

MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES



MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 20th, 2025

5:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION will hold a regular commission meeting in the Commission Meeting Room at 48 West Young Street, Morgan, Utah.

COUNTY COMMISSION

Commission Vice Chair Vaughn Nickerson
Commissioner Raelene Blocker
Commissioner Mike Newton
Commissioner Blaine Fackrell

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Sessions
Tina Kelley

OTHER EMPLOYEES

IT Director Jeremy Archibald
Deputy Clerk/Auditor Katie Lasater
Administrative Manager Kate Becker (CAM)
Deputy Attorney Janet Christoffersen
Public Works Director Bret Heiner
Library Director Erin Bott
Morgan Historian Cindy Kay

5:00 COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

(A) Opening Ceremonies –

1. Welcome: Vice Chair Nickerson
2. Invocation and/or Moment of Reflection: **Commissioner Blaine Fackrell**
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Blaine Fackrell

(B) Consent Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Morgan County Commission Minutes from May 6th, 2025.
2. Notice of open Planning Commission Seat At-Large.

Commissioner Fackrell moved to approve the consent agenda items.

Seconded by Commissioner Newton

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson ABSENT
Commissioner Newton AYE
Commissioner Blocker AYE
Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE
Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was 1 ABSENT, 4 AYE. The Motion passed.

(C) Commissioner Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- None.

(D) Public Comments (please limit comments to 3 minutes)

- None.

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(E) Presentations

Morgan Historical Society, Cindy Kay: Historian

- Cindy Kay, the Morgan County Historian, presented on behalf of the Morgan County Historical Society. The Society, led by Chair Cheryl Gross and a 12-member Board of Trustees, operates with support from the local library and was founded in 1979. Its mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Morgan City and County for residents and visitors alike.

The Society actively collects oral histories from veterans and local residents, including notable figures like Vietnam veteran Ron Sharp and former County Commission Chair Joan Paterson, the first female Commission Chair. In recent years, they have documented stories from several community members and continue expanding their archive.

Significant accomplishments include the collection and digitization of scrapbooks from organizations such as the Beta Literary Club, the Daughters and Sons of Pioneers, and the Lions Club. For its preservation efforts, including restoration of the historic Morgan Depot, the Society received the 2024 Community Stewardship Award. Additionally, the Valles Hotel was selected by Preservation Utah as one of the 12 most endangered historic buildings in the state.

The Society serves as a resource for students, researchers, families, and historians. Local schoolchildren regularly tour the depot, and the archives support academic projects, such as a University of Utah student's work on the Porterville Church. Last year, the Society supported the publication of *Plumlee Springs* by Adam Christensen and Linda Smith, which has fostered community engagement and storytelling.

In the past 18 months, the Society has assisted two authors developing historical novels based on events in Morgan. In 2023 alone, the depot welcomed 936 visitors from 34 states and 7 countries. A major event was the Union Pacific Big Boy steam engine Whistle Stop, which drew 4,000–5,000 spectators and contributed significantly to local tourism. The Society's ongoing goals include continued digitization of historical materials, enhancement of the depot's exhibits—particularly the popular train table—and improvements to its website and signage. The organization emphasizes the importance of history in providing continuity and resilience to the community.

A highlight of community engagement is the Front Street Festival, first held last year and attracting up to 3,000 attendees. The upcoming 2025 festival on May 31 will feature expanded programming, including a Kids Street and a painted chair auction. Proceeds will support both local artists and restoration of the depot's caboose. The Society invites all residents and visitors to explore the Morgan Depot, engage with the exhibits, share their personal histories, and experience the community's rich heritage firsthand. The hours of operation are Monday-Friday 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

(F) Action Items

1. Cindy Kay, Historian – Discussion/Decision – Morgan Historical Society

Discussion and decision on a budget adjustment moving FY 2024 revenues to purchase inventory.

- a. Cindy Kay and Erin Bott the Library Director introduced this stating the Historical Society requests a budget adjustment to use revenue from the 2024 Visitor Center for inventory replacement in 2025.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the budget change for the Historical Society, moving \$6,472.61 from GL fund 27-2955-00-27 to 27-4800-482.

Seconded by Commissioner Fackrell

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson ABSENT

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Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was 1 ABSENT, 4 AYE. The Motion passed.

2. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Administrative Manager

Request for a Q2 budget transfer from fund balance to cover Senior Center short fall.

- a. The CAM introduced this stating this is our budget short fall for 2025 Aging Services to cover increased meal costs.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the budget change form for Health and Human Services, amount of \$80,200 moving from the general fund 10-2951-000-000, to 225-4700-000 Health and Human Services.

Seconded by Commissioner Blocker

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson ABSENT

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was 1 ABSENT, 4 AYE. The Motion passed.

3. Bret Heiner – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Public Works Director

Discussion and decision on Fairgrounds lease.

- a. Bret introduced this stating a portion of the fairgrounds property is currently leased out for pasture use until trail development begins. He anticipates expanding the fairgrounds soon to accommodate growth. Previously, pasture leases were issued annually, which he found inefficient. Due to that he implemented a three-year lease term to encourage better land stewardship, including improved weed control, and to simplify lease management. The lease opportunity was advertised in the Standard-Examiner and on our website, resulting in two bids.
- b. The DA clarified that once a bid is awarded, we will need to enter into a formal lease agreement with the selected party. The lease will include clearly defined terms, including specific start and end dates, and provisions for early termination with appropriate notice. It will also address responsibilities related to fencing, livestock management, and potential property damage. The County Attorney will prepare the lease document accordingly.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the award of the lease on certain portions of ground at Morgan County Fairgrounds to Adam Toone, with the lease agreement to follow.

Seconded by Commissioner Fackrell

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson ABSENT

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was 1 ABSENT, 4 AYE. The Motion passed.

4. Hon. Mike Newton – Discussion/Decision – County Commissioner

Discussion and decision on RFP for electrical upgrades at the Fairgrounds.

- a. Commissioner Newton stated that this is about the particular details of the electrical upgrades.

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- b. Commissioner Newton and Commissioner Nickerson discussed the need for pedestals for vendors at the fairgrounds.
- c. The Commission decided to increase the number of pedestals from four to twelve and to include a map for their locations.
- d. The Commission also discussed running a new power line to the southwest corner of the parking lot for future use and agreed to include this in the parking lot upgrade project.

No motion made, discussion only.

- 5. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Administrative Manager**
Discussion and decision on adding COG/RPO to Commission Fackrell's portfolio.
- a. The CAM discussed the need to fill the third voting seat on the Council of Governments.
 - b. The commission agreed to see if the Public Works Director can be added to the agreement, with the possibility of designating another public works employee if needed.

The CAM will ask if the Public Works Director can attend these meetings and will bring back the item if he cannot.

- 6. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Administrative Manager**
Discussion and decision on County Administration building security.
- a. The CAM and the Commission discussed the security of the county building, with concerns raised by department heads about people feeling unsafe.
 - b. The Commission agreed to ensure all entry doors are under surveillance and to consider additional security measures if needed.

Discussion only, no decision.

- 7. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Administrative Manager**
Discussion and decision on a Morgan County Fair Motor Ponies Event Contract.
- a. The discussion with the Commission, the CAM and the DA about the need for consistent vendor fees and the agreement to be with Morgan County, not the Fair Board and an indemnity clause.

Commissioner Newton moved to postpone the Morgan County Fair Motor Ponies event contract.

Seconded by Commissioner Blocker

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson ABSENT

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was 1 ABSENT, 4 AYE. The Motion passed.

- 8. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Administrative Manager**
Discussion and decision on Emergency Management transition and possible budget adjustment.

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- a. The CAM introduced this stating our current Emergency Management Coordinator, Austin Turner, will be transitioning to a SRO position this fall. This change presents several challenges, primarily related to his current salary structure. Currently, his role is split with the Sheriff's Office and with Emergency Management.
- b. The Commission agrees to leave the emergency management budget unchanged and to handle any salary differences in the next budget cycle.
- c. The Commission also agreed for the Emergency Management position to be under the CAM.
- d. Commissioner Newton clarified on the budget for the position, Initially, the roles of Emergency Manager, Fire Chief, and Ambulance Chief were held by one individual. When the decision was made to establish a dedicated Emergency Manager position, funds were reallocated from the Fire Department to the Sheriff's Office to support the new role, and the budget was adjusted accordingly. About a year later, the Emergency Management budget was separated from the Sheriff's Office and made a distinct line item, which has proven beneficial in the current context. While there may be concerns that the Sheriff's Office is losing funding, this is not the case, the budget being moved pertains specifically to Emergency Management, which was never intended as part of the core Sheriff's Office budget.

No motion made.

(G) County Administrative Manager Updates

- The Croydon posting has been completed.
- Finalizing the RFP for Leslie's office is in progress.
- The deadline for County Plan RFP submissions is the end of the month.
- One at-large seat remains open on the Planning Commission. Two commissioners will be absent at the next meeting, so the Planning Commission appointment is not scheduled for that agenda.
- The opioid report is due by the end of the month.
- Multiple grant reports are also due by the end of the month.
- She met with county and city managers from Summit, Wasatch, Utah County, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, and the Salt Lake City Airport (Davis and Weber were absent) to discuss Senate Bill 333. While the bill focuses on private infrastructure and may not directly apply to us, we emphasized the importance of including public infrastructure needs, such as parking lot development, in the conversation.

(H) Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Blocker
 - She discussed a recent fatal accident on SR 167 in Mountain Green and the need for improved safety measures and parking at Kent Smith.
- Commissioner Newton
 - None.
- Commissioner Fackrell
 - He attended a meeting with the northern region outdoor recreation people about potential regionalized outdoor recreation projects. He discussed the availability of funds for infrastructure projects and the need for the public to propose ideas.
 - He mentions the potential for legacy projects like the Great Western trail. He encourages the public to submit ideas so he can present them to the Utah office.
- Commission Vice-Chair Nickerson

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- He echoed the parking at Kent Smith and the need for more play ball fields and the lack of facilities for children to have recreation space available.
- He reported on a meeting with the Board of Health, where accreditation was discussed. The accreditation process costs \$8,400 a year, and Vaughn suggests that Weber and Morgan should share the cost proportionally. He explains that accreditation adds third-party value and improves quality and processes.
- He discussed the current measles outbreak in the U.S., with over 1,000 cases and three deaths. There are no measles cases in Utah at the moment but mentions a recent increase in North Dakota.
- He reports that the health department lost about \$80,000 due to COVID grants ending earlier than expected.
- Commission Chair Wilson
 - ABSENT.

MEETING SHALL CONCLUDE BEFORE 7PM

Commissioner Newton moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Commissioner Fackrell

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson ABSENT

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

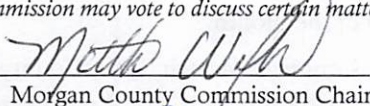
Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

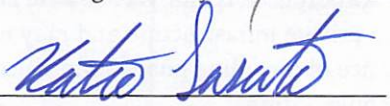
The Vote was 1 ABSENT, 4 AYE. The Motion passed.

Adjourn – 6:27 p.m.

Note: The Commission may vote to discuss certain matters in Closed Session (Executive Session) pursuant to Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205.

APPROVED: 
Morgan County Commission Chair

DATE: 6/7/25

ATTEST: 
Morgan County Deputy Clerk/Auditor

DATE 6/7/25

***Action Item(s) that includes Public Hearing(s) will be held at or after 6:00 PM**

The Commission may vote to discuss certain matters in closed Session (Executive Session) pursuant to Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary services for these meetings should call Kate Becker at 435-800-8724 at least 24 hours prior to this meeting. This meeting is streamed live.

If you want to participate virtually in any public comment listed on this agenda, you need to contact Jeremy@morgancountyutah.gov at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting.