

1 Minutes of the Centerville **City Council Special Budget Meeting** held Wednesday, March 18,
2 2026 at 5:30 p.m. with participants present at Centerville City Hall, 250 North Main Street.

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4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5
6 Mayor Clark Wilkinson

7
8 Council Members Cheylynn Hayman
9 Gina Hirst
10 Robyn Mecham
11 Brian Plummer
12 Spencer Summerhays

13
14 **STAFF PRESENT**

15 Brant Hanson, City Manager
16 Lisa Romney, City Attorney
17 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder
18 Nate Plaizier, Finance Director
19 Bryce King, Administrative Services Director
20 Bruce Cox, Parks and Recreation Director
21 Mike Carlson, Public Works Director
22 Mike Eggett, Community Development Director
23 Dave Walker, Deputy Public Works Director
24 Haley Turner, Community Services Manager
25 Allen Ackerson, Chief of Police
26 Lt. Will Barnes, Centerville Police Department

27 **FY2027 TENTATIVE BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

28
29 *Budget Overview*

30
31 City Manager Brant Hanson opened the budget overview by praising department heads
32 for what he described as their strongest effort yet, highlighting careful cost analysis and targeted
33 reductions. He presented a balanced budget that includes approximately \$1.2 million from Fund
34 47 for one-time capital expenses, slightly higher than the prior year. Key elements include a
35 request for an additional police officer and an increased assessment to South Davis Fire, both of
36 which would require a modest property tax increase. Mr. Hanson also noted the city is, for the first
37 time, incorporating a 3% inflationary adjustment into both the budget and property tax to address
38 rising costs amid relatively flat revenues.

39
40 Finance Director Nate Plaizier outlined the budget timeline and legal requirements,
41 explaining that the tentative budget must be adopted in early May, followed by a public hearing
42 and one-month review period, with final adoption typically occurring in mid-to-late June after final
43 tax data is received. He also noted that the proposed tax increase would require a separate truth-
44 in-taxation hearing before September 1. Mr. Plaizier reviewed the structure of the budget
45 materials and highlighted several planning assumptions, including estimated increases for
46 medical insurance (10%) and liability coverage (5%), as well as indicators for new or revised
47 budget items.

48
49 *General Fund Revenues*

50
51 Finance Director Nate Plaizier provided a detailed overview of the city's general fund
52 revenues, explaining that the primary sources are taxes—particularly property, sales, and
53 franchise taxes—with property tax being the only revenue stream the city can directly control. Mr.

1 Plaizier noted that property tax revenue is projected to increase to about \$2.7 million, while sales
2 tax is expected to rise modestly to \$5.6 million based on conservative estimates, despite current
3 collections trending slightly higher. Court revenues have stabilized and are projected at \$375,000,
4 essentially covering court expenditures, while banking and investment interest is expected to
5 decline by \$50,000 due to falling interest rates. Mr. Plaizier also explained that administrative
6 service fees charged to enterprise funds represent another key revenue source, fluctuating based
7 on overall general fund activity.
8

9 Mr. Plaizier explained Utah's property tax system as a "teeter-totter," where rising property
10 values lower tax rates unless a city adopts a truth-in-taxation increase. He noted the city's heavy
11 reliance on sales tax (57% of revenue versus 25% from property tax), which creates challenges
12 as growth slows and costs rise. The proposed 15% property tax increase would fund a new police
13 officer, increased fire service costs, and inflationary adjustments, adding about \$50–60 annually
14 for an average homeowner. Council discussion reflected concern for both business impacts and
15 residents on fixed incomes, while acknowledging the need to maintain service levels amid rising
16 costs.
17

18 Mayor and Council
19

20 The Mayor and Council budget included minimal changes, with the primary adjustment
21 being an increase in the education and training line item to \$4,000. Mayor Clark Wilkinson
22 explained this would allow for potential attendance at League of Cities and Towns conferences,
23 noting that participation has historically been limited but could be valuable if the agenda warrants
24 it, particularly for the mayor and two council members.
25

26 Mr. Hanson presented a compensation comparison showing Centerville ranks 10th among
27 Davis County cities for both mayor and council pay. Mr. Hanson recommended periodic
28 evaluation of compensation due to the significant time commitment required, suggesting options
29 such as cost-of-living adjustments or tying compensation to objective benchmarks. No increase
30 was proposed in the current budget, but he outlined potential approaches for future consideration
31 that would not affect current office holders.
32

33 Justice Court
34

35 Administrative Services Director Bryce King presented the Justice Court budget, noting a
36 significant increase in prosecuting attorney services. By January, usage had reached 250 hours,
37 with a projection of 300 hours for the upcoming year, and the hourly rate rose from \$100 to \$135
38 with services provided by county attorneys.
39

40 Mr. Hanson explained the city is exploring alternatives, including shared prosecuting
41 services with neighboring cities, while noting that specialized legal skills are required. Mr. King
42 reported the court budget is near break-even, with estimated revenues of \$375,000 against
43 \$378,000 in expenses—an improvement from prior years when losses ranged from \$40,000 to
44 \$80,000. Case filings increased to 3,551 from 2,229 the previous year, with most proceedings
45 now held via Zoom and only occasional in-person trials.
46

47 Administration
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49 The Administration budget included a request for Appify software (\$11,000) to enhance
50 citizen communication. Computer services increased by \$35,000, reflecting a reorganization of
51 existing software costs rather than new expenses. Personnel-related requests included \$10,000
52 for potential summer internships and \$10,000 for a compensation study to assess current pay
53 practices against market rates.

1
2 Attorney
3

4 City Attorney Lisa Romney emphasized a “preventative law” approach to minimize
5 litigation through adequate staffing, training, and use of outside counsel as needed. The budget
6 increases part-time intern wages to \$10,400 for 520 hours of work and doubles the outside
7 counsel line to \$20,000, averaging \$400/hour for specialized matters such as employment law
8 and water rights, with \$11,500 already spent this year. Legal research costs remain steady with
9 LexisNexis, enhanced by AI tools, and a \$5,000 special projects line provides flexibility for
10 initiatives like deferral agreements or impact fee reviews.
11

12 Finance
13

14 Mr. Plaizier, outlined staffing and budget adjustments, including changing Bethany Frank’s
15 title from Accounting Technician to HR Specialist to reflect her responsibilities. The team
16 successfully converted one full-time position into two part-time roles, increasing flexibility and
17 achieving cost savings. Budget increases included audit costs rising to \$22,000 with an additional
18 \$4,000 for federal single audit requirements, as well as computer services for the Rev document
19 management system (\$5,800 total) to improve electronic invoicing and audit trails. Banking
20 service fees increased due to credit card processor hikes, prompting exploration of passing costs
21 to customers and efforts to minimize fees with the current provider.
22

23 Youth Council
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25 Community Services Manager Haley Turner presented the Youth Council budget, with
26 spring conference being the largest expense. The city covers all costs for youth council members
27 to attend, making the program accessible regardless of family income. A \$300 line item provided
28 meals for youth council members after their volunteer work at the Easter egg hunt.
29

30 Whitaker Museum
31

32 The Whitaker budget remained stable with a modest increase in event supplies from
33 \$7,000 to \$7,300 to absorb the Veteran's Day Memorial flags program, previously run by
34 volunteers. This initiative decorates over 500 graves with American flags, with the city maintaining
35 flag quality through proper replacement while utilizing volunteer labor for placement. Revenue of
36 \$5,500 was projected from facility rentals, tea parties, and after-dark events. Councilmembers
37 noted the high quality of Whitaker events and positive community impact.
38

39 Community Services
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41 The Community Services budget included several updates: professional services for
42 master planning were removed since the survey was in progress, while the July 4th contribution
43 increased from \$55,000 to \$70,000 to cover higher vendor costs on the holiday. Funding for
44 neighborhood nights shifted to pickleball instruction on Monday evenings, encouraging
45 participation from newcomers rather than requiring established groups. Education and training
46 rose to \$5,300 to support conferences and a year-long Certified Public Manager program through
47 UVU for Ms. Turner.
48

49 Recreation
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51 The Recreation Fund budget, presented by Ms. Turner, included new adult pickleball
52 leagues in spring and fall, operated at full cost recovery with no city subsidy. Revenue sources
53 included Land of Frost sponsorships, dugout banner sales, and movie/music night sponsorships,

1 allowing businesses to provide treats and gain advertising without selling products. Summer
2 recreation wages increased to support an extra week of programming and seasonal staff,
3 providing teens with valuable employment opportunities. Off-season programs, like ski school,
4 grew from 50 to 65 participants while maintaining cost recovery, and baseball expenses were
5 refined, including ongoing professional umpire coaching. Overall, the fund operated at a modest
6 \$21,180 loss subsidized by the general fund, ensuring recreational access for all residents.

7
8 Fire Services
9

10 The Fire Department budget discussion focused on the South Davis Metro Fire Area,
11 which serves five cities and county areas and is governed by mayors and city managers. City
12 Manager Brant Hanson explained the proposed 3% assessment increase for Centerville (\$1.249
13 million) and the structure of the district. Councilmember Mecham raised transparency concerns,
14 noting that assessments had historically been reduced with the expectation the fire district would
15 pursue its own tax increases, and she questioned the fairness compared to other special service
16 districts. Mayor Wilkinson and Mr. Hanson supported keeping assessments flat and having the
17 district seek property tax increases directly, but they were in the minority. The debate highlighted
18 tension between city oversight via assessments and district independence, with the administrative
19 committee ultimately agreeing that increases should not exceed CPI, providing a policy framework
20 for gradual growth.

21
22 Emergency Management
23

24 Police Chief Allen Ackerson presented the Emergency Management budget, noting
25 minimal changes. He highlighted the ongoing transition of leadership to Louisa McDonald as
26 emergency manager. The biennial preparedness fair is expanding from a South Davis
27 collaboration to a potential county-wide event, requiring a move from Megaplex theaters to the
28 fairgrounds. The \$15,000 budget covers upfront costs and will be offset by sponsorships and
29 booth rentals. Capital equipment upgrades include increasing EOC television sizes from 75 to
30 100 inches to improve Web EOC tracking visibility and expanding ham radio distribution for
31 community communication drills.

32
33 Police
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35 The Police Department budget, presented by Lieutenant Will Barnes, outlined a staff of 20
36 sworn officers and three civilian support personnel, covering patrol, investigations, administration,
37 and specialized units collaborating with county-level teams such as SWAT, crisis negotiation, and
38 child protection. The primary budget request was for a 21st officer to maintain 20 operational
39 positions, addressing extended hiring and training timelines that can take 9–15 months due to
40 academy and field training requirements. The total cost for the additional officer, including wages,
41 benefits, vehicle, and equipment, was approximately \$250,000, representing a 5% budget
42 increase. Other budget adjustments included a \$7,900 increase for Drone Sense software, a
43 decrease in professional services due to pre-paid body camera storage, and a \$16,131 increase
44 for leadership training at the National Innovation Academy, offset by cuts to other areas including
45 wellness funding.

46
47 Capital projects included three vehicle replacements (\$179,022), six computer
48 replacements (\$22,500), five outdated radios (\$22,188), and a bi-directional amplifier to address
49 radio dead spots in city hall (\$51,390). Revenue discussion clarified that additional officer
50 coverage is not tied to citation quotas, but improved patrol hours may increase incidental revenue.

51
52 The Beer Tax Fund continues to support alcohol enforcement and training. The school
53 crossing guard program received a 4% wage increase but overall costs decreased due to

1 replacing higher-paid guards with entry-level staff. Canine and DARE programs remained
2 unchanged, with drug detection and human tracking dogs Reyna and Maya recognized for
3 excellence.

4
5 Parks

6
7 Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Cox presented the Parks Department budget, which
8 includes five full-time employees and 15–20 seasonal workers, peaking in summer and tapering
9 after Thanksgiving. A \$50,000 reduction in seasonal wages requires careful efficiency
10 management. Budget increases cover computer replacements, expanded tree planting with Tree
11 Utah, and concrete/gutter repairs from risk management inspections. Key capital projects include
12 community park infield fencing, Freedom Hills Park path replacement, and a prefab restroom to
13 support South Davis Recreation little league fields, with discussion of year-round porta potty
14 options during mild winters.

15
16 Future projects include wetland mitigation at Community Park for recreational
17 development, a \$20,000 bike lane study on 1250 West, and Smoot Park renovations addressing
18 aging playgrounds and infrastructure. Equipment replacements include a 22-year-old truck, a 10-
19 year-old snow machine, and a \$54,000 aerial lift trailer for tree work, maintenance, and Christmas
20 lights. Mr. Cox noted the lift would cover 80% of displays, provide a 4–5 year payback by reducing
21 contractor costs, and support other departmental needs, though taller equipment is still required
22 for the highest installations.

23
24 RAP Tax and Perpetual Care

25
26 RAP tax distribution continued the established formula: 85% to parks fund plus interest,
27 5% each to cemetery and theater, and 5% retained for future projects. Cemetery care fund
28 maintained the 80% transfer to general fund policy, providing approximately \$100,000 toward
29 cemetery maintenance costs while building modest fund balance.

30
31 Community Development

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33 Community Development Director Mike Eggett presented a concise budget with minimal
34 changes, covering land use permitting, subdivisions, site plans, zoning requests, code
35 amendments, and other city issues. Minor increases addressed uniforms for the vacant code
36 enforcement officer position and vehicle maintenance, while reductions included professional
37 services and odor enforcement equipment. Ongoing priorities include general plan updates,
38 economic development initiatives, code enforcement programs, fee schedule updates with the
39 city attorney, and practical code improvements. No capital equipment was requested, with the
40 department focused on completing the general plan, supporting economic development, and
41 updating land development codes to address regulatory gaps.

42
43 The Council was scheduled to continue discussion of the FY2027 Tentative Budget on
44 Thursday, March 19, 2026.

45
46 ADJOURNMENT

47
48 At 9:48 pm Councilmember Hirst **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hayman
49 seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote (5-0).

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53 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

04/07/2026
Date Approved

