office for additional enforcement assistance.

Revisions to the Board of Adjustment ordinance are nearing completion and are expected to be presented to the Planning Commission.

The council discussed the upcoming review of the city's General Plan. A joint work session with the City Council, Planning Commission, staff, and the public is scheduled for August 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the city meeting room. Council members were encouraged to review the proposed General Plan revisions in advance and identify any questions or concerns before the meeting. The goal is to complete the review process, including required public meetings, in time for council consideration later in the year.

Reimbursement documentation for the Legacy Park project is being compiled and will be submitted once all required paperwork is complete.

Amy identified municipal code placing responsibility for park strip trees on adjacent property owners. Property owners are responsible for tree care and maintenance, removing dead or hazardous trees at their expense, and maintaining clearance of approximately 13 feet over streets and 8 feet over sidewalks. Council discussed notifying residents of these responsibilities through letters and social media. Additional discussion encouraged residents to keep gutters clear of yard debris.

Ben Watkins (7:21 PM)

History Committee members are being organized, with additional community volunteers joining. First committee meeting is scheduled for July 23rd. Discussion was had about hiring planning assistance and consulting BRAG regarding planning services.

Art Heers (7:27 PM)

We are waiting for the Conditional Use Permit from Landis before reopening the trail. Landis said it was mailed to the city office last week. Staff confirmed it had not yet been received. Once paving is complete and the permit is received, the mayor will issue a public announcement reopening the area.

Mosquito abatement is scheduled to occur on Thursday nights consistent with previous years. Discussion acknowledged a citizen concern regarding pollinators, with staff noting spraying occurs after dark to minimize impacts on bees and other pollinating insects.

Ben Jepsen (7:31 PM)

Bob has concerns about vehicles and trailers being parked on city right-of-way for extended periods. Ordinances appear to limit parking on city property to approximately three days. The city may need to address long-term enforcement consistently throughout town. Mayor Buist suggested discussing enforcement with Deputy Spence.

Bob presented a proposal for a permanent memorial honoring Mendon's early settlers. Two plaque design options were presented. Estimated cost was approximately \$6,200. Initial thought was to use perpetual care funds, but staff indicated those funds legally could not be used because the memorial is not considered cemetery maintenance. Council expressed unanimous support for the project. Mayor directed that the memorial proceed using the cemetery budget, with future budget adjustments if necessary. Bob agreed to verify the spelling of one historical name (Lloyd) before final production.

Bob thanked council and staff for their support following his mother's passing. He shared information from Summit County, where his mother was buried, regarding burial plot pricing. They charge \$3,000 for non-residents. He mentioned some Salt Lake area cemeteries charging close to \$10,000 per plot. Bob expressed concern that Mendon residents subsidize cemetery maintenance through taxes while non-residents pay comparatively little. He suggested reviewing non-resident cemetery fees. Mayor agreed annual review of cemetery rates would be worthwhile.

Ed Buist (7:42 PM)

There are increasing problems with people reserving fireworks viewing spots several days early. He would like to see signs installed stating no blankets, ropes, or reserved spaces before Friday at noon. Social media can help to publicize the policy. Law enforcement may assist with removing prematurely placed items. Laura offered A-frame signs for the event. Kirk supported measures that would allow city crews to complete mowing and watering.

Mayor proposed reserving a modest area for city council members and staff families during the fireworks because officials spend much of the celebration working. Most council members indicated they had no objection. Mayor emphasized it would be a small, reserved area. The plan is to try it for one year and evaluate public reaction. After the discussion no final decision was made.

For the Pioneer Day Parade, Council was instructed to wear their newly embroidered city shirt. Side-by-sides will transport council members during the parade. Council is to meet at 11:30 a.m. at Owen Sorenson's Corner (300 South Main). Candy has been purchased for parade distribution.

Chris Nieman expressed interest in donating lighting for the pickleball courts. Mayor Buist emphasized that electrical service is a high priority because security cameras require power.

Water service has now been installed to the new Public Works building. Mayor Buist would like to begin planning for office space, restroom installation, electrical work, camera system power, and future lighting. The mezzanine construction may have to wait for a future budget year.

Mayor Buist said he'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion:

Councilmember Jepsen made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Heers seconded the motion.

Vote:

Councilmembers Garbe, Watkins, Jepsen, Myers, and Heers voted aye. The motion passed.

Adjourned (8:02 PM)