

1 Minutes of the Centerville **City Council Work Session** held Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 5:30 pm,
2 with participants present at City Hall, 250 North Main Street.

3
4 **MEMBERS PRESENT**

5
6 Mayor Clark Wilkinson

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8 Council Members Robyn Mecham
9 Brian Plummer
10 Cheylynn Hayman
11 Rick Bangerter

12
13 **MEMBERS ABSENT**

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15 Council Members Gina Hirst

16
17 **STAFF PRESENT**

18 Brant Hanson, City Manager
19 Lisa Romney, City Attorney
20 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder
21 Nate Plaizier, Finance Director
22 Bryce King, Administrative Services Director
23 Mike Carlson, Public Works Director
24 Mike Eggett, Community Development Director
25 Allen Ackerson, Chief of Police
26 Will Barnes, Centerville Police Department
27 Dave Walker, Deputy Public Works Director

28 **VISITORS** Interested citizens

29
30 **FY 2027 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

31
32 The Mayor opened the discussion by recapping the budget process to date, noting that
33 prior sessions had been held on March 18–19 (budget retreat), April 7, April 21, and May 5, 2026,
34 at which point the tentative budget was adopted via public hearing as required by law. He noted
35 that the City remained in compliance with all statutory requirements, including the Truth in
36 Taxation process. The Mayor explained that Council members had been invited to submit written
37 comments and questions on the budget, and that staff had compiled those responses and
38 organized the discussion items by frequency of mention.

39
40 **Updated Property Tax Impact Statement**

41
42 City Manager Brant Hanson and Finance Director Nate Plaizier presented a revised
43 Property Tax Impact Statement that reframed the proposed 15.5% property tax increase around
44 essential and largely uncontrollable costs rather than discretionary spending. Staff explained that
45 the General Fund faces an approximate \$1.5 million shortfall, to be addressed through a one-time
46 \$809,000 transfer from the Capital Projects Fund balance and approximately \$737,500 in
47 additional property tax revenue, while maintaining the city’s 30% reserve. Mr. Hanson
48 emphasized that the revised statement did not change the recommended tax increase and noted
49 that fully resolving the structural deficit would require an increase closer to 31.65%.

1 Education and Training Increases

2
3 The Council reviewed proposed increases to training and travel budgets, focusing
4 primarily on an increase to the Mayor and Council training line item from \$4,000 to \$12,000
5 intended to support attendance at the National League of Cities conference. Councilmembers
6 expressed concern that the increase would be difficult to justify publicly, particularly in the context
7 of a proposed tax increase. While emphasizing the importance of ongoing municipal training, the
8 Council ultimately reached consensus to return the budget to its prior \$4,000 level, eliminating
9 the proposed \$8,000 increase.

10
11 Councilmember Bangerter noted that total proposed training expenditures across all
12 departments represented a substantial increase over the prior year and advocated limiting overall
13 growth to approximately 5%. However, the Council expressed broad support for retaining the
14 police department's specialized leadership training program, estimated at approximately \$14,000
15 - \$16,000 and scheduled on a two- to three-year cycle. Police Chief Allen Ackerson explained
16 that the program supports administrative leadership development and that staffing impacts can
17 be absorbed internally. By consensus, the Council agreed to keep the police training funding in
18 the budget.

19
20 Administration Salary Increases

21
22 The Council discussed questions regarding a roughly 6% salary increase reflected in the
23 administration department budget compared to the citywide 4.9% COLA and merit adjustment
24 policy. Mr. Hanson and Mr. Plaizier explained that the variance resulted from comparing budgeted
25 line items rather than actual employee salary increases, noting that mid-year promotions,
26 certifications, and position changes can affect departmental totals. It was confirmed that no
27 individual employee in the administration department would receive more than the standard 4.9%
28 adjustment, and Mr. Plaizier noted that detailed position-by-position salary information had been
29 provided to the Council during the budget retreat.

30
31 Legal Intern

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33 City Attorney Lisa Romney explained that extending the attorney intern position beyond
34 the summer months was the lowest priority among the requested legal department increases, and
35 the Council agreed to maintain the intern program at its current summer-only level.

36
37 Prosecution Services

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39 Ms. Romney explained that prosecution services are contracted with three Davis County
40 prosecutors at a favorable rate and are a required cost of operating the Justice Court.
41 Councilmember Mecham noted the court has recently returned to generating net revenue rather
42 than requiring subsidy.

43
44 Ferguson Group

45
46 Councilmember Bangerter questioned whether the City's contract with the Ferguson
47 Group could be reduced in scope or cost. Mr. Hanson explained that the contract rate has
48 remained unchanged for five years and emphasized that the firm's primary value comes from its
49 relationships with federal agencies and congressional offices. Mr. Hanson noted that the City has
50 received more than \$1.5 million in grants from an investment of approximately \$300,000.

1 Councilmember Mecham voiced strong support for continuing the contract, and the Council
2 reached general consensus to retain Ferguson Group funding.

3
4 Computer Services and Professional Services

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6 Mr. Plaizier explained that the apparent increase in computer services and apparent
7 decrease in professional services were largely the result of a budget reclassification - costs
8 previously coded under professional services were moved to the correct computer services
9 category. The only new computer service expenditure was a request for Revver, a digital
10 document storage system. The Council accepted this explanation and no reductions were
11 directed.

12
13 Public Works Building AC/Furnace Replacement

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15 Staff noted that the AC unit is 29 years old and has been flagged by inspectors as
16 operating inefficiently and in need of replacement. Councilmember Bangerter expressed
17 skepticism, noting that the original budget presentation had not characterized the situation as
18 urgent. Mr. Hanson acknowledged that a budget amendment could be pursued if the Council
19 preferred to defer, but recommended proactive replacement. The majority of the Council accepted
20 the expenditure as presented.

21
22 Yappify/Communication Software

23
24 Councilmember Plummer stated his concern was not necessarily with the software itself,
25 but with including it on the tax impact schedule, as doing so would effectively obligate the
26 expenditure. He preferred the Council retain the ability to evaluate the platform separately and
27 fund it within existing resources if deemed worthwhile, rather than committing to it through the tax
28 increase process. Mr. Hanson confirmed that removing it from the tax impact schedule does not
29 preclude the Council from later approving the expenditure, and that a demo and contract review
30 could still be brought before the Council. It was agreed to remove the item from the Property Tax
31 Impact Schedule.

32
33 Miscellaneous Budget Items

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35 Other items, including trail signage expenditures, insurance increases, banking fees, office
36 supplies, garage door automatic opener replacements, council meals, Public Works vehicle costs,
37 and the South Davis Metro Fire assessment increase received little or no sustained discussion,
38 with most accepted by a majority of the council as presented.

39
40 Mr. Hanson offered a closing proposal for the updated property tax impact statement
41 based on the evening's discussion. He recommended the statement include three items: (1)
42 \$250,000 for the new police officer position; (2) \$35,702 for the South Davis Metro Fire
43 Assessment increase; and (3) \$83,401 for medical insurance increases - totaling \$369,103. He
44 characterized these as the most defensible and clearly necessary items for public presentation.

45
46 Councilmember Mecham expressed support for the proposal. Councilmember Bangerter
47 stated he was acceptable to the proposed language but reiterated his opposition to the 15.5% tax
48 rate increase itself, noting he would not be voting in favor when the formal vote occurs.

49
50 ADJOURNMENT

51

1 At 6:59 pm, Councilmember Plummer **moved** to adjourn the work session which passed
2 unanimously (4-0).
3

4
5 *Jennifer Robison*
6 Jennifer Robison, City Recorder

06/02/2026
Date Approved

