Naples City Council
September 10, 2026
Minutes

DATE, TIME & PLACE OF MEETING

A meeting of the Naples City Council was held September 10, 2026, 7:30 p.m., at the Naples City Office, 1420 East 2850 South, Naples, Uintah County, Utah.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING

Council members attending were Nate Zilles, Dan Olsen, Ross Morton, Kenneth Reynolds and Jonathan Beede. Mayor Arnold joined the meeting electronically.

OTHERS ATTENDING

Others attending were Tonya Kieffer-Selby, Ryan Richens, Corey Auger, Natalie Boren, Ruth Auger, Mikena Hunter, Ray Richards, Elizabeth Kargis, Brooks Jones, Sharon Freeman, Rabecca Freeman, Davis Smuin, Bret Reynolds, Szeth Simmons, Ryan Cook, Micheal Davis and Nikki Kay.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Arnold welcomed everyone and Ross Morton began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Kenneth Reynolds offered the invocation.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Naples Police Department held a swearing in ceremony for two new officers. Judge Ray Richards administered the oath of office to Clayton Auger and Mark Putnam. The badges were pinned by Jessica Webb, Officer Auger's fiancé, and Amelia Putnam, Officer Putnam's wife.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Arnold asked to move item ten up on the agenda and place it after the public comment period and then asked for approval of the agenda. Dan Olsen **moved** to approve the agenda with that adjustment. Kenneth Reynolds **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all in attendance voting aye.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the regular city council meeting for August 13, 2026 were presented for approval. Nate Zilles **moved** to approve the minutes of August 13, 2026. Dan Olsen **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open the public comment period. Kenneth Reynolds **moved** to enter the public comment period. Jonathan Beede **seconded** the

motion. The motion passed with all voting aye. Nothing was brought forward from the public. Ross Morton **moved** to close the public comment period. Kenneth Reynolds **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting in the affirmative.

INTRODUCTION OF KELLY BAKER - NEW CIVIL ATTORNEY

Mayor Arnold shared with the Council that he and Chief Simper met with Kelly Baker to discuss the civil legal counsel proposal he submitted to the City. Mayor Arnold referred to the civil attorney contract being considered for Mr. Baker and asked him to introduce himself to the council.

Mr. Baker shared with the council where he grew up and stated he has a big place in his heart for small communities. He stated that he currently works for the Duchesne County Attorney's Office and is a new graduate from law school. Mr. Baker said he works hard and is willing to look for an answer if he doesn't have it, or has those he can ask. He said the Basin is quickly growing on him and his wife and they can see it as a place they would like be. Mr. Baker said when the opportunity came up to do work for the City he felt it was a perfect opportunity to lay down more roots. He thanked the council for being willing to entertain the idea of hiring a young attorney.

Councilman Morton asked Mr. Baker how long he has been working for Duchesne County? Mr. Baker said he was hired in April of 2025 and he and his family moved to Roosevelt right after he graduated. Councilman Morton asked about his schooling and Mr. Baker stated he graduated from the University of North Dakota.

Mayor Arnold asked Mr. Baker to share what was in the employment contract they were considering. Mr. Baker said he tried to construct the contract so it benefitted the City. He said he tried to make it easy to work with him and to allow for a clean break if the City wasn't satisfied with what he was doing. He said he structured the scope of service to take in anything the City would need from him like GRAMA requests, plats, etc. He said he wanted it to be broad because he wanted to be able to help with any civil issue. Mr. Baker said he highlighted some of the sections that were part of the discussions he had with Mayor Arnold and Chief Simper. Mr. Baker said the position was posted as a contract position but as they talked it was determined that it might be beneficial to both parties to hire him as an employee. Councilman Zilles asked if he could explain that a little more.

Mayor Arnold wanted to address this point. He stated that as he spoke with ULGT, they had a concern with liability insurance and making sure Mr. Baker was affiliated with the City and that it was not an attorney firm. Mayor Arnold said it would be less expensive for everyone to have him covered under the City's liability insurance. Mr. Baker said another benefit of being an employee as opposed to contracted is if he is ever doing additional work for the City, he is not billing for those hours. Councilman Zilles said, as he looked over the contract, the amount is right in line with what is normal around here. He said he appreciates that Grant (Charles) is his mentor and he knows that he does really good work and others speak very highly of him. Mr. Baker said he is a very good guy.

Mayor Arnold referred to the expiration date in the contract and wondered if there were recommendations for that? Councilman Morton asked what was listed for the initial term. Mayor Arnold said 3-5 years, and they would need to decide. Councilman Morton said there is still the termination article five so he would be good with five years. Mayor Arnold said the RFP listed $30,000 for the rate but he recommended $35,000 to cover the cost of travel. He said it was also standard practice for this type of contract to include an annual increase of 3%. Councilman Morton said he agrees with Councilman Zilles, it does look like it's in line and reasonable. Councilman Zilles said he agrees that five years would work and to look at it again and go from there. Mr. Baker said he will add that to the final version of the contract.

Councilman Zilles asked about the discussions for indigent defense. Mr. Baker stated that Grant (Charles) is kind of taking the lead on that conversation. He said, for the moment, Duchesne County is willing to send over one of their public defenders for contract work and there have been discussions about renegotiating the agreement with Uintah County. Mr. Baker said he is almost done with an amendment but needs some more information from the City. Councilman Morton asked if he ever foresees any conflict with Naples City and Duchesne County. Mr. Baker said he feels it would be very unlikely and if there ever was he would have to take a step back. Councilman Zilles wanted to know if Duchesne County was good with him taking calls from Naples City during the day. Mr. Baker said they are very good with things, as long as he is getting his work done there. With no other questions, Nate Zilles **moved** to

approve the contract with Kelly Baker for civil attorney services as proposed. Dan Olsen **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye.

NAPLES PTA UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP

Mikena Hunter with Naples PTA came before the Council to give an update and to request sponsorship. Ms. Hunter shared information on their membership numbers and had ideas on how to increase those numbers by the end of the year. She handed out a flyer for the upcoming Fall Festival and a flyer on how to become a PTA member. Ms. Hunter said they are discussing a new idea to increase attendance on Fridays. She handed out a copy of their budget and discussed the idea of teacher grants, she said they want to support their teachers as well. Mayor Arnold asked who would be a part of making the decision for the teacher grants. Ms. Hunter said they would use the PTA Board and maybe form a committee. She said this would be open for all teachers. Their hope is to get every good idea funded. Mayor Arnold stated he did not think they needed a motion on the request for sponsorship, if it's in the budget Ms. Hunter can just send an invoice. He thanked her for what they are doing and appreciated her coming.

COMMUNITY FISHERIES DISCUSSION

Natalie Boren and Tonya Kieffer-Selby with the UDWR came before the Council to discuss the feasibility of a community fishing pond at Naples Park. Ms. Kieffer-Selby stated she had a brief conversation with Mayor Arnold and wanted to approach the Council about it. She said they had a recent meeting with Uintah Recreation when some citizens brought to them an idea of community fishing or water way near the Recreation Center and because of the tension regarding water rights currently, they were not sure how that location would pan out. Ms. Kieffer-Selby said they have been very successful throughout the state and, in their discussions, Naples City Park came up as a potential location for a community fishery location. She said they have been to the location and noticed the continuous water flow and know there must be existing water rights, so they asked Mayor Arnold to look into that. Micheal Davis said they did look into it and there are none there. A discussion was held about where the water flows from and if there is access to it. Ms. Kieffer-Selby explained how community fisheries work, where they get the funds, and who becomes responsible for maintenance. She said most all of it depends on water rights. Natalie Boren asked who has the right to the water that is flowing through there now. Councilman Olsen said it would be Cody Evans and Dean Baker. Ms. Boren said it would be

something to look into, but that is a major factor in this. Ms. Kieffer-Selby said the City does have a good location for it. Ms. Boren shared the information about the other ponds they have in the area and the total acreage those sit on. Councilman Olsen explained where the water comes into the park and stated it is decreed water. Ms. Boren said it might not work then, but said the City does have a good location. Szeth Simmons tried to explain where the water comes in and where it ends up. Mayor Arnold said they are not asking to pump the water out or take it, they are just asking if there is a possibility they can hold some of the water before it passes through. Mayor Arnold wanted to know how they can find that out. Ms. Boren said they have a new water rights engineer for the area. She said they would have to look at everything that exists in this area and where it flows to. Ms. Kieffer-Selby said the City does have a good area and they believe they could make something work there if the water was available. Ms. Boren said it is a prime location that is almost already set up. She said they wanted to find out if the City is interested and wants to pursue it and if so, they would like to be a partner in that. Mayor Arnold said they were having this discussion to see if there is enough interest. Councilman Reynolds said he would love to see it happen. Ryan Cook said they had this discussion years ago but there were members of the Council who didn't want it. Councilman Zilles said he would love to see if they can figure out a strategy for the water, he thought it would be a really good addition to the park. Council members really liked the idea. Nate Zilles **moved** to pursue the steps for a community fishery and in obtaining water rights. Kenneth Reynolds **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE MINI-X

Szeth Simmons came before the Council to request approval to purchase a mini-x. Szeth stated that he has looked at a lot of different models and he always tries to look for the service behind the purchase. He believes that Case has the best service right now and they do have the state contract for the machine he was interested in. Mayor Arnold asked if this was rolled over from last year. Szeth said it is a new budget item. He said he usually rents one when they need it. Szeth stated the bid came in for less than what is in the budget. Kenneth Reynolds said he doesn't have a problem with it and **moved** to approve the purchase for $88,543. Dan Olsen **seconded** the motion. Councilman Zilles asked how much Szeth has spent in rental costs. Szeth stated probably under $1,500 but he would use it a lot more if they had it. Councilman Zilles

stated they are paying a lot for convenience. With no other comments Mayor Arnold asked for a roll call vote:

Jonathan Beede	Aye
Kenneth Reynolds	Aye
Ross Morton	Aye
Dan Olsen	Aye
Nate Zilles	Aye

BID RESULT FOR HWY 40 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

Szeth Simmons presented the bid results for sidewalk replacement along Highway 40. Szeth stated they have damaged areas on both sides of the highway. He received bids from Maverik Contractors and Foster Construction. Szeth recommended going with Maverik Contractors as they were the low bid and he has no complaints about work completed by them for the City. Mayor Arnold asked Szeth if this was a cycle of replacement. Szeth said it is and the highway has the worst areas right now. Councilman Morton asked if this is in the budget and if Szeth needs those funds for anything else. Szeth said it is in the budget and this is the area of greatest concern. Ross Morton **moved** to accept the bid from Maverik Contractors to fix the sidewalk on Hwy 40. Jonathan Beede **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Nate Zilles	Aye
Dan Olsen	Aye
Ross Morton	Aye
Kenneth Reynolds	Aye
Jonathan Beede	Aye

DISCUSSION ON COST FOR ADDITIONAL SIDEWALK ON 2000 EAST

Micheal Davis stated the Council asked for additional information about the cost for extra sidewalk down the west side of 2000 East. He stated they have that information and he also wanted to share that he received an email from a resident expressing thanks to the City for considering sidewalks and was in support of those but the person also expressed concern about any open ditches. Micheal said he would forward that email to Council. Micheal said they also met with UDOT engineers recently and were asked, why does the City have a gap in their sidewalk? He said they wanted to know what went into that decision and if the City had considered liability issues. Micheal said the cost estimate for the additional portion of sidewalk was $91,000. He said that was on the high end to try and provide all that they could in that area to make the property owner happy. Mayor Arnold said he also received an email from a resident in

regards to this topic. Mayor Arnold shared the concerns of Naples resident Elizabeth Kargis from the email. Ms. Kargis expressed her desire that the Council consider installing sidewalks on 2000 East to 1900 South and expressed safety concerns for pedestrians and bicycles and that children walking and riding bikes to school must travel along this road. She expressed the situation is more concerning by the irrigation ditch and how it further limits the safe space. She respectfully asked the City to evaluate this location from the public safety and community access perspective rather than allowing individual property preferences to be the determining factor. She added that a sidewalk does not need to diminish the character of our community, rather it can provide a safe route for pedestrians. Mayor Arnold stated he would have Micheal forward the email to the Council. Bret Reynolds with CIVCO stated they did try and address the drainage and the parking when they were determining the costs. Councilman Morton wanted to know if it's definitely been decided they are putting sidewalk on that side? The answer was, no. Councilman Morton said he was curious how many people would use it on that side of the road? He wanted to know who would use the stretch of road from the parking lot to 1900 South. Nikki Kay stated she does, she uses it to walk around to the park and does not use the parking lot entrance. Elizabeth Kargis was in attendance at the meeting and she said her children also use it. She said they are in an area where the children are not bused to school and any child coming from the direction she lives would also use it. Ms. Kargis said the kids don't cut through the parking lot and park to get to the school, they go to the corner of 1900 South. She said it was something to consider because they live in an area where they are considered too close to bus. Ms. Kargis said they also have quite a few kids who also travel that road just to go to the park. Councilman Morton said he appreciates her perspective. Councilman Beede said, if he had kids, he wouldn't want them to go through the park. He said there is less visibility in the park and more risk of someone bothering them in the park. Councilman Zilles said he was just thinking about the people in The Farm and hadn't really considered those coming from the north. Bret Reynolds said the current design does not include sidewalk along the gulch but they are providing a wider area along there. Councilman Morton said the cost is $91,000 and if the sidewalk is not going to be used they don't need to spend that, but if it is then they can do it. Mayor Arnold wanted to know if the cost would be more if they decided to put it in later on? Ryan Richens with CIVCO

said the biggest cost would be mobilization. Bret Reynolds stated UDOT doesn't always like it when there is a lot of adding and subtracting of units, but he didn't think there would be a big difference. Mayor Arnold asked where UDOT was on their scale of not liking the gap in the sidewalk. Bret Reynolds felt UDOT would not stop the project but they had definite concerns about it and stated additional signage might be required. Mayor Arnold said he was not asking for a decision tonight, he wanted to make sure they were taking in everyone's thoughts. Councilman Morton asked Ms. Kargis if she drives her children to school when it gets darker, she said she does. Council asked if the additional cost being considered is in the budget. Micheal said the City would have to budget for it. Bret Reynolds said they might need a temporary construction easement for the driveway and he does not want to put that off too long. Councilman Reynolds wanted to know why they couldn't cut the cost by not putting sidewalk in front of Evan Baker's home. He said all of the work there was going to be an expense. It was discussed that curb and gutter in front of Evan Baker's house might be needed to help with the flooding or drainage issues. Mayor Arnold suggested getting some information out to residents and have them come and talk to them about it and hear what their concerns might be. Mayor Arnold also asked if Bret Reynolds could do some calculations to see how the cost could be split.

BID RESULTS FOR 1900 SOUTH PARKING LOT

Micheal Davis presented the results of the bid for the parking lot on 1900 South next to Naples Elementary. Micheal said the engineer estimate was pretty close. He said the bids included the parking lot, retaining wall, sidewalk and curb and gutter. Councilman Reynolds said it would be nice to get it done and asked if it was coming out of our budget. Micheal said the expense was included in this year's budget. Mayor Arnold said, when they talked about it, they were estimating about $350,000 for the budget and the low bid here was about $380,000. Brooks Jones said they have a couple of things they could take out that might bring it down, like the sidewalk down the one side that was included to deter cars from pulling right up to the fence. He said they could choose to do gravel instead and save some money. Councilman Zilles asked if the sidewalk was on the east or west side. Councilman Beede said it would be both. Councilman Zilles said it makes sense to have it on the east side but not necessarily on the west because people parking on the west would exit their cars toward the center of the parking lot. Micheal said if they take them out then you have

maintenance cost for the weeds. Mayor Arnold asked how many parking spots it gave them. Micheal said there would be eighty-two. With no other questions, Dan Olsen **moved** to award the bid to the lowest bidder, BHI, and proceed with the project. Nate Zilles **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Jonathan Beede	Aye
Kenneth Reynolds	Aye
Ross Morton	Aye
Dan Olsen	Aye
Nate Zilles	Aye

OTHER MATTERS OR FUTURE COUNCIL MATTERS

Nothing was brought forward under other matters.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

With no other business before the Council, Kenneth Reynolds **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 9:00. Jonathan Beede **seconded** the motion. The motion passed with all voting aye.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON THE 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

BY: _____ ATTEST: _____