

**Hatch Town Board Meeting
August 19, 2026**

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

Staff: Carly Burrows, Janell Barney, and David Barnhurst

Public: Kerri & Chad Justus, Ryker Ogden, Kade Iverson

1. Meeting Called to Order

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

2. Approval of July 15, 2026 minutes

Councilor Riggs approves the minutes with one correction that the minutes reflect the approval of the zoning project, Councilor Goble 2nd the motion with the corrections, the vote was unanimous.

3. Review June Invoices, checks & financial report/budget

3.1 July

3.2 Extra Monthly Invoices

Councilor Sawyer motioned to approve all extra monthly invoices, Councilor Riggs 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

3.2.a Scott Walter Meter Extra

Scott Walters requested his water meter be moved onto his property and upsized (from 1" to 1½"). The town hired Kade Iverson to do the work.

- Town's understanding: The town would pay only the cost to move the meter a few feet into Scott's property; Scott would pay all extra costs tied to upsizing and digging back to the main supply line.
- Kade's labor: Initially calculated at \$1,200 for the town's portion. After Scott refused to pay his share, Kade reworked the bill, identifying \$450 as the "extra" labor attributable to Scott's requested changes, for a total invoice of about \$1,650.
- Council decision:
 - The town will pay Kade the full \$1,650 so he is made whole.
 - The town will then bill Scott Walters for the \$450 extra labor, and handle any dispute directly with him.

Councilor Riggs motioned to approve the payment to Kade Iverson, and to bill Scott Walter for the remaining \$450, Councilor Sawyer 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

3.2.b Town Hall AC

The council reviewed and acknowledged the high cost of the recent Town Hall air conditioning work, noted that the repair was necessary due to heat issues in the building, and approved the invoice as part of the monthly bills.

4. Public Hearings

4.1 Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town Clerk reported on the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update, noting a public meeting on August 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in Cedar City (with online participation available), a public survey posted on the town's pages, and that participation in the plan is needed to qualify for future hazard-related funding.

5. Petitions, Remonstrations and Communications

5.1 Blackburn Propane South Town Property Purchase

The council discussed Blackburn Propane's interest in purchasing the town-owned property they currently lease, noted UDOT's appraisal of nearby town property at approximately \$126,000 per acre, agreed the town would likely require a similar value, and directed staff to wait for a formal offer while ensuring needed right-of-way and possible parking areas are preserved.

6. Ordinances

7. Report of Officers - boards - committees

7.1 Water Department - Water Usage

The water operator reported 1,806,000 gallons pumped from Well #5 last month, updated the council on resolving a state concern about repeat boil-order samples (with new samples passing), presented a clearer tiered water billing format for review, and received approval to purchase a hydrant flow diffuser to support required ISO fire-flow testing.

Staff presented a new, more detailed water bill format modeled after Paunsagaunt Cliffs's, and the council discussed adding tiered usage and rate breakdowns so customers can better understand higher water charges.

7.2 Fire Department-

The mayor reported the **fire department is meeting regularly** and expressed appreciation for the volunteers, noting that many live outside town limits but participation is as strong as it has ever been.

In support of fire protection and the town's **ISO rating**, the council discussed the need to **annually test at least two fire hydrants** and approved purchasing a **hydrant flow diffuser/fire flow tester** (estimated cost around **\$645**). The device will let the town measure hydrant flow and pressure without damaging streets or shoulders and help maintain required documentation for insurance rating purposes. Councilor Sawyer motioned to approve the purchase of a fire flow tester, Councilor Goble 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

7.3 Road Department-

Russ reported he filled several town potholes using rotomill from his own supply and a homemade emulsion as a test, including spots near the Dutton's and toward the highway, to see how the patch material holds up before purchasing bagged cold mix. He also relayed that UDOT plans to repair edge rutting and 5-6 inch drop-offs along Highway 89 by placing and grading road base at the pavement edge; UDOT requested permission to work around driveways and local street intersections, and the council agreed to grant that permission.

7.4 Parks & Recreation-

7.4.a July 24th Review

The council briefly reviewed this year's July 4th and 24th celebrations, noting that despite some controversy and limited formal committee participation, the events ran fairly well and financially broke even, which meets the town's goal of not losing money. Councilor Sawyer recognized staff (especially the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer) who stepped in to handle tasks outside their job descriptions, including cleanup. He suggested the town look at creating separate volunteer committees for different holiday functions, similar to other communities, so the workload does not fall primarily on council members and a small group of volunteers; staff responded that previous attempts to recruit such committees have had limited success, but the idea remains worthwhile.

7.5 Grants-

Playground Grant: The Town Clerk reported finding a small grant (approx. \$500-\$15,000) that could help fund playground repairs, with a 20% match allowed in cash or in-kind. The council agreed to apply, focusing first on recoating the peeling metal play surfaces and possibly using volunteer labor as part of the local match.

7.6 Planning & Zoning Commission

The council reviewed Planning & Zoning's recommendation to allow the Rudolph property to be split so the front portion can be sold while the owner retains the back portion with the existing residence. Discussion focused on whether the access road/easement along the side is a public town road or a private easement, since that affects legal access to the rear lot. Because of conflicting information between past understandings and current county records. Councilor Sawyer motioned to approved the split contingent on confirming that the roadway is indeed a town street; if it is not, the owner will need to provide a private access strip. Councilor Riggs 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

7.7 Cemetery

The mayor reported that state and county staff are actively trapping prairie dogs in and around the cemetery and nearby Barney property, and that they are optimistic about securing funding for a permanent exclusion fence that would extend below and above ground to keep prairie dogs out long-term.

8. Public Input

During public input, a resident reported speaking with Commissioner Leland Pollock, who said that after the current rains end, the county plans to reopen Proctor Canyon road to side-by-sides and ATVs and then work on repairs to improve it for recreation and local business access. The resident and council discussed existing damage—washouts, undercut edges, and corners where the wash hits the road—likely requiring additional work such as riprap or shifting the road over. It was reaffirmed that the county has previously committed not to allow the Forest Service to close this road and to keep it open as an important recreation route.

9. Unfinished or New Business

The council discussed ongoing roof leaks and stucco damage on the town hall, agreeing to contact a stucco contractor for inspection and a repair bid, with work likely scheduled for next spring using funds already budgeted. Staff were asked to review and reset building door codes so access matches current personnel. Russ raised concerns that the current town code—largely based on county ordinances—does not fit a municipality well and proposed reviewing Panguitch City's codified

ordinances as a model; the council expressed interest, and Russ will obtain a copy for review. He also reported that the park model trailers with an expired conditional use permit appear to be occupied all summer, supported by observed activity and water usage, and the council acknowledged this as an issue needing follow-up, though no specific enforcement action was decided at this time.

9.1.a Council Interviews and Appointments

Due to an existing council vacancy, Mayor Kerry Barney announced that Kerri Justus had turned in a letter of intent to fill the council position. She was the only applicant. Councilor Sawyer noted her long-standing ties to the community and moved to appoint her to the vacant council seat, Councilor Riggs 2nd that motion in support, the vote was unanimous. Kerri Justus was appointed to fill the remainder of the existing term (running through approximately 2030) and was sworn in following adjournment.

10. Adjournment

Councilor Sawyer motioned to adjourn at 8:24pm and Councilor Riggs 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.