# Council Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026
Council Chambers
6:00 PM

1. **Call to Order**

   Chairman Jared Hamner called the Council Meeting to order at 06:00 PM. The time, place, and agenda of the meeting had been provided to the Tooele Transcript Bulletin and to each member of the governing body by posting the notice and agenda at least two days before on the Tooele County website and emailing them a link.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

   The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Paul Wimmer, Sheriff.

3. **Roll Call**

   Council Member Roll call as follows:Erik Stromberg: Present

   Tye Hoffmann: PresentScott Wardle: Present

   Staff in attendance were Nathan Harris- Deputy Attorney, Paul Wimmer- Sheriff, Rachelle Custer- Community Development Director, Wayne Anderton- Solid Waste Director, Brian White- Chief Deputy Sheriff, and Joy Peters- Assessor.
   Guests in attendance were Curtis Beckstrom, Scott Degelbeck, Mike Rapich, Taneesa Wright, Danny Summers, Jason Robinson, and Katie Jacobsen.

4. **Public Comments**

   1 comment

   Scott Degelbeck of Tooele City stated that as he was looking back on the January 6th meeting and had some questions about the proposed Road's Policy. He asked if the policy applies only to roads that are on county property. He asked if residents are charged for work done on private property. He also asked if the policy applies to roads within the trail system. Mr. Degelbeck had questions about Midvalley Highway and the plans for it on the south side of the valley. He also stated he has concerns about the budget; he questioned the plan to tear down the old jail and the plan for lights in Ophir.

5. **Recognitions, Presentations, & Informational Items**

   a. **Presentation of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, Danny Summers**

      Danny Summers will present the County Council with the annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) check for properties owned by the Division of Wildlife Resources.

         Danny Summers with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Regional (Supervisor for Central Region) presented this item.

Mr. Summers presented a PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) check in the amount of $336.97 to the Council. He advised that the new director's focus is on deer herds. He stated that the packet includes a fact sheet outlining the habitat projects that have been done. Mr. Summers summarized several projects that are currently being worked on and past projects.

Chairman Jared Hamner asked if any wildlife had been placed in Tooele County. Mr. Summers advised that he wasn't aware of any transplants. Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked what properties the check covers. Mr. Summers stated he believes it is for Timpie Springs and another property.

b. **Tooele County Grant Updates, Presentation by LSI, Taneesa Wright**

LSI Business Development will give an overview of the grant process, including the grants reviewed, grants applied for, grants awarded.

Taneesa Wright, LSI Senior Engagement Lead, presented this item. An onscreen presentation was given.

Ms. Wright presented the strategy for 2025 and also presented priorities for 2026. She advised that 15 grants have been applied for so far this year for various industries. She presented a grant overview; $450,000 has been awarded year to date. $30 million is pending and $31 million has been pursued.

Ms. Wright reviewed challenges and opportunities. She advised that she has monthly one on one's with points of contact and provides updates on a weekly basis. LSI uses a proactive approach to pursuing grants.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked about decreased federal funding and asked if the funding is being shifted to States, rather than counties and municipalities. He asked about responsibilities that are being placed on local governments and asked about federal funding for these extra responsibilities. Ms. Wright stated she is unsure and will follow up.

Council Member Scott Wardle thanked the LSI team and Community Development Director Rachelle Custer and Assistant County Manager Brittany Lopez for their work. Multiplying taxpayer dollars is appreciated.

Brittany Lopez, Assistant County Manager, advised the Council that the renewal of the LSI contract is coming up later in this meeting. She also advised that only 20 days into the New Year, 4 grant applications have already been submitted. She stated that through working with LSI, it has been possible to reallocate funds and has allowed for better project planning.

c. **Tooele County Water Use and Preservation Element General Plan, Katie Jacobsen**

Hansen, Allen & Luce will present an update on the Preservation Element Plan, including recent progress and key considerations.

Rachelle Custer, Community Development Director, introduced Katie Jacobsen with Hansen, Allen & Luce. Director Custer advised that the Legislature requires a water element to the General Plan, which Hansen, Allen & Luce was hired to create. She stated this draft of the water plan will be formally adopted in the next Business meeting.

Katie Jacobsen presented this item. She advised that a water use and preservation plan is required as part of the General Plan. She advised this is a planning document, not a prescriptive or permitting document. She stated the focus of the plan is to consider the effect of permitted development on water demand and infrastructure, the effects on the Great Salt Lake, and conservation goals.
Ms. Jacobson reviewed an accounting of water uses across the county with a focus on unincorporated areas. As there are not many public water suppliers in Tooele County, gathered data includes Tooele City and Grantsville City. Supply and demand were evaluated. Ms. Jacobsen presented water uses by land type; she clarified that 1/3 of the county is military areas, which are not included in the plan. She encouraged the county to continue to work with military planners on military water use. She stated agricultural usage outweighs urban usage, even within public systems. She discussed regional conservation goals and

advised that the county is on track to meet the goals.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked Ms. Jacobsen if she had heard anything about public lands meeting bill HB155, and if the State is looking to control pricing. Ms. Jacobsen advised that tiered water rates are effective in reducing usage. The use of GIS data helps identify individual parcel usage to evaluate tiered methods.

6. **Minutes**
   a. **December 30, 2025 Council Business Meeting Minutes**
   b. **January 6, 2026 Council Business Meeting Minutes**

   Attachments
   1. 01.06.2026.Business.Draft.pdf

   Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve the December 30, 2025 and January 6, 2026 Council Business Meeting Minutes. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

7. **Check Register**
   a. **Check Register**

   Check Register between 12.31.25 & 01.08.26.

   Attachments
   1. Check Register 1.20.26.pdf

   Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve Check Registers dated 12/31/2025 and 1/8/2026. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

8. **Contracts**
   a. **Purchase of Man Lift 450AJ Boom - Wayne Anderton**

   Purchase of a JLG 450AJ boom man lift for Solid Waste.This is on state contract #MA4806. This lift was budgeted for in the 2026 fiscal year.

   Attachments
   1. 450AJ Boom lift quote December 25.pdf

   Council Member Kendall Thomas expressed his frustration about purchases that have been approved in the budget being reviewed again. Four of the six items have already been approved in the budget process. Andy Welch, County Manager, advised that the purchasing policy will be reviewed to address this concern.

   Wayne Anderton, Solid Waste Director, presented this item as outlined above.

   Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve the purchase of Man Lift 450AJ Boom. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

   b. **Purchase of Volvo L90H2 Loader - Wayne Anderton**

   Purchasing of a 2025 Volvo L90H2 loader to replace a worn out 2015 loader. This loader is used daily in the transfer station. It is on Sourcewell contract #011723-VCE. This is in our budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

   Attachments
   1. L90H2 Quote.pdf

   Wayne Anderton, Solid Waste Director, presented this item as outlined above.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve the purchase of Volvo L90H2 Loader. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

c. **LSI Grant Writing Service, Brittany Lopez**

We are requesting a renewal of the LSI Grant Writing Services contract. LSI has been a valuable asset to Tooele County, providing consistent support and expertise in securing grant funding. We would like to extend the contract through 2026 to allow LSI to assist with finalizing and managing grants currently pending from 2025, as well as to support the preparation and submission of new grant applications for 2026.

Attachments
1. 26-01-07.pdf

Brittany Lopez, Assistant County Manager, presented this item as outlined above.

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the LSI Grant Writing Service Contract. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

d. **Sole Source Palo Alto Support Contract, Scott Persons**

Tooele County IT is requesting approval to enter into a three-year contract for Palo Alto services. This contract includes an upfront cost of $684,283.00, which was approved in the 2026 budget. Entering into this agreement is expected to save the county approximately $400,000.00 over the next three years.

Attachments
1. Tooele County - Palo Alto Renewal with VM-Credits 3 Years Paid Upfront.pdf

Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney, presented this item on behalf of Scott Persons, IT Director.

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the Sole Source Palo Alto Support Contract. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

e. **Sole-Source Support Contract, Scott Persons**

Tooele County IT is requesting approval to enter into a five- year contract for Cisco software support. The contract will be paid annually at a cost of $71,332.88 per year and is expected to result in an estimated cost savings of approximately $136,000.00 over the five-year term.

Attachments
1. CVEQ99337 Tooele County- Final Cisco EA v2 - Tooele County Information Technology - 520348.pdf

Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney, presented this item on behalf of Scott Persons, IT Director.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve the Sole-Source Support Contract. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

Council Member Scott Wardle stated that this has shown savings of half a million dollars. He commended the IT Team and Manager's Office for prioritizing these cost-saving efforts. Andy Welch, County Manager, stated that having a fund balance makes contracts like this possible to save money long-term to prevent the need to raise taxes.

f. **Sole-Source Backup Server, Scott Persons**

Tooele County IT is requesting approval to move forward with the purchase of a new Veeam Backup Server at a cost of $74,727.63, which was approved in the 2026 Budget. The Veeam Backup Server is a critical component of the County's infrastructure and facilitates the backup and protection of all County data.

Attachments
1. CVEQ99288 Tooele County- UCSNetapp opt 2- v2 - Tooele County Information Technology - 520348.pdf

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the Sole-Source Backup Server Contract. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

9. **Resolutions/Ordinances**

   a. **Resolution 2026-01 - Amending Section 1.6, Definitions, and Section 3.11, Temporary Employment, of the Personnel Policy Manual, Nathan Harris**

   This resolution adds clarifying requirements and guidance for the County with regards to temporary employment and temporary employees in the County. It adds definitions to help distinguish between temporary employees who need to be W-2 employees or those who can be 1099 contract employees and the process by which to hire each.

   Attachments
   1. Res 2026-01.pdf

   Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney presented this item as outlined above.

   Attorney Harris advised that this Resolution provides guidance to Department Heads and Elected Officials on how to classify employees more accurately. He provided definitions for W2 employees and a 1099 contractor. He advised that classifications have legal ramifications. A 1099 contractor can't be controlled by schedules, work or how duties are performed.

   Andy Welch, County Manager, further clarified that if there is an ask for a position and Council denies it, the department can't turn around and hire a position as a 1099 contractor. The IRS has very specific rules that need to be adhered to.

   Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve Resolution 2026-01. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle. All in favor. The motion passed.

10. **Action Items**

   a. **Proposed Board of Canvass Dates, Tracy Shaw**

   County Elections will occur in 2026. As a result, Board of Canvass meetings should be held to certify election results. For the Primary election (June 25th), this meeting can be held between June 30th - July 7th. Proposed Canvass date: July 7th. For the General election (Nov 3rd), this meeting can be held between Nov 10th - 17th. Proposed Canvass date: Nov 17th.

   Tracy Shaw, Clerk, advised Board of Canvass meetings need to be scheduled for the 2026 year. She also advised that March 17, 2026 is caucus meeting night, so a change of date for the Business Meeting that night is recommended.
   She proposed July 7th for the Primary Election Board of Canvass meeting and November 17th for the General Election Board of Canvass meeting. The Council opted to select June 30th for the Primary Election Board of Canvass meeting. They agreed with the proposed November 17th date for the General Election Board of Canvass meeting.

11. **Boards & Committees**

   a. **Board Vacancies**

   The Audit Committee has 1 vacancy.

   The Historic Preservation Commission has 2 vacancies. The Housing Authority has 1 vacancy for an Attorney.

   Lake Point Cemetery and Park has 1 vacancy.

   The Planning Commission has 1 vacancy for an alternate. Recreation Special Service District has 1 vacancy for an alternate. Rush Valley Water Conservation District has 1 vacancy.

   The Tourism Tax Advisory Board has 3 vacancies — applicants must represent cultural attractions, hotels, restaurants, recreational facilities, convention facilities, or museums.

   Weeds Control Board has 1 vacancy.

   The Human Services Advisory Council has 1 vacancy.

Chairman Jared Hamner recommended Chris McCormick be appointed to the Tourism Tax Advisory Board. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

Council Member Kendall Thomas recommended Margery Parker Wickham be appointed to the Human Services Advisory Council. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

12. **Council Update**

Council Member Tye Hoffmann reviewed information from the Public Lands Meeting. The Bills UAC (Utah Association of Counties) is watching are as follows:
HB60- This Bill expands the State Engineers' discretion on water rights.
HB63- This Bill deals with the watering livestock.
HB78- This Bill is to create a Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office for the State of Utah.
HB155- This Bill discusses tiered pricing for water.
HB165- This Bill deals with critical infrastructure and keeping foreign adversaries out of government contracts.
SB53- This Bill proposes adding two positions to the Civil Advisory Board,
SB135- This Bill will require Utah to participate in a Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program.
HB238 - This Bill deals with Utah Energy Generation and Transmission.
SB146- This Bill is an Industrial Byproduct and Waste Management.
HB48- This Bill deals with fire suppression.

Chairman Jared Hamner reported he was nominated by UAC (Utah Association of Counties) for the Recreation Mitigation Board. He advised that January 21 is County Day on the Hill.

13. **Manager Update**

Andy Welch, County Manager, advised the Council that there is an online option for Board of Equalization training rather than out-of-town training. He advised that there are 90 distinct projects in the budget, and we are well on our way on those projects. He also advised that I-80 is expected to be 3 lanes with the on-ramp at 2 lanes by the end of the month.

14. **Manager Update: Ratifications**

a. **1 MVA**

Refund on motor vehicle

Attachments
1. 1 MVA.pdf

b. **1 Deferral Application**

Deferral on property taxes

Attachments
1. Pamela Dale.pdf

c. **Stokes Strategies Professional Services Agreement**

Updated Contract for Goverment Relation Services

Attachments
1. Professional Services Agreement - Stokes.pdf

d. **Council Chambers Upgrade, Scott Persons, State Contract**

Tooele County IT is requesting approval to move forward with upgrades to the Council Chambers audio and video presentation system, including updated core distribution equipment as well as new Council and public microphones, to improve reliability, sound quality, and overall meeting functionality.

Attachments

1. AOS - Tooele Council Room AV Update with new Network Switch, Mics, and Cleanup - 1-08-2026.pdf

15. **Adjournment - Closed Session if needed**

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to adjourn at 7:09 pm. All in favor. The motion passed.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE APPROVED:




Tracy Shaw, County Clerk