

**MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES--DRAFT**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**January 8, 2026**

***Special Meeting Attendance:***

Moab City Council held a Special Meeting on the above date at the Fairfield Inn in Moab, Utah for the purpose of a strategic planning retreat. Archived audio is at [www.utah.gov/pmn](http://www.utah.gov/pmn). Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Councilmembers Kaitlin Myers, Jason Taylor, Colin Topper, Miles Loftin and Tawny Knuteson-Boyd attended. Also in attendance were City Manager Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Public Works Director Levi Jones, Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability Director Alexi Lamm, Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Patrick Trim, Utilities Director Obe Tejada, Assistant Police Chief James Blanton, Jr., Communications Director Lisa Church, Treasurer Marcy Mason, Human Resources Director Dani Guerrero, Community Development Director Cory Shurtleff and Recorder Assistant Eve Tallman.

***Strategic Plan Review:*** Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability Director Lamm reviewed the three-year short-term strategic plan and outlined five priorities: improvement of downtown, resolving the Walnut Lane project, active transportation, execution of plans, and mitigation of natural disasters. Lamm stated that projects regarding downtown improvements were underway: combining with active transportation goals, streetlamp replacement, crosswalk improvements, sidewalks and trash and recycling bins. Walnut Lane progress included paying off the loan, clearing the property except for asbestos abatement delays, partnerships, impact fee waivers, and addressing the housing pipeline. Active transportation topics discussed included downtown improvements, the Trails Master Plan, wayfinding signage, Moab Area Transit (MAT) continuation plans, trails to Millcreek and Spanish Valley and safe streets. Plan implementation schedule for review, revision or replacement was discussed. Priorities for natural disaster mitigation were mentioned, including the 300 South bridge replacement, detention basins and Millcreek corridor projects. Lamm described the completed strategic actions.

***Councilmember Priorities:***

**Councilmember Myers** stated her priorities included housing, the budget process, and the MAT transition. She added other items of interest to her included off-highway vehicle (OHV) issues beyond noise and speed on City streets, the City's Community Contributions policy, and tax increment financing.

**Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd** reported on her priorities, including wrapping up the Walnut Lane project, flood mitigation, and the ballpark redesign. She also mentioned the importance of public engagement regarding the repairs at the Moab Recreation and Aquatics Center (MRAC) and better public education overall.

**Councilmember Taylor** stated his priorities included planning for a skate park upgrade, sidewalk repairs and construction, engagement with Main Street businesses, crosswalk signals on 100 West and near the high school, and red-light runners on Main Street.

**Councilmember Loftin** prioritized traffic matters including motorist/pedestrian conflicts, semi-trucks on Main Street, protected left turns, delayed signals and bulb outs. He stated his interest in the Walnut Lane wrap-up, and working on solutions from home rental to ownership for residents. He also mentioned his interest in updating the City website and social media presence.

**Councilmember Topper** stated his priorities included active transportation projects such as trail easements, connecting trails, parkway restoration, safety lighting, restriping and wayfinding. Topper mentioned well-being projects such as parks, the skate park, park restrooms, and park plans. He stated his interest in the City's sustainability plan, as well as resilience and public assets. He mentioned a business working group, bulb outs, parking and extending the Main Street landscaping north of downtown. Topper also mentioned his interest in cultivating a responsive government with better public relations. He also requested revisiting the Tomorrow Together vision.

**Mayor Langianese** stated her interest in active transportation with a specific interest in MAT. She added other topics of concern, including downtown upgrades, senior housing, the tailings pile, Arches National Park water and sewer connections, and the local water supply.

### **Department Reports:**

**Police:** Assistant Police Chief Blanton presented statistics on police traffic stops, citations, and calls, including citations for red light runners and illegal camping. He updated Council on accomplishments, including firing range lead mitigation efforts and presence at 49 community events. He discussed trail and path enforcement, staffing, policies and trainings. He mentioned motorcycle training, grants totaling \$200,000 and upcoming changes to the code enforcement division, to be rebranded as Community Services. Topics such as a citizens' academy, e-bike enforcement, social workers, and the statewide trail network were also discussed.

**Public Works:** Public Works Director Jones detailed the accomplishments and staffing of the streets, facilities, fleet and parks divisions. He reported on work to maintain detention basins, mitigate fire fuels, sweeping and patching streets, repairing sidewalks, demolishing units at Walnut Lane, striping, and safe routes to schools. He mentioned that the stormwater master plan needs an update. Jones also reported on facilities work including an energy audit, repairs to the MRAC, renovation of office space, repairs to the elevator and roof replacement at City Hall, maintenance of dispersed parking areas, planter strips, medians, and maintenance of new landscape plantings. Councilmember Myers brought up the potential for businesses to sponsor downtown landscaping upkeep. Other volunteer projects such as community storm drain upkeep were discussed. Jones answered Council questions regarding the fleet lease program and replacement of missing utility poles on Main Street. Jones touched on parks progress, including adoption of the parks master plan, completion of the new playground, flood clean up on trails, pool chlorination system upgrades and needed repairs to park restrooms. The ballfield plan, holiday lights, and webpage improvements were discussed.

**Parks, Recreation and Trails:** Director Trim spoke about ongoing work and repair assessments at the MRAC, wayfinding and downtown beautification, the trails master plan, the new playground, plans for the ballfields and a facility energy audit. He presented statistics including more than 60,000 visits to the MRAC in the past year. He said participation in arts events was up 22 percent. He mentioned plans to offer programs to underserved populations, scholarships for recreation programs, and repairs planned for the MRAC and Moab Arts and Recreation Center (MARC). Mayor Langianese brought up a future vote to renew the Recreation, Arts and Parks (RAP) tax. The need for public engagement was discussed.

**Community Development:** Community Development Director Shurtleff reported on the work of the planning, engineering and building official divisions. He said he had important vacancies, and the work of his department has been impacted by new state-level demands. Shurtleff spoke about the downtown corridor, Walnut Lane, active transportation, master and small area plans, and natural hazard preparedness. He said his staff were working on the downtown plan, sidewalks, land use code updates, capital improvement projects, the housing pipeline, asbestos abatement, trails planning, wayfinding, complete streets, crosswalks, safe routes, sewer modeling, flood management, and creek and infrastructure restoration. Shurtleff presented growth statistics for building permits and capital improvement projects. He mentioned that the housing shortage is unresolved and discussed vested applications and constructed projects. He mentioned trends in business license applications that include mixed retail uses at one storefront. He spoke about upcoming comprehensive plans that are in the works as well as the municipal code update. Overnight accommodations and outfitters were mentioned as code sections that need updating.

**Utility Services:** Utilities Director Tejada spoke about the water and sewer enterprise funds, new state requirements to assess for polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs or "forever chemicals"), and the multi-year project to identify lead in water service lines. He mentioned a new state drinking water fee, backflow prevention inspections, meter reading base stations and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) upgrades. Tejada described projects including upgrades to the garage at the water reclamation facility, sewer modeling, ongoing odor issues, sewer hole inspections, sewer main cleaning, and inspection of water lines. The water conservation plan update was mentioned.

**Human Resources:** Director Guerrero described her departmental duties including hiring, onboarding, payroll, insurance enrollment and safety training for the City's 94 full-time and 62 part-time staff.

**Recorder:** Recorder Johnson explained the duties of her office, including administering municipal

elections, providing technology and minutes for City Council and Planning Commission meetings, publishing public notices, managing accounts payable, responding to public records (GRAMA) requests, agenda management, bid process administration and annexation management.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Mason described her duties including billing, business licenses and utility assistance. She described her department's service ethic.

**Communications:** Communications Director Church reported that she spends a portion of her time in direct communication with residents and manages the City's social media, public outreach and website, and publicizes open houses, ribbon cuttings, advertising, media requests, press releases and information dissemination. She said her goals include connecting staff with residents for information exchange, hosting events for elected officials to interact with the community, reorganizing the website, and creating proactive social media content. Ideas for City interaction with the community were discussed.

**Sustainability:** Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability Director Lamm reviewed her duties, including strategic planning and tracking of strategic initiatives, grant management, and oversight of priority projects such as crosswalks, wayfinding, sidewalks, downtown waste receptacles, and bicycle parking. She reported on the City's grant funding. Lamm reported on sustainability initiatives including an ongoing energy savings program, solar installations, LED streetlamps, the water shortage response plan, an electric vehicle readiness ordinance, and the dark sky ordinance. She said upcoming projects include the Utah Renewable Communities program, continuation of the transit system, wildfire preparedness, and the Wildland Urban Interface map.

**Administration:** City Manager Black spoke about the City's leadership team and a bi-weekly book group that discusses leadership theory. He spoke about the rebranding of the code enforcement division to provide code assistance.

**Challenges and Opportunities:**

City Manager Black spoke about staffing issues and stated that housing is still a problem. He said that the uncertain economy would be a challenge for the budget and pointed out that sales tax revenues were down 2.7 percent since July. He said the capital improvement projects appear to be attainable although new positions, unless grant funded, are unlikely. Mayor Langianese stated there was uncertainty with the tourism economy and new pricing for the national park entry fee for international visitors was \$250. Black spoke about plans that need to be updated, including a facilities master plan and a stormwater plan. He said the water infrastructure bond monies are being used up, and a new General Plan was warranted. Black brought up the upcoming expiration of federal funding for the transit pilot program, and the ongoing challenges of legislative regulatory changes regarding development. He concluded with an overview of aging infrastructure and the prospect of bonding for upgrades.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Langianese outlined the agenda for the second day of the retreat, and the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joette Langianese, Mayor

Sommar Johnson, City Recorder