

MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 2nd, 2025



4:00 WORK SESSION & 5:00 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 Chair Matt Wilson
Commission Vice Chair Vaughn Nickerson
Commissioner Raelene Blocker
Commissioner Mike Newton
Commissioner Blaine Fackrell

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Sessions
Ty Bailey
Luke Majewski
Larissa Thomas
Ellie Matthews
Jaycee Skidmore
Kenadee Benson
Niccie Reed
Sara Williams

OTHER EMPLOYEES

IT Director Jeremy Archibald
Deputy Clerk/Auditor Katie Lasater
Administrative Manager Kate Becker (CAM)
County Attorney Garrett Smith (CA)
Human Resources Casey Basaker
Sheriff Corey Stark
Deputy Chief James Wagner
USU Extension Agent Nicole Reed
Deputy Clerk/Auditor Cindee Mikesell
Fire Warden Dave Vickers

4:00 WORK SESSION

1. ClearGov training

- a. The HR Director provided the Commissioners with training on our new budget platform, ClearGov.

2. Special Funds, interest allocation, clarification on new funds

- a. The CAM and the Commission reviewed how bank interest revenue is allocated. In recent years, all interest remained in the general fund, but state code allows allocation to individual funds. Commissioners agreed to distribute interest annually at year-end, excluding certain pass-through accounts, while restricted funds will receive their share.
- b. The Commission discussed the handling of greenbelt rollback revenue following the June 1 policy change, which now allocates 100% of the revenue to the county. A new fund has been created for this purpose. Previously, these funds were recorded under delinquent tax revenue. The Commission agreed to move forward by recording all greenbelt rollback revenue in the new fund beginning June 1, without making retroactive adjustments.
- c. The Commission agreed to create dedicated budget lines for phone expenses and to also separate in the Weber Morgan Health Services, a new expense line will be created for Human Services, separate from Health Services.
- d. The Commission also reviewed how revenues and expenses should be allocated for parks, the rifle range, the airport, and the fairgrounds. It was agreed that rifle range (Fund 37) and airport (Fund 38) revenues and expenses should be fully consolidated into their respective funds to clearly show they are self-sustaining and not subsidized by taxpayer dollars. For parks, rental revenues will continue to flow into the designated park fund and be used for future park-specific improvements, while operating expenses will remain under the general parks budget (Fund 10). This approach acknowledges that park rentals cannot offset full operating costs, which are expected to be covered by tax revenue. The fairgrounds will follow a similar approach: rental revenues will remain separate from fair event funds, while day-to-day operating expenses will continue under the parks budget, ensuring maintenance is not subsidized by fair revenues.

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- e. The CAM also proposed an establishment of a policy clarifying that expenses for employee appreciation, such as staff lunches, snacks, and refreshments, should be paid from the designated employee appreciation budget managed by the HR Director, rather than from general fund budgets.

5:00 COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

(A) Opening Ceremonies

1. Welcome: Chair Wilson
2. Invocation and/or Moment of Reflection: **Hon. Commissioner Blocker**
3. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Blocker

(B) Consent Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Morgan County Commission Minutes from August 19th, 2025.
2. Notice: I-84 Mountain Green Interchange Environmental Assessment, finding of no significant impact.
3. Notice: Fire Restrictions Amendment of Order #UTCLO2505 Stage 2 Restriction Rescindment and Stage 1 Restriction Order.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the consent agenda items.

Seconded by Commissioner Nickerson

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

(C) Commissioner Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- None.

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

- None.

(E) Presentations

1. **Ty Bailey, Morgan City Manager** Annual RDA Report

- a. Ty Bailey, City Manager, reported on the downtown Redevelopment Agency. The RDA, funded through property tax reinvestment, has successfully supported building rehabilitation, reducing vacancies and increasing property values. The current agreement expires in 2028, with the final planned project being a \$1.5 million alleyway and plaza development to add parking, public space, and spur future development.

2. **Casey Basaker, Morgan County HR** AI training and PSHRA Conference recap

- a. The HR Director reported on training from the Public Service Human Resources Association conference and an AI workshop. Topics included strengthening workplace relationships, promoting wellness and mental health, fostering a culture of innovation, and implementing recent legal updates. The AI training provided tools for drafting job descriptions, creating templates, and improving efficiency, with emphasis on safeguarding sensitive data.

3. **Amanda Christensen, USU Extension** Programs in Morgan County

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- a. Amanda Christensen, the USU Extension Professor introduced herself along with the employees and what their specific tasks and specialties are for the individuals who work in the Extension office for the county.

(F) Action Items

1. Amanda Christensen, USU Extension Discussion/Decision – Budget Adjustment

Discussion and decision on a budget adjustment for employee COLA

- a. Amanda explained that Utah State provided salary updates in late July regarding cost-of-living increases tied to legislative approval, performance, and merit. As directed in last year's budget session, the request for these adjustments was not included in the FY2025 budget but brought forward separately once the approved amounts were known. Funding is now needed to cover the remainder of the current fiscal year, with additional funds to be incorporated into the FY2026 budget request. Because USU operates on a July–June fiscal year, similar mid-cycle adjustments will be required in future years.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the budget change request to move \$1,833 from the 10-4150-520 to the account 10-4610-110.

Seconded by Commissioner Blocker

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

2. Casey Basaker – Discussion/Decision – Budget Adjustment

Discussion and decision on a budget adjustment for Garbage Enterprise Fund benefits

- a. HR Director introduced this stating it was noted that last year's calculation for the garbage fund inadvertently included only one month of medical expenses. To correct this, \$7,800 will be transferred from the garbage fund balance (enterprise fund) to cover the remaining medical costs for employees Justin D. and Cindee Mikesell, reflecting their respective allocations from the garbage portion of their salaries and benefits.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the budget change form for the Garbage Enterprise Fund benefits line item moving \$7,800 from 57-2951-000-000 to 57-4424-130-000.

Seconded by Commissioner Nickerson

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

3. Luke Majewski – Discussion/Decision – Citizen Request

Discussion and decision on a request for a community fundraiser event at the Morgan County Airport. This is a car show/plane show. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Mountain Green Fire Department and the airport.

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- a. Luke Majewski introduced this, he is a resident of Mountain Green, proposed hosting a fundraiser event at the Morgan County Airport, a combined car and plane show. The event aims to raise funds for both the airport and the Mountain Green Volunteer Fire Department, with proceeds supporting airport improvements and fire department operations. The event will provide community engagement opportunities and benefits local public services. Luke suggested allocating 80% of funds to the fire department and 20% to the airport, but is open to alternative suggestions. He added he will limit the amount of cars to 50-70 cars. The goal is to host this October 3rd.
- b. The CA confirmed that the proposed airport fundraiser event received a positive recommendation from both the Airport Advisory Board and airport management, submitted within the required deadline. Final approval rests with the County Commission. Commissioners emphasized compliance with applicable federal, state, and county laws, particularly nondiscrimination requirements, and advised the event organizer to establish clear, consistent participation criteria to avoid arbitrary exclusions. Additionally, the organizer must secure appropriate public liability insurance naming the county as an additional insured, as required by code.
- c. The CA also added that the event must be insured, with coverage amounts set by the County Commission (typically \$1–3 million). The organizer must also obtain a business license, comply with any negotiated revenue-sharing agreement, and maintain accurate records of registrations and payments. Additional requirements may be imposed as determined by the county.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the request to hold a community fundraiser event at the Morgan County Airport, Car Show, Plane show. Tentative date for October 3. Subject to approval or with the approval of the airport advisory board that we've already received, and subject to insurance being provided in the amount of \$1 million.

Seconded by Commissioner Blocker

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

4. Hon. Corey Stark – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Sheriff

Discussion decision on Animal Control contract verses an Animal Control Building

- a. The Sheriff presented two options for animal control services: working with Mountain Green Animal Hospital or building a new facility.
- b. The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of each option, including cost, convenience, and the need for volunteer support.
- c. The CA recommended a five-month trial period with Mountain Green Animal Hospital, followed by a formal bidding process if the arrangement is successful.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve the agreement with Mountain Green Animal Hospital, including updates suggested by the CA.

Seconded by Commissioner Fackrell

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

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Commissioner Blocker AYE
Commissioner Fackrell AYE
The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

5. Cindee Mikesell – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Clerk/Auditor's Office Discussion and decision on **Resolution CR 25-48** adding past-due garbage debts on the 2025 Tax Notices

- a. Cindee proposed adding delinquent garbage fees to property tax bills to improve collection rates. She explained the current challenges with collecting delinquent garbage fees and the hope that adding it to property tax bills will increase compliance.
- b. The Commissioners discussed the potential impact on residents and the need for clear communication about the new policy.
- c. Cindee also raised an additional concern about lithium batteries causing fires and damage to garbage trucks. And would like to remind everyone on upcoming garbage bills to not dispose of lithium batteries in your regular garbage and to contact Wasatch Integrated on how to properly dispose of those.

Commissioner Nickerson moved to approve CR-25-48 to add past-due garbage debts to property tax notices, effective 2025 and continuing until amended.

Seconded by Commissioner Newton

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE
Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE
Commissioner Newton AYE
Commissioner Blocker AYE
Commissioner Fackrell AYE
The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

6. David Vickers – Discussion/Decision – Morgan County Fire Warden Discussion and decision on the Cooperative Wildfire System Policies and Procedures for 2025.

- a. Dave explained the Master Agreement for wildland fire management, covering costs and responsibilities. The agreement includes a fire warden position, with the county paying 50% of the costs. Changes in the agreement include moving from a fiscal year to a calendar year and adjustments in participating commitments. The agreement also covers initial attack, delegation of fires to the state, and training requirements.

Discussion only, this will come back as an action item once the County Attorney has reviewed this.

7. Hon. Morgan County Commission – Discussion/Decision – Budget Discussion Discussion and decision on entering into a long-term rental agreement for land from Mountain Green Sewer Improvement District behind Kent Smith Park.

- a. Commissioner Blocker mentioned that Bill Coots would speak to the Sewer Board about increasing the years from 5 years to 20 or 30.
- b. The CA suggested that the Commission evaluate whether a 20-year lease term would sufficiently justify the county's planned investment in improvements, given the existing provisions for cancellation. He emphasized the importance of adequate notice periods, such as a year rather than 30–60 days, to allow the county to plan, determine whether improvements could be relocated, or decide whether to leave them in place. He noted that it is ultimately up to the Commission to determine whether 20 or 25 years is appropriate but expressed that it was positive the other party is open to negotiating a longer timeframe.

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- c. The Commission discussed the importance of a longer term to justify significant investments in the property.
- d. The Commission agreed there is a need for a work session with the Mountain Green Sewer Improvement District Board in order to align on goals and requirements of agreement.

Discussion only, no motion taken.

8. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan Administrative Manager

Discussion and decision on a budget adjustment offsetting car show revenue and expenses.

- a. The CAM stated that the final revenues and expenses for the car show have been calculated, requiring a second budget adjustment. The initial adjustment previously approved is included in the packet, and an additional \$1,141.53 is needed to cover the remaining expenses.

Commissioner Newton moved to approve we approve the adjustment, Budget Adjustment of \$1,141.53 moving from GL 35-3680-000-000, to 35-4510-310-400.

Seconded by Commissioner Blocker

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

9. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan Administrative Manager

Discussion and decision on amendments to the Fairgrounds Rental Agreement and additional discussion on overnight horse layover stays.

- a. The CAM introduced this stating at the last commission meeting, the group discussed clarifying which organizations are exempt from deposit fees. The Deputy Attorney added language specifying exemptions while allowing the commission to require a deposit for certain events if warranted, such as large or extended activities. The commission agreed the wording was appropriate. She raised a follow-up question regarding whether this amendment requires a new resolution number or should be recorded as a versioned update (e.g., version two) to maintain historical records.
- b. The CAM stated that the second part of this item concerns requests to temporarily house horses overnight in county paddocks. Historically, the Public Works Director has given verbal approval, but a past incident created issues when ownership was unclear. To address this, the Deputy Attorney drafted a simple acknowledgment form, not a fee-based agreement, to clarify that the county is not liable for the animals' care or safety, placing full responsibility on the owners.
- c. The CAM and Commissioners noted that the draft does not include a fee at this time, as a public notice and hearing would be required. Instead, the agreement serves as a temporary measure to indemnify the county until permanent facilities, such as dedicated stalls with proper electrical and water hookups, can be completed.
- d. Commissioners also noted the need for clear rules regarding waste disposal, proof of ownership, and potential fines for violations. The language was updated to cover "animal layovers" more broadly, not just horses, and to add additional points of contact for coordination. The discussion highlighted strong public demand for such accommodations

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and the long-term opportunity to create a more sustainable, fee-based system once infrastructure is in place.

Commissioner Newton moved to CR-25-30 v2 as updated.

Seconded by Commissioner Nickerson

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

Commissioner Newton moved to CR-25-30 v2 as updated.

Seconded by Commissioner Fackrell

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

10. Kate Becker – Discussion/Decision – Morgan Administrative Manager

Discussion and decision on recommendations from the Council of Governments for expenditures out of Fund 17

- a. The CAM introduced this stating COG reviewed two funding requests from Fund 17. The City requested \$500,000 for its alley project, and COG recommended awarding \$250,000. An additional \$179,975 was initially recommended for Bret but later withdrawn since those funds had already been designated. The current unappropriated fund balance is \$312,882.13, with an additional \$166,539 anticipated this year, totaling \$479,421.13 available.

Commissioner Blocker moved to approve the recommendation from COG to allocate \$250,000 allocation from fund 17 for the alley project.

Seconded by Commissioner Newton

VOTE:

Commission Chair Wilson AYE

Commission Vice Chair Nickerson AYE

Commissioner Newton AYE

Commissioner Blocker AYE

Commissioner Fackrell AYE

The Vote was unanimous. The Motion passed.

11. Kate Becker – Discussion – Morgan Administrative Manager

Need to set a date for discussion on a Pre-Incorporation Feasibility Study

- a. The CAM and Commission set up a work session to be held for this item for next meeting September 16, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Item not voted on, discussion only.

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12. Kate Becker – Discussion – Morgan Administrative Manager

Affirming or appointing the Morgan County seat on the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District.

- a. The CAM will create a jotform application to the Commissioners and post it to our website for any individuals interested in this seat.

Discussion only, will come back to next meeting as an action item.

- The CAM asked about the filming fee permit for the county as there is a show that will be filming throughout the county.
- The CAM asked about the prioritization of all of what she has been asked to work on.

(G) Commissioner Comments

• Commissioner Blocker

- o She attended steering committees: Social & Human Services, Community Development, Government Operations, Revenue & Taxation.
- o She participated in WFRC transportation and Council review; Rep. Burgess Owens discussed federal transportation funds.
- o She reported a vacancy on Airport Advisory Board following Mike D.'s resignation.
- o She mentioned the state's upcoming short-term rental policy, which could override local policies.

• Commissioner Newton

- o He met with electrical contractors; fairgrounds electrical project scheduled to begin after the high school rodeo event (Sept. 12-13) and expected to continue through much of the winter.
- o The DAF group approved funding for a new sound system and announcer's booth at the main arena, with the requirement to obtain three bids for the sound system before final approval.

• Commissioner Fackrell

- o He met with DWR; state parks expanding from 400 to 600 acres, opening opportunities for economic development, historical trail projects, and potential OHV use, with differing public opinions.
- o He requested cleanup of outdated information on the county website.
- o He attended a Revenue and Taxation Policy Steering Committee where they discussed centrally assessed properties and clarifications to SB 91 (restaurant tax). The 1% tax remains, but clarifications will define who is responsible for payment. Changes may be addressed in the upcoming session or special session in September.

• Commission Vice-Chair Nickerson

- o He added an updated about the Airport manager's office needs to be moved from one hangar to another. Sean Beckstrom offered use of his hangar to mount and operate the equipment temporarily.

• Commission Chair Wilson

- o He recommended Commissioners meet with offices and departments that are in their portfolio to prepare for budget meetings.

Adjourn – 8:15 P.M.

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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: 5/16/25

ATTEST: 
Morgan County Deputy Clerk/Auditor

DATE 9.18.25

***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.