Council Meeting Minutes

March 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 Joy Peters, Assessor.

3. **Roll Call**

   Council Member Roll call as follows:
   Erik Stromberg: Present

   Jared Hamner: Present

   Tye Hoffmann: Present

   Scott Wardle: Present

   Kendall 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, Paul Wimmer- Sheriff, Brian White- Deputy Sheriff, Rachelle Custer- Community Development Director, Corey Bullock- Parks and Recreation Director, Joy Peters- Assessor, Mili Pioquinto- Planner

   Guests in attendance were Curtis Beckstrom.

4. **Public Comments**

   None

5. **Minutes**

   a. **February 17, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes**

   Attachments
   1. 02.17.2026.BUSINESS.PROOFED

   Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to approve the February 17, 2026 Business Meeting

Minutes. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

6. **Discussion Items**

   a. **Sheriff's Office Transitional Employment Program, Paul Wimmer**

   This program would enable the Sheriff's Office to participate in the New Reflections House Transitional Employment Program. A program that would be beneficial to both the Sheriff's Office, New Reflections House and members of our community that suffer from mental health challenges.

   Paul Wimmer, Sheriff, presented this item as outlined above. He advised that his Chief Deputy, Brian White, serves on the Advisory Board for The New Reflections House, which runs a transitional employment program that places those with mental disabilities or illnesses with gainful employment. He stated the program director, Zach Bergener, and a success story within the program, Stephanie Jacobson, were both available for questions. Sheriff Wimmer advised that there is a need in the Sheriff's Office for custodial services. Inmates with the proper credentials sometimes provide custodial services in hallways and common areas, but allowing them access to individual offices presents a privacy and safety issue as there is sensitive information in those rooms. The inmate program is also very inconsistent, as there is a lot of movement within the program. Staff are currently cleaning the offices and sometimes the common areas when inmates are not available, which infringes upon department productivity. Sheriff Wimmer is hoping to partner with The New Reflections House to hire a part-time employee to fill this need. It will require a budget adjustment in personnel, and Sheriff Wimmer stated he would like to have a conversation before asking for funds.

   Chairman Hamner stated that The New Reflections House provides services at the Chamber of Commerce, which has worked out well.
   Council Member Kendall Thomas stated he is in support of this proposal.
   Council Member Tye Hoffmann asked if this has been tried in any other county Sheriff's Offices. Sheriff Wimmer stated he's not aware of any, but would like to try.

7. **Contracts**

   a. **Ensign Engineering Professional Services Agreement, Rachelle Custer**

   Community Development is requesting approval for a new contract between Ensign Engineering and Tooele County for Engineering Services.

   Rachelle Custer, Community Development Director, presented this item as outlined above. Director Custer advised this is a multi-year contract renewal, with a proposed rate of $185 per hour with a 2-year contract. The rate would be $225 per year if the contract is renewed on a year-by-year basis. She advised Ensign Engineering is a local company that is involved in many multi-year projects throughout the county. She stated they work in the County Admin Building 2 days out of the week, and they are very helpful and accessible to the county.

   Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve the Ensign Engineering Professional Services Agreement. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

   b. **Energy Solutions Aquatics Center Painting, Corey Bullock**

   A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for repainting of the concessions and locker room buildings at the Peak's Aquatics Center. Three (3) responsive bids were received, with prices ranging from $121,233.27 to $142,244.00. Superior Coatings submitted the lowest- priced responsive bid in the amount of $121,233.27 and was selected for award.

   Corey Bullock, Parks and Recreation Director, presented this item as outlined above.

   Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to approve the Energy Solutions Aquatics Center Painting Contract with Superior Coatings. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

8. **Resolutions/Ordinances**

a. **Resolution 2026-06 - Amending (Increasing) the 2026 Tooele County Budget, Alison McCoy - PUBLIC HEARING**

This resolution increases the General Fund by $5,956, the Roads Fund by $755,000, and the Capital Fund by $130,000.

Alison McCoy, Auditor, presented this item as outlined above.

Council Member Tye Hoffmann motioned to open a Public Hearing. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

No Comment

Council Member Erik Stromberg motioned to close the Public Hearing. Second by Council Member Kendall Thomas. All in favor. The motion passed.

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to approve Resolution 2026-06. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg. All in favor. The motion passed.

b. **Ordinance 2026-03 - Rezoning 232.52 Acres Located Off Burmester Road Just South of I-80, From MU-40 to M-G ZC, Rachelle Custer**

Charles Ackerlow with the Inland Port has requested that 232.52 acres of land located off of Burmester Road just south of I-80 be rezoned from MU-40 to M-G. The Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of the rezone with a zoning condition related to the traffic study.

Rachelle Custer, Community Development Director, presented this item as outlined above. Director Custer advised that this parcel is part of the inland port project area. This proposal went before the Planning Commission in 2025. Commissioner Mitchell made a favorable recommendation with the condition that the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) be provided with the traffic study as this proposal could potentially increase the traffic on Burmester Road and I-80 off-ramp by about 15,000 trucks per day at full build out. The traffic study was sent to UDOT, and UDOT provided comment on the proposal. The applicant has addressed all of UDOT's comments and questions, which are included in the staff report. Director Custer recommends this rezone be approved as it is compatible with the surrounding uses in the area.

Council Member Scott Wardle motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-03. Second by Council Member Tye Hoffmann. All in favor. The motion passed.

9. **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 Career Service Council has 1 vacancy.

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

Andy Welch, County Manager, stated he will have an appointment in the next meeting.

10. **Council Update**

Council Member Tye Hoffmann provided updates for NaCo (National Association of Counties). He stated that Congresswoman Celeste Maloy addressed issues in the Public Lands Meeting. She encouraged county governments to advocate for what is needed in their individual areas. She also spoke about programs to help with water issues. She spoke about PILT (Payment in lieu of Taxes) funding and SRS

(Secure Rural Schooling) funding. Tom Schultz from the US Forest Service spoke about fires. He shared that for every $1 spent towards proactive fire prevention, it saves $7 in fire fighting and restoration. Bill Graffe with BLM (Bureau of Land Management) shared that there were over 844,000 jobs with the BLM in 2024, and there were 6027 oil and gas permits approved by the BLM in 2025. Zeke, with NaCo, spoke about the BASIC act which sends road money directly to counties and cities instead of funneling the funds through the State. He spoke about the FEMA Act, the Speed Act, and the Housing for 21st Century act, which increases CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding for counties. Energy discussions included nuclear energy vs natural gas, oil and coal energy. HB41 and HB501 were discussed in the Public Lands meeting earlier today.

Council Member Kendall Thomas stated he has spent some time on the hill during the legislative session. He is frustrated with some of the bills affecting voting regulation bills and immunization bills. He thanked county officials for engaging.

Council Member Erik Stromberg spoke about NaCo. He advised that he sits on the Justice of Public Safety Policies Committee where emergency management was discussed. He spoke about emergency alerts being available as text, but it only works if citizens sign up for it. Conversations with local Emergency Planning were encouraged to discuss how to notify visitors of emergencies.

Chairman Jared Hamner spoke about Public Lands, SITLA (School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration) and BLM and working with them to preserve public lands. He also stated that President Trump has publicly committed $1 billion to preserving the Great Salt Lake. He also spoke about how the State of Utah has purchased US Magnesium and advised that the State is working with companies that use brine from US Magnesium. Lastly, he spoke about agricultural farmers who are concerned about how many foreign food products are coming into the US.

Council Member Scott Wardle advised that he sits on the Community Economic Workforce and Economic Development Committee and stated that he is concerned about discussions about counties paying citizens $500-$1000 per month. In the process of this proposal, they are establishing pilot programs in the mid-west, California and Washington, but there are no line items or budgets for this. This is being discussed heavily at the national level. He feels it is a terrible fiscal policy. He also spoke about workforce development, housing and homelessness as key components in how to combat it. He also spoke about the need to get ahead of AI.

11. **Manager Update**

    Andy Welch, County Manager, stated the tourism grant application process is over. He advised that there is not a line item set up for 101 things to do in Tooele County with The Transcript, but will bring the contract to Council for their approval.
    Manager Welch spoke about a grant that the County applied for 2 years ago for improvements on Droubay Road which was awarded on February 3rd at $5.2 million. The first phase will be from Tooele City limits to the train tracks. The next grant application will be submitted on Thursday this week, and if awarded, the second phase will go from the train tracks to Bates Canyon.

12. **Informational - Public Transparency**

    Audit Reports
    Boards and Committees
    Budgets
    Check Register
    Code
    GRAMA Request
    Public Meetings
    Resolution and Ordinances

13. **Manager Update: Ratifications**

    a. **1 MVA**

    b. **4 Council Adjustment**

       Council Adjustment

c. **Previdence Service Agreement Addendum #1**

Approval of an extension of services for the MDT at no additional cost through February 14, 2027, utilizing unused services from the previous year.

d. **Pavement Distress Inspection**

An RFP was issued to identify a contractor to provide a pavement distress inspection on county and municipal roads. Seven (7) proposals were received. ICC-IMS was selected for award in the amount of $59,918.00 as the highest-scoring proposal.

e. **Agreement for Consulting Services**

This is an agreement between LRB Public Finance Advisors and Tooele County for consulting services for a transportation utility fees study.

f. **Demolition Derby Production**

An RFP was issued to select a contractor to produce and run Tooele County's demolition derby. Two (2) proposals were received, and Whiplash Racing LLC was selected for award in the amount of $81,469.00 as the highest scoring proposal.

g. **Walk-in Refrigerator and Freezer for The Peak**

An RFP was issued to select a contractor to supply, deliver, and install a walk-in refrigerator and freezer for the concessions building at The Peak. Five (5) proposals were received, ranging from $25,237.18 to $60,636.20. Commercial Kitchen Supply submitted the lowest priced proposal and was selected for award in the amount of $25,237.18.

h. **ESRI ProWest 2026 Contract**

i. **Ratification of Terra Roads Agreement with Tooele County Roads**

Renewal of one-year contract between J. Salas of Terra and Tooele County Roads Department for reasonable road maintenance.

j. **Ratification of Ibapah Roads Agreement with Tooele County Roads**

Renewal of one- year contract between A. Hicks of Ibapah and Tooele County Roads for reasonable road maintenance.

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

Council Member Kendall Thomas motioned to adjourn and go into a closed session to discuss character and professional competency, physical and mental health and potential litigation. Second by Council Member Erik Stromberg.
Roll call vote:
Council Member Kendall Thomas- aye
Council Member Tye Hoffmann- aye
Council Member Erik Stromberg- aye
Council Member Scott Wardle- aye
Chairman Jared Hamner- aye
The open meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE APPROVED:

Jared Hamner, County Council Chairman

Tracy Shaw, County Clerk

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