

**NORTH OGDEN CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

May 13, 2025

The North Ogden City Council convened on May 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the North Ogden Public Safety Building at 515 East 2600 North.

Notice of time, place, and agenda of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on May 8, 2025.

Notice of the annual meeting schedule was posted on the bulletin board at the municipal office and posted to the Utah State Website on December 11, 2024.

Note: The timestamps indicated in blue correspond with the recording of this meeting, which can be located on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCriqbePBxTucXEzRr6felhQ/videos> or by requesting a copy of the audio file from the North Ogden City Recorder.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

S. Neal Berube	Mayor	
Ryan Barker	Council Member	
Blake Cevering	Council Member	
Jay D Dalpiaz	Council Member	Excused at 8:07 p.m.
Chris Pulver	Council Member	
Christina Watson	Council Member	Excused at 7:25 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jon Call	City Manager/Attorney
Rian Santoro	City Recorder
Dave Espinoza	Public Works Director/Assistant City Manager
Casey Hunsaker	City Treasurer/Emergency Manager
Katie Gerard	Human Resources Director
Scott Hess	Community And Economic Development Director
Brian Eynon	Chief of Police
Tyrel Stark	Fleet Supervisor
Crystal Polson	Public Works Inspector
Tyler Nicoterra	Parks Superintendent
Dylan Hill	Public Works Inspector
Cooper Favero	Fleet Superintendent
Bowen Koenig	Streets Supervisor
Jason Reney	Water Superintendent
Jaime Gil	Parks Supervisor

VISITORS:

Phillip Swanson
Kevin Burns
Sandra Cochran
Brenda Ashdown
Cecil Satterthwaite
Merrill Sunderland
Shiree Kimball
Kerry Wangsguard
Susan Kilborn

Chris Van Ribbink
Sherokee Rowley
Scarlet Soloman
Eli Hopkins
Sydney Gunderson
Alicia Tuscher
Julie Anderson
Mike Mabey
Stacey Dixon

0:00:05 Mayor Berube called the meeting to order, and resident Phillip Swanson offered a thought of appreciation and perspective. He compared the City Council's work to the centuries-long construction of the Strasbourg Cathedral, noting that many of its builders never saw the final result. Similarly, he acknowledged that the Council is laying foundational work for the City's future, work that may not come to full fruition in their lifetimes. As the City grows and becomes more complex, its success will rest on the groundwork they're laying now. He expressed gratitude for their efforts and encouraged them to keep this long-term view in mind. He concluded by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION

1. PRESENTATION OF THE STATE OF UTAH'S CONSTITUTION BEE WINNERS

0:03:32 Shiree Kimball introduced and recognized local student teams who participated in the Statewide Constitution Bee held April 29-30 at the Utah State Capitol. The event includes elementary, junior high, and high school divisions and helps students learn about key U.S. documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and amendments. Teams of 4-6 students study in advance and compete in buzzer-style rounds, answering questions for points. Four elementary teams represented North Ogden City: Dream Chasers, Constitution Queens (4th place), The Royals (3rd place), and Phoenix Knights (1st place, State champions). One elementary student, Richard Kimball, competed in both the elementary and junior high levels due to a last-minute team change. Shiree praised the students' constitutional knowledge and thanked school staff, including North Ogden Elementary Principal Mrs. Cox and teacher Mrs. Trueby, for their support. Mayor Berube commended the students and coaches for their efforts and highlighted the importance of civic education.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

0:10:51 No conflict of interest was disclosed.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 22, 2025, CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

0:11:01 Council Member Pulver motioned to approve the April 22, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Dalpias seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously

ACTIVE AGENDA

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

0:12:37 Sandra Cochran, a North Ogden City resident, addressed the Council regarding the City's decision to disable commenting on its official Facebook page. She read an email she had previously sent to Council members:

The definition of social media encompasses websites and applications designed for communication, community-based input, interaction, content sharing, and collaboration. The function of social media allows users to create and share content, participate in social networking, and engage in conversations.

The impact of social media is significant on individuals and society, with both positive and negative consequences, including potential for connection and engagement, but also for misinformation, hate speech, and cyberbullying.

The common denominators are interaction, networking, and communication. Stopping commenting on your Facebook page will leave you with statements and directives.

That's not communication.

The President of the United States, along with countless other celebrities, uses social media nearly every day for lots of reasons, not the least of which is cyberbullying. And countless others direct those types of comments right back to him. Unfortunately, that is a part of social media. It's not always flattery and compliments, and a rational exchange of ideas. Sometimes it's petty and mean.

The Supreme Court ruling allows for instances when comments can be removed from a post, primarily threats of violence, inciting imminent lawlessness, obscenities, and comments that are not specific to the topic of the post.

The example I was given, by Katie, for the decision to stop allowing commenting was a post about a City employee who was receiving negative comments directed at the employee's spouse. Those types of comments could be removed. I understand it seems unfair, but it seems we all need to grow a thicker skin when dealing with social media. Or the employee could be asked if they want it shared on social media, or just the City's website

I think it's a bit arrogant to not allow commenting. Without the interaction and communication of others, your official Facebook page becomes a bulletin board that takes advantage of the Facebook platform. If all you want is a bulletin board, that's what your website is for. I think if you accept using social media, you have to accept it all, good, bad, and ugly.

Sandra concluded by questioning whether any Council members who are supporters of the comment ban were willing to publicly acknowledge their stance. Mayor Berube responded that the vote on the matter was on the meeting agenda and would be addressed later.

0:16:32 Phillip Swanson, a North Ogden City resident, addressed the City's consideration of disabling comments on its official Facebook page. He acknowledged the complexity of the issue and recognized that both legal reasons for turning off comments and residents' desires to keep them active are valid. He emphasized that this is not a matter of right or wrong, but a difference in perspectives. Phillip urged the Council to avoid allowing the issue to divide the community and encouraged them to explore alternative ways for residents to engage and voice opinions via social media, especially for those who are uncomfortable speaking publicly or writing formal emails. He suggested that if the official page disables comments, the City should consider creating another platform or method for public interaction. Phillip also expressed support for protecting City employees from online abuse, noting that while elected officials accept public scrutiny as part of their role, employees did not sign up for that exposure.

He concluded by encouraging the Council to find a solution that balances community voice with employee protection.

0:20:11 Susan Kilborn, a North Ogden City resident, expressed strong opposition to the City's potential decision to disable comments on its official Facebook page. She echoed the sentiments of previous speakers, stating that her experience with the page has shown overwhelmingly more positive than negative comments. Susan emphasized that managing inappropriate comments can be done effectively through tools like setting clear guidelines and blocking users. She noted the value of community interaction on the page, particularly for learning about local events and personal stories that are not shared through official City posts. Susan argued that disabling comments would send a message that the City does not care about public input and would discourage community engagement. She concluded by volunteering to help monitor the page herself if needed, stating her confidence in managing both praise and problematic content.

5. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH WEBER COMMUNITIES THAT CARE (CTC) FOR POSITIVE MESSAGING POSTERS AND MURAL(S) AT THE NORTH OGDEN SKATE PARK**

0:23:07 Sherokee Rowley with Weber CTC presented information about the organization's mission to strengthen youth, families, and the community through substance prevention and emotional health promotion. She introduced Youth Council members Sydnee, Eli, and Scarlett, who discussed their initiative to address issues at the local skate park.

Scarlett explained that the skate park has seen an increase in concerns related to substance misuse and vandalism, with 134 calls about the park in the past year. The Youth Council aims to improve the park by involving local youth in positive activities, such as live mural painting, skateboarding lessons, and writing positive messages on the sidewalks.

Eli addressed the problem of vandalism at the skate park, stating that the Council plans to clean up and cover crude graffiti quickly, to reduce future damage. The overall objective is to create a positive and welcoming environment for the community. Mayor Berube thanked the Weber CTC for their presentation, and the City Council expressed support for the initiative.

Council Member Cevering motioned to approve the agreement with Weber Communities that Care (CTC) for positive messaging posters and mural(s) at the North Ogden Skate Park. Council Member Watson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Dalpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON COMMENTS ON NORTH OGDEN CITY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

0:30:50 The City Council held a thorough discussion regarding the decision to disable comments on the "One North Ogden" Facebook page. Council Member Dalpias expressed concern that the public perceives the removal of comments as a signal that their input is not valued. He emphasized the importance of comments as a tool for Council members to understand public sentiment and encouraged re-enabling comments with a policy in place to support staff and maintain civility. He noted that many surrounding cities still allow Facebook comments and suggested referencing policies from cities like Kaysville and Sandy.

Council Member Pulver highlighted the broader nature of social media beyond Facebook, including platforms like Instagram and X, and raised concerns about the expectations for monitoring and responding to comments. He pointed out that most resident interaction happens on third-party community pages, which often repost City information anyway. He questioned whether the City has the resources to manage and moderate comments effectively.

Council Member Cevering shared his view that the City's Facebook page should be a place for clear, undistracted announcements. He stated that disabling comments ensures the focus remains on the facts of events and avoids confusion from discussions.

Council Member Watson acknowledged the difficulty of the decision. She worried that turning off comments could alienate residents and push them toward unofficial sources. She suggested including a statement on posts to guide public interaction and promote respectful engagement.

Council Member Barker supported keeping comments disabled, noting that when they were previously allowed, the City did not respond to them anyway.

He emphasized trusting the City's HR Director, who recommended disabling comments for staff protection, and pointed to the availability of other community pages for public feedback.

Council Member Dalpiaz reiterated that the public perceives Facebook content as representing the Mayor and Council, even if staff manage the page.

City Manager/Attorney Jon Call clarified that the City cannot legally delete comments unless they fall under specific criteria like threats, obscenity, or incitement of violence. He advised that a clear policy would be needed to manage content legally and fairly.

Council Member Dalpiaz motioned to immediately re-enable comments across all social media platforms, to include a Social Media Policy to be drafted within one month. Council Member Watson seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	nay
Council Member Cevering	nay
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	nay
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion failed on a 3 to 2 vote.

Council Member Pulver motioned for Staff to draft a Social Media Policy for Social Media commenting and use, and then revisit enabling comments on Facebook. Council Member Dalpiaz seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	nay
Council Member Cevering	nay
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed on a 3 to 2 vote.

7. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO APPROVE THE REVOCABLE GRADING PERMIT FOR A ROCK CRUSHER AT NORTHVIEW ESTATES - PHASE 10**

1:05:17 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained that the grading permit under consideration pertains to Phase 10, which is adjacent to the previously approved Phase 9. He noted that, per City policy, grading permits must be approved by the Council. Staff recommends approval, as prior issues have been minimal and promptly addressed due to Staff diligence. The grading operations have been effective and beneficial, particularly in reducing construction traffic impacts on local roads. Mayor Berube added that no negative feedback has been received from residents in the area.

Council Member Watson motioned to approve the Revocable Grading Permit for a Rock Crusher at Northview Estates - Phase 10. Council Member Cevering seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Delpias	aye
Council Member Pulver	aye
Council Member Watson	aye

The motion passed unanimously.

8. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2025-06 APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

1:07:25 The Council discussed the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, with City Manager/Attorney Jon Call leading the review of key changes. A major focus was on how to fund approximately \$3 million in road improvements, with options being a property tax increase or a Transportation Utility Fee. Staff and the Mayor recommended pursuing around \$1.2 million in new revenue, using existing funds to cover the rest. Other changes included a \$12,600 increase in revenue from the Weber School District for the School Resource Officer program, and an increase of over \$100,000 in insurance costs due to Workers' Compensation claims.

The Aquatic Center's playground project was delayed until fall, and the McGriff Park bathroom project was postponed. The Council discussed the importance of maintaining a \$300,000 contribution to the capital projects fund to avoid long-term financial setbacks. There was an extended discussion comparing the use of a Transportation Utility Fee versus a property tax increase to fund roads. The fee was viewed as more flexible and equitable, with the potential for waivers for low-income households. However, concerns were raised about legal risks and the perception of the fee being a hidden tax. A study to support the fee would cost \$7,500. There was no final decision, but the general consensus favored the fee approach with waiver policies. Council members also suggested reducing the road funding from \$3 million to \$2.7 million in order to preserve the \$300,000 for capital projects.

1:47:56 Public Hearing was opened.

1:48:34 Phillip Swanson, a North Ogden City resident, expressed surprise at the initial \$3 million road funding proposal but appreciated the Council's efforts to reduce that amount. He acknowledged the difficulty of the decision and voiced support for implementing a Transportation Utility Fee over a property tax increase. Phillip explained his concern that future Councils might not maintain the discipline to keep road-related property tax revenues dedicated solely to roads, noting how the City has become dependent on short-term interest income for long-term budgeting. He cautioned against similar erosion of fiscal intent if road funding is absorbed into the general property tax. He felt a fee is a clearer, more accountable method and acknowledged the legal risk of implementing a fee, but believed it was worth it.

1:51:11 Kerry Wangsguard, a North Ogden City resident, voiced support for funding road repairs through a property tax increase rather than a utility fee. He explained that, as the owner of several rental properties in the City, he already sees significantly higher utility bills in North Ogden compared to Ogden City. Adding a \$15 monthly fee per unit would have a substantial financial impact, especially since he pays water and garbage utilities for his tenants. He argued that road repair is a tax-related expense and should be treated as such, noting that a property tax is tax-deductible for those who itemize, unlike a fee. While not generally in favor of property tax increases, he believes infrastructure should be funded through taxes tied to automobile usage, such as sales or gas taxes. He also expressed concern about the misuse of utility fund surpluses, referencing past situations where surplus funds were redirected to cover deficits in other areas. He stated that if a utility fund has excess revenue, it should be refunded rather than reallocated. Ultimately, he preferred a property tax increase over a utility fee to ensure transparency and appropriate use of funds.

1:54:40 **Council Member Pulver motioned to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Cevering seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.**

1:55:56 Council Member Delpias raised the idea of slightly reducing the proposed \$3.2 million allocation for road improvements to \$2.9 million in order to preserve a \$300,000 contribution to the capital improvement fund, emphasizing the importance of maintaining long-term financial discipline.

In response, Council Member Pulver noted that some capital items, like the McGriff Park bathroom project, had already been removed to help offset that amount, although Mayor Berube warned that such expenses would still arise in future years. Council Member Delpias acknowledged that many uncertainties remain, such as upcoming sales tax updates and final property tax numbers, and suggested the Council remain flexible as more information becomes available.

Council Member Barker questioned the practical difference between allocating the funds to roads or capital improvements, noting it would leave one area underfunded either way. Council Member Delpias responded that his concern was more about maintaining the habit of funding capital improvements annually.

Council Member Cevering asked whether the Council could tentatively designate the \$1.2 million for road repairs through the transportation utility fee, but still change the funding mechanism later. Staff confirmed that this was possible, as the final budget would not be due until September and the truth-in-taxation process would provide time to adjust.

Mayor Berube reiterated that the real issue was the absence of a plan to fund capital projects in future years, warning that continuing to rely on fund balance in non-emergency situations is not sound fiscal practice.

He also noted that the City would not have the same transportation utility fee balance available next year and cautioned against assuming future interest income would be as strong as in the past.

Council Member Delpias motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-06 approving the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Budget and that Truth-in-Taxation will be held. Council Member Cevering seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Council Member Barker	aye
Council Member Cevering	aye
Council Member Dalpiaz	aye
Council Member Pulver	nay
Council Member Watson	excused

The motion passed 3-1.

2:05:33 Council Member Cevering motioned to recess the City Council meeting and convene in the Redevelopment Agency (RDA). Council Member Barker seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.

**9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2025-07
APPROVING THE RDA FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

2:06:17 The Council convened as the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) Board to review and discuss the tentative RDA and Community Development Area (CDA) budgets for fiscal year 2025–2026.

City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained that while these budgets follow a similar adoption process as the City’s main budget, they are not affected by the truth-in-taxation timeline. Most RDA project spending is expected to occur in the next fiscal year since some projects will not begin until July. The largest RDA item, general project grants, remains unspent due to incomplete documentation from applicants. Staff continues to ensure applicants meet expectations before issuing reimbursements.

In the CDA, an increase in revenue is anticipated due to rising property values from recent developments. Expenditures are primarily directed to project reserves. It was also noted that the \$24,000 budgeted for the Placer AI software is currently listed under the CDA but may be more appropriately categorized as an RDA expense. Jon suggested moving it under RDA general project grants, pending Council approval of the purchase of that software on the next agenda item.

Board Member Pulver raised the need to prioritize the 300 East commercial access issue in the RDA budget discussions, especially in anticipation of UDOT changes that could impact access to the area. Jon confirmed that Staff has discussed this with developers and acknowledged the importance of addressing it.

2:11:16 Public Hearing was opened.

2:11:54 Kerry Wangsguard, a North Ogden City resident, questioned the \$24,000 budgeted for the Placer AI software, expressing skepticism about its value. He felt it was unnecessary to rely on software to determine which businesses are successful in North Ogden, arguing that local observation clearly shows which establishments are thriving. He cited businesses like Smith's, McDonald's, Nielsen's, and Pizza Pie Café as examples of success, and rejected the notion that North Ogden residents don't support local businesses. Kerry suggested the City should focus on actively promoting North Ogden to desirable businesses rather than relying on analytics tools, believing that the right businesses will find strong support from the community.

2:15:54 Brenda Ashdown, a North Ogden City resident, expressed confusion about why the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) still had a budget, stating she believed all RDA funds had already been used for the pool and business grants. In response, Staff clarified that while the RDA is no longer collecting new revenue, it still has unspent funds allocated for general project grants. These funds remain under management until businesses meet the necessary requirements to receive reimbursement. It was also confirmed that the RDA is now operating solely from its existing fund balance and earns interest income, which may be used for future City projects if grant funds go unused.

2:17:28 Kevin Burns, a North Ogden City resident, asked for clarification on the broader benefits of the Placer AI software. He recalled previous discussions suggesting it could track usage of City amenities like parks and possibly measure how facilities like the pool impact local sales tax through visitor spending. Mayor Berube and City Manager/Attorney Jon Call confirmed that the software could provide insights into where residents shop outside the City, such as in Riverdale, and help identify businesses that might succeed in North Ogden. They noted that further details would be addressed in the next agenda item by a representative familiar with the software.

Board Member Barker motioned to close the Public Hearing. Board Member Pulver seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.

Board Member Cevering motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-07 approving the RDA Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Budget. Board Member Pulver seconded the motion.

2:20:35 The Board discussed how to handle the inclusion of the \$24,000 Placer AI software expenditure in the RDA budget. Board Member Pulver asked if the software's budget placement needed to be clarified. Mayor Berube and City Manager/Attorney Jon Call explained that although the software was proposed to be moved from the CDA to the RDA general project grants, it was not currently listed as a specific line item in the RDA budget. Including it would require a formal motion. Mayor Berube suggested it might be more efficient to amend the RDA budget now to include the software rather than approving the budget and immediately revisiting it with a separate motion. Board Member Cevering raised concerns about the value of the software, citing past experiences where software purchases did not yield clear returns on investment. Others questioned whether the expenditure was necessary or whether the funds would be better used for other City needs. After the discussion, it was decided that the original motion to approve the RDA budget would be rescinded to allow for a more thorough conversation about the Placer AI software before finalizing the budget.

Board Member Cevering rescinded his motion to approve Ordinance 2025-07 approving the RDA Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Budget.

Board Member Barker motioned to include Agenda Item 10, the Placer AI Software acquisition, as part of the budget approval process. Board Member Pulver seconded the motion. All in attendance voted aye.

10. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RDA) DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER THE ACQUISITION OF PLACER AI SOFTWARE TO AID IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CAPITAL FACILITY, EVENT PLANNING, AND OTHER DECISION-MAKING NEEDS ACROSS THE CITY

2:26:44 Chris Van Ribbink with Placer AI Software introduced the Placer AI software, emphasizing its potential value for North Ogden as a destination community lacking major traffic corridors. He explained that attracting businesses like Chick-fil-A requires strong data to demonstrate the City's population patterns and spending habits, since North Ogden doesn't benefit from drive-through traffic. He highlighted that traditional retail studies, such as the City's \$100,000 Southtown analysis, have limited shelf life, whereas Placer AI offers up-to-date data year-round.

Placer AI uses anonymized cell phone location data to analyze where people come from, where they go, and which local businesses they frequent. The software can support retail recruitment, event and park analysis, and infrastructure planning. Examples included understanding park usage trends, measuring the effectiveness of events like Cherry Days, and identifying high-traffic roads for prioritizing capital improvements.

Scott Hess, Community and Economic Development Director, emphasized that even attracting one new sales-tax-generating retailer could justify the software's \$24,000 annual cost. It was noted that South Salt Lake is adopting the software, and cities like Orem are already using it.

Chris Van Ribbink explained that Placer AI provides ongoing support, including consultants and regular check-ins to help cities maximize the value of the software across departments.

Board Member Pulver shared his positive experience experimenting with the software and noted its ability to show consumer behavior patterns, like where people go after visiting the pool or Smith's. He believed the data could help justify the value of City assets and better inform spending decisions.

Board Member Covering expressed interest in the software but raised concerns about whether a one-time analysis could be a cheaper alternative. Community and Economic Development Director Scott Hess responded that single-use studies are quickly outdated and cost more than the software over time. He clarified that City Staff are not retail market experts and that Placer AI helps fill that gap by identifying which retailers fit North Ogden's demographic profile. He also noted the software could be used by multiple departments, including Parks and Engineering, to guide various operational and planning decisions.

Overall, the discussion supported the idea that Placer AI could be a valuable tool for guiding North Ogden's economic development, planning, and resource allocation, with multiple potential applications beyond just attracting retailers.

Board Member Pulver motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-07 approving the RDA Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Budget to include the acquisition of Placer AI software for \$24,000 in the RDA Budget. Board Member Barker seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Board Member Barker	aye
Board Member Cevering	aye
Board Member Dalpiaz	excused
Board Member Pulver	aye
Board Member Watson	excused

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Pulver motioned to adjourn the RDA meeting and convene in the regular City Council meeting. Board Member Cevering seconded the motion.

Voting on the motion:

Board Member Barker	aye
Board Member Cevering	aye
Board Member Dalpiaz	excused
Board Member Pulver	aye
Board Member Watson	excused

The motion passed unanimously.

11. COUNCIL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Council Member Dalpiaz– Police Department

2:47:52 Chief Eynon provided the report on Council Member Dalpiaz's behalf. Chief Eynon reported that two new police officers have started their probationary periods at the Police Department this week.

b. Council Member Cevering – Building & Planning Departments

2:48:13 Council Member Cevering reported on current building and planning activity in the City. Bank of America is continuing construction, and the Century Farms townhome project has completed its pre-construction meeting.

Barker Depot has grading and underground utility work being done behind Walgreens and America First Credit Union. Additionally, the Cooperstown Apartments project is under construction.

c. Council Member Barker – Parks Department

2:48:57 Council Member Barker reported that the Orton playground fence installation will begin this week, with xeriscaping to follow the following week. The project is expected to be completed and the area reopened by the end of May or early June. The bid process for the Bicentennial Park RDA-funded projects closed that day, with two bids received and a winner to be selected soon. Additionally, the City's full seasonal parks crew is scheduled to start on May 27 to begin mowing, trimming, and general park cleanup.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

2:49:56 Sandra Cochran, a North Ogden City resident, thanked the Council members who supported allowing public comments on the City's Facebook page. She noted that the page has low traffic and few posts, making it manageable without needing dedicated staff. She explained that residents typically don't expect responses to their comments and post there mainly to ensure the City sees their opinions. Sandra criticized the suggestion that residents should post on other community pages instead, arguing that those platforms are less likely to be monitored by the City. She concluded by saying that if the City doesn't want to hear public input, it should be stated directly.

2:51:42 Merrill Sunderland, a North Ogden City resident, commented on the recent Council discussions and votes regarding Facebook comments. He acknowledged the seriousness of the evening's topics and noted the differing viewpoints expressed by Council members. Merrill provided background, recalling that the City's Facebook page initially served as an alternative to the discontinued Community Connection magazine, which had been used to share calendars and city highlights but did not include public comment or opinion sections. He observed that trying to use social media both as an information board and a forum for public comments may have confused the issue and suggested that social media might not be the best format for purely informational purposes.

2:54:16 Phillip Swanson, a North Ogden City resident, expressed his appreciation to the Council for their discussions and willingness to address difficult issues and make challenging decisions on behalf of the community.

2:54:40 Brenda Ashdown, a North Ogden City resident, commented on the non-functioning TVs at the back of the Council chambers. She noted that while the front screen displays information, those sitting in the back, like herself, who avoid the front to stay off camera, cannot see it.

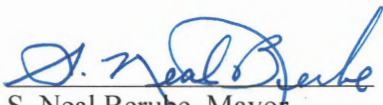
13. MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

2:56:38 City Manager/Attorney Jon Call informed the Council that a local theater group is planning a production of Bye Bye Birdie at the Amphitheater in late August or early September. The group has proposed a similar arrangement to a past partnership with Broadway on the Side, where proceeds from ticket sales would cover production costs, and any additional funds would be donated to the City for future Amphitheater events. They are also seeking financial support from nearby cities and have asked North Ogden for a \$5,000 contribution, though Jon expressed uncertainty about the City's ability to provide it. He emphasized the positive value of community theater and noted the Amphitheater is in demand, with a performance scheduled for the coming weekend. A Council member asked if the upcoming show was listed on the City's website, and it was noted that the City had just been informed of it the day before.


14. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Cevering motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



S. Neal Berube, Mayor



Rian Santoro
City Recorder

6/3/25

Date Approved

