

**MOAB CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**September 26, 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=dJoxkSchiH4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJoxkSchiH4).

***Regular Meeting Attendance and Call to Order:***

Mayor Joette Langianese called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and Sawyer Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Rani Derasary, Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Luke Wojciechowski, Jason Taylor and Kalen Jones attended. Also in attendance were City Finance Advisor David Everitt, Planning Director Cory Shurtleff, City Manager Carly Castle, Community Development Director Michael Black, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Communications Director Lisa Church, Transit Coordinator Richard Lory, Engineer Chuck Williams, Police Chief Lex Bell, Police Administrative Sergeant Scott Finlayson, Attorney Lisa Watts Baskin and 50 members of the public.

***Police Chief Swearing-In Ceremony:***

Recorder Johnson conducted the swearing-in of Police Chief Alexander Bell.

***Moab Area Transit—Update***

Engineer Williams and Transit Director Lory presented an overview of the pilot program of the Moab Area Transit. Williams said ridership exceeded expectations. He said staff was collecting data for the complete first peak season, which ends October 15. Usage was discussed and Williams said more than 30,000 persons participated, with eight percent of use on the Main Street fixed route and the majority of use involving point-to-point microtransit. Lory described the funding and noted the grant and local match ratios will evolve over the five-year span of the pilot phase. Wait times, peak demand, industry metrics, vendor satisfaction and participant feedback were discussed, as well as the perceived percentage of local ridership, designated fixed route stops, and conversion to an electric vehicle fleet.

***Public Comments:***

Alex brought up on-street parking near his residence, at which residents were issued citations for nose-in parking on their dead-end street. He requested a change from parallel parking to perpendicular parking.

***Department Head Update: Finance***

Finance Advisor Everitt presented closeout of the fiscal year 2022-23 budget and a finance department update. He explained an increase of the general fund of more than \$700,000. He answered Council questions regarding intergovernmental revenues and tax revenues.

***Grant Opportunities—Presentation***

Mayor Langianese praised the grant-writing contributions of Transit Director Lory. She pointed out the Downtown Plan considered by Council was never formally adopted, although much of the plan has been accomplished. She said Community Development Director Black represents the City on the local economic development board. Black described an upcoming grant opportunity for rural communities. He said it could award up to \$600,000 for infrastructure and capital improvements. He said the City would seek funding to complete downtown dispersed parking. Black described ten current City grant projects worth more than \$19 million. Councilmember Wojciechowski said the many grants were impressive and asked about volunteer and in-kind contributions for local match requirements. Councilmember Derasary brought up the downtown maintenance needs that were addressed by residents at the last meeting. She mentioned the importance of the dispersed parking plan elements designated for aesthetics and Engineer Williams said that project had complete drawings and specifications approved by Council and included those aesthetic elements. Councilmembers Derasary and Taylor brought up a desire to maximize communication, overlap and collaboration with the County.

***Consent Agenda—Approved***

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Jones moved to approve the consent agenda as follows: ratification of a letter of support for the North Maverik electric vehicle chargers, approval of minutes for the September 12, 2023, Regular Meeting, and approval of bills against the City of Moab in the Amount of \$2,156,656.53. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

***General Business:***

***Adoption of 2023-2024 Strategic Plan—Approved***

**Discussion:** City Manager Castle answered questions and made clarifications regarding the final draft of the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. Castle stated she would make corrections and adjustments to be reflected in the approved plan.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Jones moved to approve **Resolution 14-2023**: adopting the City of Moab Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Strategic Plan. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

***On-Call Community Engagement Services Contract—Approved***

**Discussion:** Communications Director Church explained outreach services provided by the vendor would be billed to particular projects. Councilmember Wojciechowski requested that the activities of the vendor be incorporated into in-house tasks in the future.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve the contract award to David Evans and Associates for on-call community engagement services. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

***Spring #2 Collection Box Improvements Project—Approved***

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Jones moved to approve a construction contract with Jackson Excavation, Inc. in the amount of \$179,045.00 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Notice of Intent to Award and Contract. Councilmember Derasary seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

***Power Easement to Well No. 12—Approved***

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd moved to approve granting of an easement to Rocky Mountain Power to Supply Power to Well No. 12. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye.

***Industrial Zone Amendments—Approved***

**Presentation and Discussion:** Planning Director Shurtleff described the applicant-driven request for amendments to the Industrial Code. He said the proposed amendments would relax restrictions on self-storage units and would add kennels to allowed uses. He said the Planning staff as well as the Planning Commission did not recommend kennels be added as an allowed use. He described the Planning Commission's recommended streamlining of height and setbacks for storage units. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd asked how the proposed amendments would benefit the City and Shurtleff explained it serves to clarify and clean up the code, which is due for an overhaul in the coming year. Knuteson-Boyd expressed her opposition to the proposed amendments and cited the applicant's scare tactic that heavier industry could develop. Councilmember Wojciechowski described the great need for storage units and said far more disruptive development could ensue. Councilmember Jones brought up residential possibilities and said he supports the omission of kennels as an allowed use. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd stated she lives in the area proposed by the applicant and said her neighbors were not in favor. She added there are 18 homes on her street and 19 dogs, and they bark at any given time.

**Motion and Vote:** Councilmember Wojciechowski moved to adopt **Ordinance 2023-13:** an ordinance amending the Moab Municipal Code (MMC), Section 17.36.020, Permitted Uses and Regulations in the (I-1) Industrial Zoning District, to relax the zoning requirements for self-storage warehouse developments as proposed, and modify the proposed ordinance to exclude adding indoor/outdoor kennels as a permitted use. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor and Wojciechowski voting aye and Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd voting nay.

**City Manager Updates:**

City Manager Castle reminded the public to complete the sustainability plan survey. She said the draft Parks Master Plan would be forwarded to the Planning Commission. She described an upcoming planned water outage on 300 South and mentioned a staff and Council flu shot clinic. She concluded by reminding the public about the upcoming Red Rocks Arts Festival.

**Mayor and Council Reports:**

Councilmember Jones reported he attended meetings of the County’s future land use plan, the solid waste district, the Moab Area housing taskforce and the Parks Master Plan open house.

Councilmember Derasary reported cancellation of a meeting of the Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency and said she attended meetings for the Upper Colorado River Commission and the Water Utility Resource Management Plan (WURMP). She announced upcoming events planned for Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd brought up a wrongful death lawsuit that named the local care facility and she pointed out the local facility only had a financial agreement with the plaintiff and hoped to have the local facility dropped from the suit. She said the housing authority was moving its offices. She praised the Hope Alliance for vision and hearing screenings conducted at the elementary school.

Councilmember Taylor reported he attended an airport board meeting and the Parks open house.

Councilmember Wojciechowski reported he attended meetings of the homeless council, the Moab Area Watershed Partnership and WURMP. He said he attended a Pride event and the Harvest Festival.

Mayor Langianese reported the National Parks and Conservation Association would hold its annual board meeting in Moab. She brought up the impending federal government shutdown and noted the State of Utah would provide funding to keep area national parks open. She said she attended meetings regarding Walnut Lane and a meeting of the Association of Governments regarding a Main Street project.

**Executive (Closed) Session:**

**Motions and Votes:** Councilmember Jones moved to enter an executive strategy session to discuss reasonably imminent and/or pending litigation. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye. Mayor Langianese convened the closed session at 8:44 p.m. Councilmember Taylor moved to end the closed session. Councilmember Wojciechowski seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye. Mayor Langianese ended the closed session at 9:32 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Councilmember Derasary moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Knuteson-Boyd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 aye with Councilmembers Jones, Derasary, Taylor, Knuteson-Boyd and Wojciechowski voting aye. Mayor Langianese adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

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

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