

Willard City Council Meeting, Council Room

Meeting minutes July 10, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Elected Officials Present

Mayor Travis Mote
Council Member Jake Bodily
Council Member Rod Mund
Council Member Mike Braegger
Council Member Rex Christensen
Council Member Jordan Hulsey

Staff

Jeremy Kimpton, City Manager
Payden Vine, Public Works
Susan Obray, City Recorder
Madison Brown, City Planner

Others Present

Diana Baker
Gregory S.
Lynn Murphy
Mark Murphy
Ken Ormond
Ruth Ormond
Rew Wiley
Chad Braegger
Braggers

Call to Order

Mayor Mote called the July 10, 2025, City Council meeting to order.

Invocation

Councilmember Christensen offered an invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Mund led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

The Mayor asked if there were any conflict-of-interest declarations. The council members declared no conflicts.

Public Hearing(s)

a. A Public Hearing Regarding Resolution 2025-12 to Authorize Compensation for Planning and Zoning Commission Members.

The Mayor opened the public hearing regarding Resolution 2025-12 to authorize compensation for Planning and Zoning Commission members.

Motion to open the public hearing was made by Council Member Christensen and seconded by Council Member Bodily. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor explained that the resolution provides for \$25 per commission member per general meeting they attend. It was noted that there are typically 24 meetings per year, with occasional cancellations or extra meetings.

No public comments were made during this hearing.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Council Member Mund and seconded by Council Member Braegger. The motion passed unanimously.

b. A Public Hearing Regarding Resolution 2025-13 Implementing a Multi-Year Rate Adjustment Schedule for Water and Sewer Rates

The Mayor opened the public hearing regarding Resolution 2025-13 implementing a multi-year rate adjustment schedule for water and sewer rates.

Motion to open the public hearing was made by Council Member Bodily and seconded by Council Member Mund. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor provided an overview of the proposed rate adjustments:

- Water: The monthly water service rate would increase from \$25 to \$37 per account on January 1st, with a \$2 increase each year for the next 5 years thereafter.
- Sewer: The current base rate of \$68 would increase by \$18 to \$86 per account beginning January 1, 2026. On January 1st each subsequent year for the next 5 years, it would increase by \$5.

A member of the public commented that the rate increase should have been done a couple of years ago. They suggested raising the gallons allowance along with the rate increase, noting that dropping the gallons did not raise any revenue. The commenter also mentioned the possibility of renaming the sewer facility.

The council briefly discussed the gallons allowance, which is currently at 17,000 gallons per month, down from the previous 25,000 gallons.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Council Member Braegger and seconded by Council Member Bodily. The motion passed unanimously.

c. A Public Hearing Regarding Resolution 2025-14 to Implement a Rate Adjustment for Garbage Service

The Mayor opened the public hearing regarding Resolution 2025-14 to implement a rate adjustment for garbage service.

Motion to open the public hearing was made by Council Member Bodily and seconded by Council Member Mund. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor explained that this resolution was new to everyone and had not been worked on previously. The rate increase was due to the purchase of heavier-duty garbage cans. The new rate per would increase to \$13.50 from the previous \$4.95 for those purchasing cans.

The council discussed the pros and cons of the city owning and maintaining the cans versus residents purchasing their own. They also talked about the possibility of incorporating the cost of cans into the monthly fee and having the city manage can replacements.

There were no public comments during this hearing.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Council Member Braegger and seconded by Council Member Bodily. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Comment Period

No open comments were recorded during this period.

Planning Commission Report

There was no Planning Commission report as there had not been a meeting since the last City Council meeting.

New Business

a. Discussion/Approval of Resolution 2025-12 to Authorize Compensation for Planning and Zoning Commission Members.

The council briefly discussed the resolution to authorize compensation for Planning and Zoning Commission members.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-12 authorizing compensation for Planning and Zoning Commission members was made by Council Member Braegger and seconded by Council Member Mund. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

b. Discussion/Approval of Resolution 2025-13 Implementing a Multi-Year Rate Adjustment Schedule for Water and Sewer Rates

Council Member Hulsey expressed concerns about the proposed rate increases, stating that she had researched rates in other Utah cities and found Willard's rates to be significantly higher. She requested more information on why Willard's rates were so much higher and whether all other options for efficiency and revenue had been explored before resorting to rate increases.

The council discussed several factors contributing to the higher rates, including:

- The complexity and requirements of Willard's sewer plant
- The lack of commercial customers to offset residential rates.
- The city's debt structure and balloon payments
- Depreciation costs and the need for future repairs and replacements

After extensive discussion, the council decided to table the resolution for further investigation and analysis.

Motion to table Resolution 2025-13 until August, allowing time for further research and analysis of alternatives, was made by Council Member Hulsey and seconded by Council Member Braegger. The motion passed unanimously.

The council requested that staff prepare additional information, including:

- A breakdown of costs and debt services
- Exploration of using impact fees to service debt
- Analysis of labor costs
- Comparison with other cities' rates and practices
- Potential alternatives with various levels of risk and monetary impact.

c. Discussion/Approval of Resolution 2025-14 to Implement a Rate Adjustment for Garbage Service

The council discussed the proposed rate adjustment for garbage service, which would increase the cost of purchasing a garbage can from \$4.95 to \$13.50.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-14 implementing a rate adjustment for garbage service was made by Council Member Mund and seconded by Council Member Hulsey. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Council Member Hulsey Yes

Council Member Mund Yes

Council Member Bodily Yes

Council Member Christensen Yes

Council Member Braegger Yes

Minutes

a. Approval of June 26, 2025, City Council Minutes

The council reviewed the minutes from the June 26, 2025, City Council meeting.

Motion to approve June 26, 2025, City Council minutes was made by Council Member Braegger and seconded by Council Member Christensen. The motion passed unanimously.

a. Warrants, Vouchers, Reports

No specific discussion was recorded regarding warrants, vouchers, or financial reports.

Department Reports

a. Public Works

Concerns were raised about damage to roads in the Deer Run subdivision, particularly in the newest section. He noted that construction vehicles and landscapers damaged the roads. The council discussed the possibility of using the developer's escrow or bond to repair the damage, as well as enforcing warranties if applicable.

The council also expressed appreciation for the Public Works department's efforts during the Fourth of July celebrations, including setup and teardown of event facilities.

b. Police Department

Chief Fielding reported on police activities, including coverage during the Fourth of July celebrations. He also mentioned that the department's dash cameras and body cameras are approaching end-of-life and will need replacement soon. The Chief presented options for upgrading the camera systems, including a potential solution that would cost around \$20,000 and provide cloud storage capabilities.

The Council discussed the benefits of moving to a cloud-based storage system for easier access by the county attorney's office and improved efficiency in handling video evidence.

c. Fire Department

No specific report was given for the Fire Department, but council members expressed appreciation for the department's efforts during the Fourth of July celebrations, particularly in setting up the fireworks display.

Council Member Reports

a. Jacob Bodily

Council Member Bodily had no specific report.

b. Rod Mund

Council Member Mund had no specific report.

c. Mike Braegger

Council Member Braegger reported a citizen had approached him about considering relief on rate increases for senior citizens over the age of 65. The council discussed the possibility of implementing a hardship-based system rather than an age-based one, noting that some seniors may be financially well-off while younger families might struggle more with increased rates.

d. Rex Christensen

Council Member Christensen expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the Fourth of July celebrations, including the police, fire department, public works, volunteers, and the youth council. He mentioned that the bingo event was particularly popular and suggested considering new tables for the bowery to accommodate future events.

e. Jordan Hulsey

Council Member Hulsey reported on two items:

- She raised concerns about the city's agreement with the animal shelter ending and the potential increase in abandoned animals. The council discussed the complexities of animal control and shelter services, including the differences between strays and owner surrenders.
- She expressed appreciation for the fire department's work in preparing for the Fourth of July fireworks display, noting the significant effort involved.

Next Agenda August 14, 2025

No specific items were discussed for the next agenda.

Mayor's General Correspondence and Information

The Mayor provided updates on several items:

- He mentioned the need for a policy analysis for fire and police services.
- He gave an update on the trail project and conditional use permit, noting that there were still some issues to be resolved with the county regarding land swaps and approvals.
- The mayor also mentioned the issue of zoning along the highway, pointing out that much of the existing commercial area was not properly zoned for commercial use. The council discussed the need to update both the current zoning map and the future land use map to address this discrepancy.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Jeremy Kimpton reported that he would be out of town the weekend of the 20th but would be available by phone if needed.

City Planners Report

City Planner Maddie Brown raised the issue of zoning inconsistencies along the highway, noting that recent commercial applications had highlighted the fact that much of the highway was not zoned for commercial use despite existing businesses. The council discussed the need to update both the zoning map and the future land use map to address this issue.

City Attorney Report

The City Attorney gave no specific report.

Consideration of Motion to Enter a Closed Session (if necessary) pursuant to UCA §52-4-205

No closed session was held during this meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Mund and seconded by Councilmember Bodily. The motion passed unanimously.