

# Town Council Meeting

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2026, 7:00 PM

### 1. Opening Ceremonies

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Mayor Shepherd, who welcomed attendees to the regular Town Council meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Levan Town Hall, 20 North Main, Levan. The invocation was offered by the Mayor, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Tyler Shepherd. Council members: Rachel Goates, Ray Evans, Jerry Spence. Absent: Chris Chipping (resigned) Quorum established.

Also Present: Christine Carrigan (Clerk), Chantal Rowley (Treasurer), Chelsea Carle (recorder), Elaina Jenson (deputy clerk), Chelsi Oliver, Dan and Virginia Green, Brayden Gardner (R6), McCall Carter (R6), Kyler Nielsen (Jones & DeMille), Parker Vercimak (Jones & DeMille), Carol Bennett, Brady Taylor, Layne Burningham (UMPA), Shay Morrison (R6), Celeste Robinson. Rebecca Dopp (Times-News), Joel Winn, Nick Mangelson, Julie Smalley, Russ Mangelson, Christie Mangelson, Triston Worwood, Mitchell Worwood, Tim Larsen, Noreen Harper, Drake Underwood, Douglas Anderson (Juab Sheriff), David Fletcher,

### 2. Discussion Items/Action Items

#### a. Appointment of New Council Member

Christopher Chipping had announced his resignation from the Town Council at the end of April.

The Council received brief presentations from five applicants for the vacant council seat, heard in the order applications were received: Dan Green, Mitchell Worwood, Triston Worwood, Nicholas Mangelson, and Brady Taylor.

Dan Green introduced himself and his wife, noting they have lived in Levan for nearly ten years. He cited IT and organizational skills and a desire to help people but was candid that he lacked experience and stated he would support whomever the Council felt was more qualified, suggesting the planning commission might be a better starting point for him.

Mitchell Worwood introduced himself as a lifelong Levan resident. He described himself as straightforward and direct, stating simply, "What you see is what you get."

Triston Worwood noted he has lived in and around Levan most of his life, was raised on a farm in town, and spent most of his career in heavy civil construction, with the last twelve years in management. He expressed a desire to get involved in town decisions and serve the community going forward.

Nicholas Mangelson noted he has lived in Levan for approximately twenty-one years, previously served on the Town Council following a prior vacancy, and expressed interest in helping move forward community priorities, including efforts to restore the local rodeo.

Brady Taylor also noted a prior term on the Town Council and highlighted twenty-five years of experience with the City of Spanish Fork, including work in customer service management and familiarity with municipal utility services such as Internet, cable, and phone. He expressed willingness to serve, noting his children are grown and he has time to contribute.

Following the presentations, the Council voted on each candidate in order. Dan Green, Mitchell Worwood, and Triston Worwood did not receive the necessary votes. Nicholas Mangelson received one affirmative vote. Brady Taylor received three affirmative votes and was thereby appointed.

Motion to appoint Brady Taylor to the vacant Council seat was approved by a vote of 3-1, with one member having already cast their affirmative vote for a prior candidate.

## **b. Swearing In Newly Appointed Council Member**

Brady Taylor was immediately sworn in by the Clerk and administered the Oath of Office, affirming to support, obey, and defend the constitutions of the United States and the State of Utah and to discharge the duties of his office with fidelity. Councilmember Taylor took his seat at the dais.

The Council also noted to the other applicants that a vacancy exists on the Planning Commission, and encouraged them to consider applying.

## **c. Levan Hydro Generation**

Layne Burningham, President of Utah Municipal Power Agency (UMPA), presented an overview of the agency's structure, Levan's membership, and the history and current status of Levan's hydro generation assets.

Mr. Burningham explained the distinction between investor-owned utilities (such as Rocky Mountain Power), public power entities, and cooperatives, emphasizing that Levan operates its own public utility, governed locally by the Town Council, with any surplus benefiting the community rather than outside shareholders.

He described UMPA as a joint action agency — a political subdivision of Utah formed in 1980 and reorganized in 2016 to extend its life through 2065 — that supplies all power needs for its six member cities: Levan, Nephi, Manti, Spanish Fork, Salem, and Provo. Each member holds one equal vote on the Board of Directors, regardless of size, with weighted votes available but never yet invoked. The Board must consist of elected officials, while alternates may be elected officials, employees, or residents.

Mr. Burningham outlined the power supply portfolio, which includes agency-owned generation assets (coal, natural gas, solar), federal hydro contracts (Colorado River Storage Project, Deer Creek, Olmsted), bilateral agreements, and active energy market trading. Revenue from surplus energy sales reduces the overall cost charged back to members on a uniform "postage stamp" rate.

Regarding Levan specifically, Mr. Burningham discussed the Capacity Purchase Agreements governing the town's two hydro facilities — Cobble Rock and Pigeon Creek — which were originally financed beginning in 1987 and had their debt fully retired by 2002. He noted that because UMPA's costs are shared across all members, Levan effectively paid only approximately \$6,219 of the \$1,554,000 total debt service on those hydros, with the remaining cost borne by the other five member cities. Since debt retirement, the cost of power from the hydros has averaged approximately \$42.23 per megawatt hour — significantly below the pre-payoff average of \$144.49.

He also reported recent capital expenditures from the Hydro Capital Fund: approximately \$265,000 for a controls upgrade at Pigeon Creek in 2023, and approximately \$25,768 for a bearing repair on Cobble Rock in 2024.

Council members asked questions regarding net metering for residential solar customers, load factors among member cities (with Nephi having the best load factor due to industrial customers such as Owens Corning, and Salem the worst as a bedroom community), and the mechanics of how the hydros operate as behind-the-meter, run-of-river resources. Mr. Burningham noted UMPA is preparing to go to the bond market on Tuesday for a \$195,000,000 bond deal, and thanked Levan Town staff for their recent assistance with the associated documentation.

## **d. Sheriff's Office Update**

Sheriff Doug Anderson appeared before the Council to announce his retirement from the Juab County Sheriff's Office, effective in two days. He read his formal retirement letter publicly, expressing gratitude to the citizens and communities of the county, the men and women of the Sheriff's Office, and the governments he has served. Sheriff Anderson noted his retirement is not a resignation but a transition to a new position as Director of Security with a local business, which could not wait until the end of his term. He indicated that Chief Deputy Travis Gunnison would assume operational leadership of the office by statute, and that the Republican Party would subsequently have the opportunity to select an interim from among the primary election candidates. The primary election is scheduled for June 23rd.

The Mayor and Council members thanked Sheriff Anderson for his nearly forty years in law enforcement and eleven-and-a-half years of service to the county.

## e. R6 Update

Shay Morrison provided the following updates on behalf of Region 6:

**Regional Growth Summit:** The recent summit was well-attended with close to 300 participants. A second annual summit is being considered, with a spring and fall event each year potentially.

**Population Estimates:** The state's population committee has begun requesting building permit information from municipalities, and local staff should anticipate receiving such requests. Formal public records request procedures do not apply to this committee under state code.

**CIB Funding Deadline:** The Community Impact Board (CIB) application deadline is June 1st. Mr. Morrison noted that Levan's two items currently on the CIB list are the aquifer storage recharge (ASR) project and water rights acquisition. He advised that municipalities typically submit only one application per year, though these two items are closely related and may be submitted together. The typical funding cycle would result in a hearing in July, August, or September, with funding likely in October, though expedited funding is possible. CIB loans for critical infrastructure projects typically carry interest rates of approximately 3–3.5%. Council members asked whether the two items could be submitted together; Mr. Morrison indicated he would clarify with CIB staff. He encouraged the Council to contact him promptly if they wish to proceed.

## f. DUP Cabin Maintenance

Celeste Robinson and Noreen Harper of the Levan DUP Camp (Chicken Creek Camp) addressed the Council regarding the maintenance needs of the Scout Cabin, which is owned by the Town and houses the Levan DUP Museum.

Ms. Robinson reported that the museum was reopened last Pioneer Day after a ten-year closure, drawing over 120 visitors. The museum houses pioneer artifacts significant to the founding families of Levan and is listed as one of the larger satellite museums in the DUP's statewide system. The museum is available for tours by appointment and will be open to the public on Memorial Day from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and on July 24th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Ms. Harper presented a prioritized list of maintenance needs for the cabin, including re-squaring and re-hanging the doors (a priority issue, as log shifting has caused significant gaps on both the north and south entrances), installing window film to protect artifacts from UV degradation and heat, concrete or zero-scape work around the building's foundation to prevent irrigation water from contacting the logs (the original cause of prior log deterioration), and electrical wiring to support a security camera system. The DUP indicated it has funds available to contribute toward the security camera installation.

Council members discussed the need to obtain bids on the door work, as that will require professional skills to brace and re-square the log structure before re-hanging. The Mayor noted that last year the Town allocated approximately \$1,500 toward the logs, which were subsequently repaired by community volunteers, and suggested that a formal line item in the budget would help plan for ongoing maintenance.

The Council suggested assigning Councilmember Brady Taylor as the liaison to the DUP for ongoing communication. Councilmember Taylor accepted.

The DUP representatives emphasized that the Town owns the building and that they serve as caretakers of the artifacts within, and expressed appreciation for the partnership.

## g. FY 2027 Tentative Budget Approval

The Town Clerk presented a tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2027, noting that the document reflects figures carried over from the prior year and will be refined during a work session the following month. The budget includes the General Fund (covering garbage, streets and roads, the park, and the DUP cabin), as well as enterprise funds for water, electric, gas, and Internet. The Clerk noted that the FY 2026 natural gas revenues were lower than projected due to a mild winter, and that the water fund's depreciation line will need to be adjusted to include the \$65,000 bond payment that was omitted from last year's budget. A formal noticed public meeting will be held before final adoption.

Motion to approve the FY 2027 Tentative Budget was made by Councilmember Rachel Goates and seconded by Jerry Spencer. The motion carried unanimously.

## **h. Nominations for Grand Marshal**

The Council discussed the process for nominating a Grand Marshal for the upcoming Pioneer Day celebration. The Council agreed to solicit nominations from the public via the town's Facebook page, consistent with prior years' practices. The Clerk reminded the Council that a timely selection is needed to allow for publication in the newspaper and preparation of a plaque.

## **i. Appointment of New Planning Commissioner**

Dan Green, who had applied for the Council vacancy, expressed interest in serving on the Planning Commission. The Council received a nomination for Mr. Green's appointment.

Motion to appoint Dan Green to the Planning Commission was made by Councilmember Ray Evans and seconded by Rachel Goates. The motion carried unanimously.

## **j. New Shop Building Permit**

The Clerk presented a building permit application from Heath Butler for a 30-by-50-foot steel outbuilding. The building inspector has reviewed and signed off on the application. The Clerk noted that town ordinance requires approval from both the Town Council and the Planning Commission, but that the Council may tentatively approve the permit to allow the applicant to proceed while awaiting the next Planning Commission meeting.

Motion to tentatively approve Heath Butler's building permit for the outbuilding, subject to Planning Commission review, was made by Councilmember Jerry Spencer and seconded by Brady Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

# **3. Mayor/Councilmember/Department/Committee Reports**

## **a. Mayor/Council Member Reports**

Councilmember Spencer reported on park improvements, noting that pickleball court bids are currently underway with completion potentially in time for the July 24th celebration. He indicated the hydroseed on the new baseball field is coming in well and recommended waiting until July 24th before hosting any large events to allow the grass to establish fully. He also outlined longer-term plans being developed with Jones & DeMille Engineers and Shay Morrison for a September grant planning session, targeting a January 1st grant application deadline. Planned improvements under consideration include a tennis court, upgraded playground equipment, ball field lights, and arena upgrades to support a full rodeo, with the goal of bundling multiple improvements in a single grant application to improve funding prospects.

## **b. Office Issued Permits Reports**

The Clerk noted a fence permit coming in and an electrical permit pending. No permits have been formally issued since the last meeting.

## **c. Planning Commission Report**

No report.

## **d. Committee Reports**

No additional committee reports were presented beyond those covered above.

## **e. Other Reports**

The Clerk noted that the splash pad is expected to open by Wednesday of the following week, with maintenance staff working on it over the coming weekend.

# **4. Council Business**

## **a. Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Minutes of the April 9, 2026 Regular Meeting; Approval of Claims (April 1–30, 2026); Approval of the Payroll Comparison Report (March 1–April 30, 2026); and Approval of the Final Cash Receipts Report (March 1–31, 2026), was made by Councilmember Jerry Spencer and seconded by Ray Evans. The motion carried, with Councilmember Brady Taylor abstaining as he was not present at the April 9th meeting.

## **b. Review Tentative Cash Receipts Report**

The Tentative Cash Receipts Report for the period of March 1–31, 2026 was presented for review. No action required.

## **c. Review Budget Report**

The Budget Report for the period of July 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026 was presented for review. No action required.

# **5. Public Comments**

**Aquifer Recharge Questions:** A community member, Julie Smalley, asked for clarification on the aquifer storage recharge (ASR) project. The Mayor, and Councilmembers explained that ASR involves injecting surplus water into the aquifer during low-demand months and withdrawing it during peak summer demand. The state will determine a recovery rate, expected to be approximately 80 percent. The system does not replace the existing 350-gallon-per-minute water right but supplements peak supply from a separate banked source drawn through the well.

A second community member asked what other steps the town is taking to increase water supply. Council members noted that earlier in the evening, at a separate work session, the Council had reviewed both the ASR concept and a potential water rights purchase from an adjacent source. The Council indicated it is actively considering purchasing additional water rights to accommodate growth.

A community member asked about the town's electrical capacity relative to planned growth. Council members noted that a second substation is currently being completed and will provide long-term capacity headroom. The Bitcoin mining unit operating on town property was also briefly discussed; it is a small-scale operation, roughly the size of a kitchen appliance, that operates only on excess power under a capped arrangement. It was noted a public hearing on the arrangement had been held previously.

Dan Green asked for clarification on the DUP budget arrangement, specifically whether the Town would address major maintenance items while also providing an annual line item, and whether the DUP should maintain a reserve. The Clerk explained that budget line items do not carry over year to year, and that if the DUP needed to exceed their budget allotment, they would return to the Council for approval. The building being town-owned was noted as the reason the maintenance obligation rests with the town.

Drake Underwood addressed the Council as a candidate for Juab County Sheriff. He briefly summarized his twenty-year career at the Sheriff's Office, including experience in patrol, canine handling, supervision, patrol command, and emergency management. He outlined his platform of professionalism, transparency, accountability, and community engagement, and asked for the Council's trust and support. He distributed informational pamphlets to those in attendance.

# **6. Closed Session**

No closed session was held.

# **7. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Ray Evans and seconded by Brady Taylor. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

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Christine Carrigan, Clerk

