

May 20, 2026

Town Board: Mayor Kerry Barney, Kurt Sawyer, Russell Riggs, and Gary Goble

Staff: Carly Burrows and Janell Barney

Public: Scott Walter, Jaycen Walter, Callie & Jon Spendlove

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Kerry Barney called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and offered the opening prayer and then led those present in the pledge.

2. Approval of April 29, 2026 Minutes

Councilor Sawyer motioned to accept the previous minutes Councilor Riggs 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

3. Review Invoices, checks & financial report/budget

3.1 April 2026

Councilor Sawyer motioned to approve the April invoices and Councilor Riggs 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

3.3 Extra Monthly Invoices

Town Clerk states there are no extra monthly invoices.

4. Public Hearings

4.1 Scott Walter Road and Water Meter

The council revisited the ongoing issue with the meter location and driveway access. It was agreed that the water meter will remain on the same service line but be relocated a short distance inside Scott Walter's property, with the town covering the full cost of the move because it had previously allowed the meter's current placement. David Barnhurst is to coordinate with Kade Iverson to arrange the relocation. Scott also requested approval to construct a gravel road base and an apron tying into town property, similar to other nearby driveways. The council expressed general support for the concept but decided that Councilor Riggs and Councilor Sawyer will first visit the site, review both the meter and driveway approach, and then return to the council with a specific proposal and recommendations before any construction proceeds.

5. Petitions, Remonstrations and Communications

5.1 Canyon Glow Retreat

The council reviewed an application for a vacation rental at Canyon Glow Retreat (Jon & Callie Spendlove), described as an Airbnb-style use of a house/garage located within their home. Mayor Barney reported that the applicants had met all town requirements and that Planning and Zoning found no reason to deny the use, noting it would not count against the town's separate vacation rental cap because it is within their primary residence. After brief discussion, Councilor Riggs made a motion to approve the Canyon Glow Retreat vacation rental permit, the motion was seconded by Councilor Sawyer, and the council voted all in favor. The only

follow-up note was a reminder that they must ensure required fees are paid, which the council understood had already been addressed with a check.

5.2 Open & amend 2025 budget and set 2026 budget amounts

The council and Town Clerk conducted a detailed review of the current fiscal year budget line by line, comparing the original budget to actual revenues and expenditures to prepare the required budget amendment. They discussed key revenue categories such as property tax, delinquent tax, transient room tax, resort tax, Class C road allotment, business licenses, fire grant revenue, and grant funds for the pickleball court and “jellyfish” lights, and agreed to raise or lower individual line items so that the amended budget more accurately reflects actual collections through the current date plus reasonable expectations for the remaining two months of the fiscal year. On the expense side, they similarly reviewed general government, fire, streets, parks, water, and community center lines (including wages, utilities, equipment, repairs, and training), and adjusted them where needed so that each line either matches or realistically accommodates total expected spending. The Town Clerk explained that the goal is to “zero out” or balance each category to actuals for amendment purposes, and then use this same worksheet structure in June to prepare the new budget for the next fiscal year. The council reached consensus on the revised figures and will proceed with formal adoption of the amended budget. Councilor Riggs motion to approve the amendments to the 2025 budget and numbers for the 2026 budget review, Councilor Sawyer 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

6. Ordinances

6.1 2026-04 Camping Ordinance

During the discussion on the camping ordinance, Russ explained that the proposed ordinance essentially reiterates the town’s prior rules, stating that people cannot camp or stay overnight on the back streets. Council members indicated they had reviewed and read the draft; Kerry stated he had read it and was comfortable with it. Councilor Riggs then made a motion to approve the camping ordinance as presented, the motion was seconded by Councilor Sawyer, and the council voted all-in favor, thereby adopting the updated camping ordinance with substantially the same restrictions as before.

6.2 Fraud Risk Assessment

The council briefly reviewed the required **fraud risk assessment**, going through questions on separation of duties, mitigating controls, and written policies for conflicts of interest, procurement, ethics, and reporting fraud or abuse. They noted current practices, discussed where additional training or documentation may be needed, and agreed the assessment must be completed and adopted to ensure the town remains compliant with state requirements.

7. Report of Officers - boards - committees

7.1 Water Department - Water Usage

In the water department discussion, Councilor Goble reported that the town used about 699,000 gallons of water, estimating roughly 300,000 gallons for system flushing, and expressed concern that overall use still seemed excessive. He said

a Rural Water representative would come with leak-detection equipment to listen for possible leaks. Councilor Riggs described his own large water bill caused by a leak and noted it would have been smaller if meters had been read in October, asking whether some bill reduction might be considered. Councilor Goble then explained that the well 5 transducer appears to be failing, with water level readings fluctuating improperly; he estimated the replacement part at about \$2,000, plus labor. Councilor Riggs and Councilor Sawyer discussed the history and need for reliable sensors to avoid wells pumping dry. Councilor Sawyer approved a motion authorizing up to \$5,000 to replace the well 5 sensor, viewing it as a necessary cost of maintaining a safe and reliable water system. Councilor Riggs 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

7.2 Fire Department

During the fire department report, Fire Chief Jon Spendlove noted there was not much new to report but confirmed that the department continues to hold regular Thursday evening meetings with good attendance, including volunteers from outside town who still want to serve the community. The council expressed appreciation for the fire crew and briefly discussed the need to control costs and keep taxes down while maintaining strong fire protection. No new equipment purchases or major incidents were reported.

7.3 Road Department-

Councilor Riggs reported there were no major new issues, noting the main need is to fill potholes, which is planned for June-July when the county can assist. He explained that the county is currently working on chip seal and other projects but has indicated they will come then and use hot mix instead of cold patch, which should provide better, longer-lasting repairs. No formal motions were made specific to routine road maintenance during this segment.

The council discussed UDOT's planned highway widening and new passing lane south of town, with Councilor Riggs expressing concern that a passing lane within Hatch limits will increase speeds and create safety and liability issues, as well as impact the town's water line and require additional property. On advice from Five County, the council agreed the town should go on record by sending a formal letter of concern to UDOT's district representative and regional traffic commissioner outlining these objections.

7.4 Parks & Recreation-

7.4.a. Town Clean Up

During the town cleanup discussion, Mayor Barney reported that the recent joint church-town cleanup was very successful overall, with a strong turnout and good work completed, but noted problems with the fence line that sagged or failed after the most recent wind storm. The council discussed the need to repair and strengthen the fence by taking it down in weak areas, installing larger posts where needed, and re-stretching the wire, with an estimated cost of about \$1,200 based on the one bid received so far. They reviewed the bid process requirements, agreeing that the town must attempt to obtain three bids (including contacting companies in Cedar City and St. George) and carefully document all attempts; if additional

contractors decline or fail to respond, the town can still proceed with the one bid while remaining compliant. Mayor Barney and the town Clerk will work on contacting more vendors and finalizing bids over the next two weeks.

The council noted the upcoming town cleanup and related activities, including plans for the Boys and Girls youth groups to plant flowers and for Grace to organize some type of additional cleanup effort. Details of Grace's cleanup plan were not yet finalized, but the council acknowledged the need for continued volunteer help and coordination following the success of the recent joint church-town cleanup.

7.5 Grants-

7.5.a. Update of Ensign grant process

During the grants portion, the council heard an update that the Ensign Engineering CIB application has been signed by Kerry and sent to Michael Johnson (Five County) for final review before submission to the CIB Board, with the town aiming for consideration at the July CIB meeting and possible funding decisions in the fall. The SF-299 form for BLM is completed and awaiting Curtis's review before being sent to Kerry for signature. Russ and Kurt plan to attend the CIB meeting to represent the town.

7.6 Planning & Zoning Commission

Planning and Zoning reported a brief meeting to approve the Spendloves new short-term rental.

7.7 Cemetery

The council noted that there were no new cemetery meetings or formal actions to report. However, they asked that anyone visiting the cemetery watch for signs of prairie dog activity and let the town know, so they can determine whether recent control efforts have been effective or if further treatment is needed.

8.1 Public Input

9. Unfinished or New Business

Councilor Riggs suggested that the town send letters of appreciation to the many agencies and individuals who helped during the recent water contamination emergency, including Rural Water (Nathan and Jake), Garfield County and Sheriff Chad (with a copy to the County Commissioners), SC Broadband, the Panguitch mayor and water operator, South Central Communications/Tony Dingess, Joe's Market (for donating a pallet of water), and others. He also proposed publishing a brief "thank you" letter to the editor in the local paper listing these partners, to publicly recognize their assistance. The council agreed that this recognition is appropriate; they also briefly acknowledged the patience of Hatch citizens during the crisis.

10. Adjournment

Councilor Sawyer motioned to adjourn and Councilor Riggs 2nd the motion, vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm