

1 **Willard City Council Regular Meeting**
2 **Meeting minutes May 22, 2025**
3 **Willard City Council Chambers 6:30 PM**

4
5 **Officials Present:**

6 Travis Mote-Mayor
7 Jacob Bodily-Council Member
8 Jordan Hulsey-Council Member

9
10 Rod Mund- City Council Member
11 Rex Christensen-Council Member

12
13 **Official Excused:** Mike Braegger-Council Member

14
15 **Staff Present:**

16 Jeremy Kimpton- City Manager
17 Madison Brown-City Planner
18 Jordan Harper-Police Officer
19 Susan Obray-City Recorder
20 Payden Vine-Public Works Director

21
22 **Others Present:**

23 Ken Ormond
24 Ruth Ormond
25 Lynn Murphy
26 Doug Younger
27 Ryan Child, Child, Richards CPA
28 Principal Heather Godfrey
29 Several Willard Elementary Students
30 Jay Thackery

31
32 **Call to Order**

33 The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mote.

34 **Invocation**

35 Council Member Christensen was asked to lead the invocation.

36 **Pledge of Allegiance**

37 Council Member Hulsey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

38 **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

39 No conflicts of interest were declared.

40 **Public Hearing(s)**

41 **A Public Hearing Regarding the Approval of Resolution 2025-06 Approving**
42 **Compensation Schedule.**

43 The Mayor announced a change in the order of the agenda, moving item 2 before item 1. He
44 welcomed citizens to the meeting, describing them as the best citizens in the community. He

1 explained that this was the first inaugural certificate of recognition for citizenship that the city
2 had done in combination with the school.

3 The Mayor discussed the meaning of citizenship, emphasizing that it goes beyond
4 government involvement and includes everyday activities, kindness, and looking out for one
5 another. He encouraged the students to continue watching out for those around them.

6 Principal Godfrey was invited to come up, and the council members were positioned to shake
7 hands with the students as they received their certificates. The mayor mentioned that pictures
8 could be taken after the ceremony if desired.

9 **A public hearing for Resolution 2025-06 approving compensation schedule was then**
10 **opened.**

11 Council Member Bodily made a motion to open the public hearing. Council Member
12 Christensen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

13 The Mayor called for comments, but none were made.

14 Council Member Mund made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Bodily
15 seconded the motion. All were in favor.

16 **Award Presentation by Heather Godfrey, Willard School Principal.**

17 This item was addressed earlier in the meeting when the certificates of recognition for
18 citizenship were presented to the students.

19 **Open Comment Period**

20 Lynn Murphy spoke regarding the Willard Canyon access agreement. They thanked the
21 council for reviewing the agreement to preserve the Willard Canyon Trail and for deciding to
22 discuss the agreement further before making any final decisions. The citizen outlined five
23 issues they believe it should be addressed in the agreement:

- 24 ● The agreement allows Box Elder County to vacate portions of the existing trail across
25 the Wells parcels at the discretion of a private gravel pit operator.
- 26 ● The agreement does not allow for public input on decisions about vacating and
27 relocating the trail.
- 28 ● The agreement's timeline is vague.
- 29 ● The agreement fails to ensure uninterrupted access during trail relocations.
- 30 ● The agreement places significant control in the hands of the private property owner
31 whose primary interest is gravel pit operations, not public recreation.

32 Mrs. Murphy urged the council to consider these points and keep in mind the importance of
33 the canyon as a recreation area. They provided a printout of these points to the council. (The
34 letter will be attached to the minutes).

35 **Planning Commission Report**

36 Mayor Mote provided a brief report on the Planning Commission meeting. He mentioned that
37 they discussed a sign conditional use permit and the RV park ordinance. The RV Park
38 ordinance was not finalized, as the commission wanted to do more work on it. They were
39 particularly interested in how to proportionately charge RV trailers for sewer usage and
40 ensuring the city is adequately compensated for any impact.

41 The Mayor added that the commission also reviewed a master road plan that Maddie had
42 been working on. Some findings from this process included:

- 1 ● UDOT has a limit on how much access they will allow and won't permit any more
2 homes to directly access the highway.
- 3 ● UDOT has plans for future stop lights or intersections based on projected growth, but
4 nothing is imminent.

5 The Mayor mentioned that the road plan would likely be presented in the next few council
6 meetings.

7 **New Business**

8 **Approval of Resolution 2025-06 Approving of the Compensation Schedule.**

9 The council discussed the compensation schedule for city employees. A question was raised
10 about why planning commission members, who attend almost as many meetings as the
11 council, don't get paid. It was suggested that this should be looked into, as most other towns
12 do compensate their planning commission members. The mayor agreed it was reasonable to
13 consider but noted it would require a separate resolution.

14 Council Member Bodily made a motion to approve resolution 2025-06. Council Member
15 Mund seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

16 Council Member Bodily - Yes Council Member Christensen - Yes

17 Council Member Mund - Yes Council Member Hulsey - Yes

18 Motion approved.

19 **Discussion/Action of Truth and Taxation.**

20 Jeremy, the City Manager, explained that a date, time, and location needed to be set for the
21 Truth in Taxation hearing, which must be after August 6th. There was some confusion about
22 the exact requirements and deadlines for the hearing.

23 The council discussed the possibility of having the hearing on August 14th, which is a regular
24 city council meeting night. Jeremy was instructed to aim for the first available date from
25 August 7th onwards, preferably on a city council night.

26 The mayor expressed a desire to review the budget more thoroughly, particularly regarding
27 the timing of certain expenses like a second ambulance. He also emphasized the need to
28 address the issue of services provided to South Willard with Box Elder County.

29 It was decided that Jeremy would reach out to the county to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues, either
30 with the full commission or in a work session with a couple of commissioners.

31 **Discussion/Action Regarding a Stop Work Order on Hwy 89.**

32 The mayor recapped the situation with the Highway 89 project. The original cost was for four
33 crossings, but the new bid came back much higher and only included three crossings. The
34 city had requested to pause the project and inquired about getting out of the agreement. They
35 were told they could exit the agreement but would need to pay for all services up to that
36 point, approximately \$50,000.

37 The mayor had requested an itemized invoice for the \$50,000 and all deliverables before
38 making a final decision. However, they had not received any response to this request.

39 The council discussed the inflated costs and the possibility of boring the crossings themselves
40 at a lower cost. They agreed that the current bid seemed unreasonable and that they should
41 not proceed with the project as proposed.

42 Council Member Bodily made a motion to approve stopping the work on Highway 89
43 crossovers. Council Member Mund seconded the motion. All were in favor.

1 **Discussion/Action Regarding Willard Canyon Agreement.**

2 Mayor Mote provided background on the Willard Canyon agreement, which has been in
3 negotiation for about three years. The main point of contention was access to the canyon,
4 which the Wells family initially did not want to provide.

5 The council discussed the concerns raised by the Willard Canyon Coalition during the public
6 comment period. They addressed each point:

- 7 ● The agreement allows Box Elder County to vacate portions of the trail: The mayor
8 explained this was necessary to allow mining operations.
- 9 ● Lack of public input: It was suggested that concerns about public input should be
10 addressed to the county commissioners.
- 11 ● Vague timeline: The mayor acknowledged this but noted it depended on mining
12 operations.
- 13 ● Uninterrupted access: The city attorney pointed out that the agreement specifically
14 states there will be continued and uninterrupted use of the public trail.
- 15 ● Control by private property owners: The mayor acknowledged this was true but felt it
16 was a necessary compromise.

17 Mayor Mote and Colt Mund, City Attorney emphasized that this agreement was the most
18 powerful tool they had to keep the trail open, as it includes a concession that the trail is a
19 public right of way.

20 Council Member Hulsey recused herself from voting on this item due to family connections.

21 Council Member Bodily made a motion to approve the Willard Canyon agreement. Council
22 Member Mund seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Council Member Hulsey
23 abstaining.

24 **Minutes**

25 **Approval of May 8, 2025, City Council Minutes**

26 Council Member Christensen made a motion to approve May 8, 2025, city council meeting
27 minutes. Council Member Bodily seconded the motion. All were in favor.

28 **Department Reports**

29 **Public Works**

30 Payden Vine, Public Works Director reported that they were keeping up with water demand
31 for now, but it was expected to get warmer next week.

32 **Police Department**

33 The police department reported that Lisa Clark, Police Secretary was working on a COPS
34 grant application with Officer Harper's help to try and get funding for a full-time position.

35 They also discussed progress on finding an animal shelter solution. Jeremy met with Adam
36 from Ellie's Pet Hotel, who was willing to provide a facility in South Willard that could keep
37 impounded dogs separated from the general population. They were working on determining
38 costs and creating a contract.

39 The council discussed the need to update the animal control ordinance, particularly regarding
40 how long the city would pay for an animal to stay in the shelter before other measures were
41 taken.

1 **Fire Department**

2 There were no specific reports from the Fire Department. However, there was a discussion
3 about the upcoming city celebration and whether it would be split between parks this year.
4 The mayor said he would reach out to the Ross family to clarify the plans.

5 **Council Member Reports**

6 Council members did not have specific reports. There was a brief discussion about the
7 upcoming Fourth of July celebration and the need for volunteers to help with the breakfast.

8 **Next Agenda June 12, 2025**

9 **Mayor's General Correspondence and Information**

10 **City Manager's Report**

11 Jeremy reported on several items:

- 12 ● Sewer plant operations: There were ongoing challenges with finding a new operator
13 for the sewer plant. The council discussed potential solutions and the impact on the
14 budget.
- 15 ● Business license fees: The council discussed setting a fee and duration for solicitor's
16 licenses. They tentatively agreed on \$50 per week per solicitor, with a possible fine of
17 five times the weekly fee for operating without a license.
- 18 ● Utah Inland Port: Jeremy mentioned that this topic was coming up again and that he
19 would be drafting a resolution for the June 12 meeting.

20 **City Planners Report**

21 Nothing to review.

22 **City Attorney Report**

23 Nothing to report.

24 **Consideration of Motion to Enter a Closed Session (if necessary)**

25 There was no closed session.

26 **Adjourn**

27 Council Member Bodily made a motion to close the meeting. Council Member Hulsey
28 seconded the motion. All were in favor.

29 The meeting was adjourned.