Council Meeting Minutes

February 03, 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 Lt. Darin Durfey.

3. **Roll Call**

   Council Member Roll call as follows:
   Erik Stromberg: PresentJared Hamner: Present

   Scott Wardle: PresentKendall Thomas: Present

   Also, present were Scott Broadhead- Attorney, Andy Welch- County Manager, Brittany Lopez- Assistant County Manager, and Nicole Rash- Chief Deputy Clerk.

   Staff in attendance were Nathan Harris- Deputy Attorney, Alison McCoy- Auditor, Brian White- Chief Deputy Sheriff, Jed Bell- Roads Director, Corey Bullock- Parks & Recreation Director, Paul Wimmer- Sheriff, Stephanie Eastburn- Planning Department, Bucky Whitehouse- EOC Director, and Darin Durfey- Sheriff's Office,

   Guests in attendance were Scott Degelbeck, Matt Huntington- USU Extension, Tera Porter- Tooele Tech, and Kent Thygerson- Tooele Tech.

4. **Public Comments**

   No Public Comment

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

   a. **Tooele Technical College Update, Kent Thygerson**

      Interim President Thygerson will provide the annual update on Tooele Technical College's impact in Tooele County and will also officially introduce the 2026 Student of the Year.

      Kent Thygerson, Interim President of Tooele Technical College, introduced himself and stated he is serving as Interim President since President Paul Hacking retired. The System of Higher Education will be appointing a new President within the next few months. Mr. Thygerson

advised that he has been with Tooele Tech for 10 years. Tooele Tech has a long-standing relationship with the local community, and that relationship really allows Tooele Tech to shine. He stated Tooele Tech's mission is to "Train Tooele residents for Tooele Employers." Mr. Thygerson spoke about the building expansion on campus which nearly doubled instructional space. Many of the programs that were at capacity now have the space to grow. There are still more plans to expand, and Tooele Tech will do so in the future as funding allows. During the 2025 fiscal year, 1231 students were served; 40% were high school students, and 60% were adults. The graduating class of 2025 was 488 people. 86% of graduates found employment in their chosen career fields. Mr. Thygerson advised that 93% of Tooele Tech employees live in Tooele County. Tooele Tech offers 22 training programs in Business and Technology, Health Care, Manufacturing, Police Academy, Beauty and Service Industry, Transportation, and Electrical Apprenticeship. The Custom Fit program and the Small Business Development Center both benefit local businesses through their partnership with Tooele Tech.

Mr. Thygerson stated Tooele Tech could use some help from the County with their scholarship program. He advised that Tooele Tech would welcome a talk with the Council about a scholarship funded by the County. He also advised that May 14 is graduation for 2026.

Council Members Kendall Thomas and Scott Wardle both expressed thanks to Interim President Thygerson and Tooele Tech staff for their efforts.

Mr. Thygerson introduced Tye Dobmann who is the 2025-2026 student of the year. Mr. Dobmann told his story — he played football all through high school and college. He was on the doorstep of playing pro indoor football in Florida when he was injured and his dream was over. Mr. Dobmann attended the Police Academy at Tooele Tech and is now working for the Tooele County Sheriff's Department. He spoke about his instructors and how they inspired him while attending Tooele Tech.

b. **Tooele Opioid Response Network Presentation, Matt Huntington & Darin Durfey**

This presentation will update the County Council on the progress, impact, and return on investment of Tooele County’s coordinated opioid response through TORN. It will highlight the jail-based treatment program as a model of how prevention, treatment, recovery, and reentry support are working together to improve lives, strengthen public safety, and reduce the costly cycle of relapse and reincarceration. The presentation will include insights from jail leadership, program staff, and a program graduate.

Matt Huntington of USU Extension and Lt. Darin Durfey of Tooele County Sheriff's Department presented this item as outlined above. Mr. Huntington presented stats on substance use in Tooele County. He stated the mission statement of TORN (Tooele Opiod Response Network) is centered on building partnerships to create a recovery-ready community that is resilient to the effects of substance-use disorder. Mr. Huntington shared information on response events that TORN participates in and also shared milestones that TORN has achieved. $2,233,000 in external funding has been awarded to the TORN program. Services offered through TORN include peer support services, exit strategy classes, referrals to services, medication for opioid-use disorder, substance-use disorder counselor services, group-based therapy, and aftercare recovery groups.

Lt. Darin Durfey spoke about the RISE program, stating it is a highly intensive 90-day substance-use disorder course that he helped co-found in Utah County. He stated that approximately 2000 people have taken the course in Utah County; 1500 of those people have not returned to jail. He advised the RISE program has been in operation for about 15 months in Tooele County. He explained the program's goals and advised that there is aftercare for those who complete the program. This program saves taxpayers approximately $15,000 per incarcerated person.

Shianne Anderson stated she is in long-term recovery and now works for the County in the RISE program. She stated she has helped create an Exit Strategy program which helps incarcerated people break down barriers and connect with resources to help in their recovery and reduce recidivism.

Kory Scott, a program graduate, told his story about his experience with the RISE program and the success he has experienced since getting out of jail.

Mr. Huntington encouraged the Council to champion jail-based treatment as a public safety and health strategy, to support coordination between justice, health and human services, and

to use data from this program to guide future decisions.
Council Member Scott Wardle thanked all involved parties. He commended Shianne Anderson and Kory Scott for their successes. Council Member Kendall Thomas stated, "This is God's work" and expressed his gratitude to all involved parties.

c. **The Peak Build-Out Update, Corey Bullock**

Corey Bullock, Parks and Recreation Director, will provide an update on the Peak Master Plan. The presentation will include a review of the completed phases, the current status of the swimming pool, and progress toward the final phase of the build-out.

Corey Bullock, Parks and Recreation Director, presented this item as outlined above. He reviewed the history of the Peak Master Plan, stating that the pool is 85% done with an expected open date of Spring 2026. He stated the Festival Lawn area is the 2nd most popular amenity at the Peak. Work on Phase 4 of the Master Plan is happening now. He advised that 2 grants have been awarded which have helped offset costs of $950,000.
Council Member Erik Stromberg stated he has positive feedback about The Peak and what has been accomplished so far. Council Member Scott Wardle asked how likely it would be for The Peak to attract tournaments after Phase 4 is complete. Director Bullock stated Regional and State tournaments should be very easy. He advised that between The Peak and The Regional Athletic Center in Salt Lake, we should have a National Draw. Partnership discussions are already in the works. He provided stats about how much tourism that should bring into Tooele County. Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked how quick the turnaround time is on fields. Director Bullock advised that it depends on the activity that is happening on the field. The Council and County Manager, Andy Welch, discussed funding sources that have been used to pay for The Peak Master Plan improvements.
Council Member Kendall Thomas stated that the improvements are great, but it's also great to see existing amenities are being well taken care of too.

6. **Minutes**

a. **January 20, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the January 20, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

7. **Check Register**

a. **Check Register**

Check Register 1.15.26 & 1.22.26.

Council Member Scott Wardle motioned to approve the Check Register dated Jan 15 and Jan 22. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

Andy Welch, County Manager, discussed item 13 on agenda. He recommends public transparency items be shown on the agenda under Manager Updates so they are more accessible to the public.

8. **Discussion Items**

a. **Service Delivery Discussion**

Andy Welch, County Manager, presented this item. He stated that as the population of Tooele County continues to grow, the County needs to determine if services are being provided in the most effective way. The County needs to compare which residents are receiving various services versus what residents are paying for them. It was realized that certain services have been paid only by members of the unincorporated areas of the county, but all Tooele County residents are benefiting from those services. Manager Welch recommends doing an indirect service study to ensure that funding for each service is equally distributed by those using the services. All Council Members are in favor of this study.

b. **Update Audit Committee Training, Nathan Harris**

Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney, stated he sat down with new Audit Committee members to discuss their duties and how they will function. He reviewed chapter 20 of the County Code and OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act) requirements. The Council and Attorney Harris

discussed the need to better define what the Audit Committees' roles are and their responsibility to create an internal audit plan. The County's fraud, waste and abuse policy is only one of the county policies that need to be considered when creating that internal audit plan. Policies that the Audit Committee are looking at need to be defined.

9. **Resolutions/Ordinances**

   a. **Ordinance 2026-01 - Adopting the Tooele County Water Use and Preservation Element as an Addendum to the Tooele County General Plan, Rachelle Custer**

   This ordinance adopts the Water Use and Preservation Element as an addendum to the Tooele County General Plan, as required by the Utah State Legislature. The Planning Commission made a favorable recommendation for adoption.

   Stephanie Eastburn, Planning Staff, presented this item as outlined above. She advised that this item was presented in a previous meeting, and she is bringing The Water Use and Preservation Element Plan to the Council for formal adoption.

   Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-01. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

   b. **Resolution 2026-02 - Adopting the Roads Policy, Jed Bell**

   This resolution adopts the Roads Policy (Roads, Highways, and Bridges Administrative Policy) which is an updated administrative policy to guide the County Roads Department and the administration of County roads, highways, bridges, drainage, and related matters.

   Jed Bell, Roads Director, presented this item as outlined above. He stated this item was presented in a previous meeting, and he is bringing the Roads Policy to the Council for formal adoption.

   Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve Resolution 2026-02. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

   c. **Ordinance 2026-02 - Amending Title 15, Roads, of the Tooele County Code, Nathan Harris**

   This ordinance makes amendments to Title 15, Roads, of the County Code due to the adoption of the Roads Policy.

   Nathan Harris, Deputy Attorney, presented this item as outlined above. He stated that much of title 15 of the County code was affected by the adoption of the new Roads Policy. He stated the truck routes, definitions, and truck route enforcement were left in title 15 of the County code.

   Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-02. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

10. **Boards & Committees**

   a. **Board Vacancies**

   The Historic Preservation Commission has 2 vacancies.

   The Housing Authority has 1 vacancy for an Attorney.

   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 1 vacancy — applicants must represent cultural attractions, hotels, restaurants, recreational facilities, convention facilities, or museums.

   The Council on Aging has 1 vacancy to fill an interim term.

   The Career Service Council has 1 vacancy.

   The Board of Health has 1 vacancy. Applicant must be a Professional Health Provider.

   Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to appoint Suki Cannon to the Council on Aging. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

Council Member Scott Wardle motioned to appoint Bill Cobabe, Grantsville City Community and Economic Development Director, to the Community Economic Opportunity Advisory Council. This appointment comes with a recommendation from COG (Council of Governments). Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

Council Member Scott Wardle also advised that Sheldon Birch, Erda City Council Member, has been appointed to the Board of Health by COG (Council of Governments).

11. **Council Update**

Council Member Scott Wardle stated that at a recent WFRC (Wasatch Front Regional Council) Board meeting, housing was one of the items discussed. Housing is being affected by the growth in Tooele county.

Council Member Erik Stromberg spoke about HB 48 and the map that has been provided that identifies properties that are high risk for wildfires in the State. He stated some of the areas in Grantsville City and Tooele City need to be appealed, and this information will be presented at the next COG (Council of Governments) meeting.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann reviewed the following Bills that Public Lands is watching. HB378, which deals with dust mitigation. HB367, which deals with solar power utility exporting tariffs. SB196, which deals with water project management. HB323, which deals with solar panel disposal. HB381, which deals with E-bikes. SB191, which deals with OTV lifetime registration.

Chairman Jared Hamner spoke about the US Magnesium shutdown and the recent purchase of US Magnesium by the State of Utah. He also briefly spoke about nuclear plant discussions and locations.

12. **Manager Update**

Andy Wlech, County Manager, spoke about the retirement of the County's Justice Court Judge. A nominating committee has submitted names for his replacement. Manager Welch and Chairman Hamner will conduct interviews and an offer will be extended.
The IT department will be making improvements to the Council room audio next week.
He advised of a petition for Erda community members to dis-incorporate.
He proposed a performance evaluation discussion to allow Department Heads more flexibility to offer more merit increase to higher performers.
Lastly, he advised of a possible grant award of $5.2 million for the first phase of Droubay Road.

13. **Public Transparency Information**

- Audit Reports
- Boards and Committees
- Budgets
- Check Register
- County Code
- GRAMA Request
- Public Meetings
- Resolutions & Ordinances

14. **Manager Update: Ratifications**

    a. **1 MVA**

    Refund on Motor vehicle

    b. **Bowen and Collins Service Agreement for Wendover Airport**

    c. **Center for Public Safety Management Contract**

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

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Second by Council Member Scott Wardle second. All in favor. The motion passed.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE APPROVED:

Jared Hamner, County Council Chairman

Tracy Shaw, County Clerk

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