

**MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 14, 2023**

Moab City Council held its Regular Meeting on the above date in Council Chambers. Archived audio is at [www.utah.gov/pmn](http://www.utah.gov/pmn) and video is at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uS\\_6OoKowL4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uS_6OoKowL4).

***Attendance and Call to Order:***

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and Doug McMurdo led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Rani Derasary, Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Jason Taylor and Kalen Jones attended. Councilmember Luke Wojciechowski had a planned absence. Also in attendance were City Manager Carly Castle, Recorder Sommar Johnson, City Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin, Police Chief Jared Garcia, Transit Coordinator Richard Lory, Engineer Chuck Williams and one member of the media.

***Citizens to be Heard:*** There were no public comments.

***Department Head Update:*** City Engineer Williams updated Council on the status of the City's priority flood repairs. He mentioned the ongoing waterline repairs on 100 West and 400 East and said that the lines are connected and operational and upcoming work entails repairs to asphalt, sidewalks, guardrails and handrails. He spoke about temporary bridge scour protection work starting with 400 East then 300 South, 100 West and 500 West. He outlined next steps for the completion of permanent bridge scour protection design. He said all bridges were in the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) floodways, and he explained the difference between floodways and floodplains. He listed other tasks on the flood repair list, including engineering work to repair sidewalks, handrails, retaining walls and pedestrian bridges between 400 East and 500 West. He announced the pedestrian bridge adjacent to Kane Creek Boulevard was tentatively planned to go out to bid in April. He detailed costs and funding sources for the bridge construction and adjacent streambed improvements. Williams mentioned easement acquisition as well as emergency watershed protection measures for private land damage in Mill Creek. He summarized total funding obtained to date as well as current expenditures. Councilmember Derasary asked about property lines that go to the creek and asked about whether damage was the responsibility of the City or the property owners. Councilmember Taylor asked about debris removal and noted bulldozing work upstream by County crews. Engineer Williams noted positive results of the County's efforts to clean out retention basins.

***Consent Agenda—Approved***

***Motion:*** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve the consent agenda as follows: presentation of July-January Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Update; approval of minutes for the February 14 and February 28, 2023, Regular Meetings; and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the amount of \$960,744.77. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion.

***Discussion:*** Councilmember Derasary requested an explanation during upcoming budget planning sessions regarding enterprise funds and detailed expenses for overhead and projects. She also suggested more detail in the minutes of the February 28 Regular Meeting regarding development of the Emergency Operations Plan.

***Vote:*** The motion passed unanimously.

***Presentations:***

***Moab Area Transit:*** Transit Coordinator Lory announced the ribbon cutting for the transit system on March 16. He described the fare-free fixed route along Main Street and the door-to-door service, which is also fare-free. He mentioned the Quick Response (QR) code that may be used to download the Moab Area Transit application (MAT app). He said the MAT app was also available through app stores. Lory explained that schedules, hours and booking could be

accessed via the app or by calling 833-MAT-FREE (833-628-3733). He demonstrated the use of the app and noted that public feedback was needed for the pilot phase of the program. Councilmember Derasary asked about whether the wheelchair racks could carry more than one chair at a time. It was also clarified that the fixed route was planned for summer months only and that three vehicles were in service at all times. Derasary also asked about accommodations for bikes, strollers and pets and it was explained that only service animals would be permitted, strollers were acceptable and to date, bikes could not be accommodated due to the wheelchair racks and concerns about safety with front-mounted racks. Lory emphasized the need for feedback from the public. Derasary thanked past Councilmembers Karen Guzman-Newton and Mike Duncan and former Mayor Emily Niehaus for their efforts to bring transit to Moab. Prioritization of riders including first-come-first-served and shared rides was mentioned.

***Mill Creek Parkway Restoration Efforts:*** City contractor Kara Dohrenwend of Rim-to-Rim Restoration presented background and history of the Rim-to-Rim nonprofit and briefed Council on ensuing work priorities, collaborators, and stakeholders connected to the Mill Creek Parkway. She detailed mitigation of flood damage, debris removal, and removal of invasive species. She praised donated service crews and Councilmember Derasary asked about opportunities for volunteering and keeping updated on progress. Mayor Langianese mentioned the variety of weeds that sprouted after the floodwaters receded.

***City Manager Update:*** City Manager Castle reported April 19-21 is the Utah League of Cities and Towns Conference. She said SB 271 unfortunately passed and added Senator McKell will work with Moab to find a legislative solution. Castle mentioned upcoming water service interruptions downtown. She noted an upcoming user survey regarding the Parks Master Planning Project and concluded by stating the City will replace the pool filter and it may be closed two full weeks.

***Mayor and Council Reports:***

Mayor Langianese reported the Kane Creek Boulevard reconstruction was approved at the Utah Permanent Community Impact Board (CIB) meeting and the board voted to approve an approximately \$4 million grant along with a loan for the remaining approximately \$4 million of the project cost at two percent interest. Langianese stated she had worked with board member and San Juan County commissioner Bruce Adams for a year on the request. She thanked Richard Lory and Engineer Williams for their assistance with the grant. The Mayor reviewed her recent visit with Councilmember Derasary and County Commissioners Mary McGann and Jacques Hadler to Washington DC to lobby for sustained funding for the cleanup of the tailings pile. She said the meeting was productive as they met with the Utah Congressional delegation members as well as members of the appropriations committees to support funding of \$67 million. Mayor Langianese said the Moab group also met with members of the Public Lands Committee to promote timed entry at Arches. She said they learned about the Lodge Act, which would allow nonprofit partners to build housing inside and outside of National Parks for employees and seasonal workers and perhaps anyone. She brought up a possible letter of support from Council.

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd reported on a Health Care Special Service District meeting.

Councilmember Taylor reported on a Chamber of Commerce board meeting to discuss July 4 plans with County and City.

Councilmember Jones reported on meetings of the housing task force, the Community Renewable Energy Board, and the Travel Council. He said that recent legislation regarding Transient Room Tax (TRT) means monies cannot be spent on economic diversification, so might be used to rebuild fund reserves. He noted he attended a meeting regarding the forthcoming

Sustainability Action Plan. Councilmember Derasary asked about the County's ability to collaborate with the USU's small business resource center.

Councilmember Derasary provided highlights of her Washington DC trip, including 19 meetings with a total of 29 people including members of Utah's Congressional delegation and representatives from downstream states. She warned the uranium tailings mitigation might still require lobbying to obtain funds for the cover over the tailings and groundwater remediation. She mentioned a potential memorandum of understanding with the Department of Energy to capture the intention of local control over the tailings site. With regard to the proposed Lodge Act, she suggested people read it and warned of potential consequences regarding privatization of public lands. Derasary praised the Free Health Clinic and its life-changing impacts on local children. She spoke about the recent legislative session and recognized the value of past assistance from the League of Women Voters to track bills, and the importance of historical trends regarding loss of local control. She warned about corruption in the legislature and the unfair advantage of those who benefit financially. She expressed her sorrow about bills that affect women, transgender and BIPOC individuals and encouraged those impacted to run for office. Derasary mentioned letters coming in about noise and asked what Council and the community need to do to start seeing tickets being issued, especially as the legislature has asked about this.. She concluded with remarks about the local groundwater supply and referenced a March 2 article in a local paper quoting Utah Division of Water Rights' Regional Engineer Mark Stilson saying his division can help when groundwater has already been overdrafted, but avoiding that situation in the first place is up to communities. She mentioned the need to talk about water, recent water meetings Grand County has been having, said she was once again making a plea that the City have meetings about water, and asked for an update once to twice a year on monitoring trends at the City's wells and springs. Mayor Langianese mentioned she has a good working relationship with state Representative Phil Lyman and Senator David Hinkins.

**Adjournment:** Councilmember Jones moved to adjourn. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Langianese adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sommar Johnson, City Recorder