

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
HELD ON JANUARY 13TH, 2026, AT 5:00 P.M.
AT MOUNTAIN HOME CITY HALL CHAMBERS
MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO

- 22505 CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM
- 22505 EXECUTIVE SESSION
- 1) Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(f) –to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.
- 22505 PRESENTATION
- 1) Award presentation by Mayor Sykes
- 22505 RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE
- 22505 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
- Has any Council Member received information pertaining to, or otherwise had any contact with any person regarding any items on this City Council agenda? If so, please set forth the nature of the contact.
- 22505 CONSENT AGENDA
- All matters listed within this Consent Agenda section require formal Council action, but are typically routine or not of great controversy and will be enacted by one motion. Questions for the purpose of clarification may be asked about a particular item before the motion is voted on. However, for lengthy discussion or separate motion a Council member or citizen may request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda section and placed on the Regular Agenda.
- ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS LISTED BELOW ARE ACTION ITEMS.**
- 1) Approval acceptance of minutes: Planning & Zoning Commission – November 18, 2025
 - 2) Approval acceptance of minutes: Regular City Council Minutes – December 9, 2025
 - 3) Approval acceptance of minutes: Special City Council Minutes – December 16, 2025
(Pulled and moved to Old Business)
 - 4) Approve expenditures from 12/10/2025 to 1/13/2026 in the amount of \$1,357,347.12
 - 5) Approve payroll for the period of 11/22/2025 to 12/21/2025 in the amount of \$855,343.42
 - 6) Treasurer's Report for the period ending 11/30/2025
 - 7) Accept the canvassed election results from the November 4, 2025, City Election
 - 8) Pass Resolution #01-2026R allowing the destruction of city records and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.
 - 9) Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all required documents for the grant application 2025/2026-007.
 - 10) Pass Resolution #02-2026R committing matching funds for the installation of a High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.
 - 11) Set a Public Hearing for February 10, 2026, on the increase in Non-City resident Library Card fees.
 - 12) Approve Amendment 1 to the construction and development reimbursement agreement with the Mountain Home Urban Renewal Agency for the Railroad Park Plaza project, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.
(Pulled and moved to Old Business)
 - 13) Approve Agreement for 2026 Pavement Rehabilitation (A.I.P. 3-16-0025-027-2026) at Mountain Home Airport and authorize the Mayor to sign all documents.
 - 14) Approve the lease agreement with Quadient fka Neopost for a new postage meter and folding machine for City Hall, and authorize the Mayor to sign.
 - 15) Approve Finding of Facts to zone C-3 PUD entitled "Albatross Greens" with conditions.
 - 16) Approve Finding of Facts preliminary plat "Albatross Greens" with conditions.
 - 17) Approve Finding of Facts for a conditional use permit to operate a drive-up window located at 1410 American Legion Boulevard with conditions.
- 22506 OLD BUSINESS
- 1) Items removed from the Consent Agenda
 - 2) Approve the agreement with Azuga and authorize the Mayor to sign.
 - 3) Discussion regarding Councilman Brennan's motion pertaining to Action Item #4 of the Special meeting on December 16, 2025
- 22507 ORDINANCE
- 1) Ordinance 1813 – to Zone C-3 Albatross Greens
- 22507 PRESENTATIONS
- 1) Presentation Mayor Sykes
- 22507 COUNCIL COMMENTS
- 1) Councilwoman Garvey's departing comments
 - 2) Councilman Brennan's departing comments
 - 3) City Council member comments
- 22508 ADJOURN SINE DIE
- 22508 OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS
- 22508 CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM
- 22508 REMARKS
- 1) Mayor Sykes
 - 2) Councilman McCarthy
 - 3) Councilman Sanders
- 22508 NEW BUSINESS
- 1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to elect a new City Council President.
 - 2) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision on Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations and Finding of Facts for annexation with conditions.
 - 3) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to amend City Code 8-1B-1-E Sidewalk, Curbs, and Gutters, 8-4-5 Excavation Fee, and 8-4-6 Bonding Fees.
 - 4) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to set a Public Hearing for February 10, 2026, on the increase in Street Fees.
 - 5) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to allow City Staff to draft a formal agreement with Marathon Cheese to use the parking lot at Optimist Park during the facility expansion project.
- 22509 FINAL COMMENTS
- 22511 ADJOURN

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
HELD ON JANUARY 13TH, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho, met at the Mountain Home City Hall Chambers, 160 South 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho, on January 13, 2026. A quorum was established with Councilwoman Garvey, Councilwoman Wirkkala, Councilman Brennan, Councilman Harjo, and Mayor Sykes being present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1) Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(f) – To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f). Councilman Harjo seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Council went into Executive Session at 5:02 p.m.

The Council came out of Executive Session at 5:13 p.m.

PRESENTATION

1) Award presentation by Mayor Sykes.

Mayor Sykes called Kim Anderson to come forward and thanked her for allowing Marty Anderson to do what he did and that it didn't go unnoticed and that she was appreciated. He also thanked Colonel Gunther and Chief Rhodie for coming down on behalf of the 366th Gunfighters and thanked Shawn Brazel, President of the Chamber, for making time to attend the meeting.

Mayor Sykes then gave a speech about Marty Anderson and his service with both the US Airforce and as the Military Liaison. He called Marty Anderson forward and presented him with the 2025 Defense Community Champion award.

Marty Anderson thanked the Mayor and the team and gave a short acceptance speech.

RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

Bud Adams thanked the Council for their common sense and keeping the budget hopefully in line.

Decker Sanders came forward to speak regarding Item 12 on the Consent Agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Has any Council Member received information pertaining to, or otherwise had any contact with any person regarding any items on this City Council agenda? If so, please set forth the nature of the contact.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said that she spoke with Decker Sanders regarding Item 4 on the Consent Agenda and that there was no conflict of interest.

Councilwoman Garvey received an email regarding the Railroad Park project.

CONSENT AGENDA

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Councilwoman Wirkkala asked for clarification from Councilman Brennan on Item 3, Special City Council Meeting Minutes, where something about in-kind work was mentioned. She noticed it when she went back and watched the video after the meeting.

Mayor Sykes asked if it was that he said he was okay with the in-kind work.

Councilman Brennan confirmed that he was okay with the in-kind work.

Councilwoman Wirkkala stated that the motion was passed that there would not be reallocation of funds from Parks, Streets, Water, Wastewater, or any other department at this time. She stated that in-kind work technically fell under that use of funds.

Paul Fitzer, City Attorney, stated that enterprise funds could not be used for that and for that reason, in-kind work does not have that prohibition.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said that did not sit well with her and she did not want to approve the Consent Agenda with the Special Meeting Minutes.

Councilwoman Garvey asked if a quick recess could be taken in order to review the meeting as that was not what she recalled.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said that she did not want to take a recess that she wanted to watch the video on the record.

Mayor Sykes asked Tiffany Belt, City Clerk, to get the video pulled up. He also asked while they were waiting, if there was anything else on the Consent Agenda to discuss.

Councilwoman Garvey said that she had the same questions about Item 12 that Decker Sanders had during his public comment.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said again that she did not want to vote on the Consent Agenda because of Item 3, and suggested that Items 3 and 12 get pulled to keep the meeting going.

Councilman Harjo said that he wanted to give thanks to City staff and Public Works on Items 9 and 10 and that this would be a wonderful step in the right direction.

Councilman Brennan said that for the record, they had received an update today for Item 17 and wanted to remind the Council to vote on the updated item that was given to them.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, pulling Items 3 and 12. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Items removed from the consent agenda.

3) Approval acceptance of minutes: Special City Council Minutes – December 16, 2025.

Tiffany Belt pulled up the video of the Special Meeting that took place on December 16, 2025 for review for by the Council. She then explained what was said was "at this time" not "in-kind".

Councilman Brennan said that the motion was crystal clear, any side chatter was not part of the motion.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked about the words "not necessary at this time" and asked what that meant.

Councilwoman Garvey said in her opinion, they had a document in front of them that showed how much was going to come out of each set of the budgets, for example \$100,000 from Streets or Parks, and at the time of the motion that was possibility was removed. She continued to say that it could come back in the future for another vote if deemed necessary.

Councilwoman Wirkkala expressed her frustration at not seeing the numbers in the packet until that moment in the meeting as it was scheduled during her working hours.

Councilman Harjo stated that all members of the Council had received the same information at the same time and the agenda item was used as a placeholder in case there were other things that came up, which was determined that it was not needed.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said that she would like to have a special meeting to discuss with the new Councilmembers that were incoming.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to approve the Special City Council Minutes from December 16, 2025 from the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Garvey seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; nay. The motion passed by majority vote.

12) Approve Amendment 1 to the construction and development reimbursement agreement with the Mountain Home Urban Renewal Agency for the Railroad Park Plaza project, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign.

Mayor Sykes asked Decker Sanders to come forward.

Decker Sanders had a discussion with Paul Fitzer about his concerns with the GUHO contract and how it conflicted with one of the funding agreements.

Councilman Harjo said that this agenda item was strictly to the City's agreement with the URA and explained the process of how the URA funds the City project, the agreement with the URA of the URA to pay the City. He continued to explain that the City's agreement to pay GUHO would be a passthrough of funding from the URA to GUHO.

There was a discussion between the Council, Paul Fitzer, Decker Sanders and the Mayor regarding the payment schedule and about asking GUHO to make it a 45-day like the agreement with the URA.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to the construction and development reimbursement agreement with the Mountain Home Urban Renewal Agency. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion. Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2) Approve the agreement with Azuga and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Councilman Harjo asked Paul Fitzer if he had time to look over the contract.

Paul Fitzer said the contract was the same one he drafted, with approved modifications. He noted that no further changes appeared to be proposed, but concerns remained about whether the data collected could be subject to public records requests. He added that any such request would need to be reviewed to ensure it did not compromise the City's systems or public safety.

Mayor Sykes explained that the software would be used to track City vehicles. He said the City would occasionally receive calls reporting Public Works and other City vehicles speeding outside city limits, and the software allowed staff to verify vehicle activity and determine whether drivers were following the law. He also noted that the program included a reward system for drivers.

Chris Curtis, Public Works Director, said that another big thing was if a citizen stated that a sweeper hit a vehicle, they would be able to determine if a sweeper was actually in the area. He also discussed how the incentive program would work.

There was a discussion between Councilman Harjo, Mayor Sykes, and Councilwoman Garvey regarding the usage of the software, what vehicles or equipment it would be used for, and other potential alternatives.

There was a discussion regarding the cost of our current software versus the requested change, and how much money would be saved.

Councilwoman Wirkkala made a motion to table Old Business 2 until the next council meeting. Councilwoman Garvey seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3) Discussion regarding Councilman Brennan's motion pertaining to Action Item 4 of the Special Meeting on December 16, 2025.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said that she felt like her questions regarding this were answered when discussing the Special City Council Meeting minutes from December 16, 2025.

ORDINANCE

1) Ordinance 1813 – to Zone C-3 Albatross Greens.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve Ordinance 1813 and hear the reading for its one and only reading time. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance for its first and final reading.

Mayor Sykes asked, "Does the Council wish this ordinance to pass."

The vote goes as follows: Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATIONS

1) Presentation Mayor Sykes.

Mayor Sykes thanked Councilman Brennan and Councilwoman Garvey for their service and that they would be leaving Mountain Home better than they found it. He presented both departing members of Council with cards.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

1) Councilwoman Garvey's departing comments.

Councilwoman Garvey thanked her husband and her group of friends and family for their support. She said that it had been the most rewarding four years.

2) Councilman Brennan's departing comments.

Councilman Brennan reflected on his eight years of service and thanked his wife for her support, those who supported his campaigns, and the Idaho State Police District 3 for accommodating his schedule. He also thanked the citizens for their trust, City staff for their work, and expressed confidence in the new Council members, encouraging them to act in the community's best interest. He continued to ask that they not let an individual person or entity sway them for their own personal agenda that was not in the interest of the majority.

Councilman Brennan identified ongoing challenges for the City, including the wastewater system and the future dispatch contract, and concluded by thanking the Council, the Mayor, and City leadership and legal staff for helping him grow personally and professionally during his time in office.

3) City Council Member Comments.

Councilman Harjo said that the combined 12 years of knowledge between Councilman Brennan and Councilwoman Garvey was a massive benefit to the Council. He thanked them both for their knowledge, successes and guidance.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said that she learned so much from Councilman Brennan and that Councilwoman Garvey no matter what they disagreed on, there was still respect between them.

ADJOURN SINE DIE

Councilman Harjo asked that Councilman Brennan adjourn the meeting.

OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Sanders and Councilman McCarthy.

MAYOR CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order at 6:25 P.M. A quorum was established with Councilman Sanders, Councilman McCarthy, Councilwoman Wirkkala, Councilman Harjo, and Mayor Sykes being present.

REMARKS

1) Mayor Sykes

Mayor Sykes congratulated the new Council members and told them the role would be both rewarding and challenging. He said City staff, and himself would be available to support them and encouraged them to ask questions at any time. He noted they would attend Elected Officials AIC training to learn the dos and don'ts and said he looked forward to working with them.

2) Councilman McCarthy

Councilman McCarthy thanked the Mayor, Council, City staff, family & friends, and the residents of Mountain Home. He stated that he was grateful for the opportunity to serve, and he was committed to serve with integrity, diligence, and respect for all residents. He continued to say that he was committed to creating a city of safety, opportunity, and hope for this generation and for those yet to come.

3) Councilman Sanders

Councilman Sanders thanked those that voted for him and the City during his campaign where he made a point that his process would be to trust and verify, and that he would be a representative that would be a public servant rather than a public official. He ended with "let's get the hard work started".

NEW BUSINESS

1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to elect a new City Council President.

Councilwoman Wirkkala made a motion to elect Councilman Sanders as the new City Council President. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman McCarthy; aye, Councilman Sanders; abstained. The motion passed by majority vote.

2) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision on Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations and Finding of Facts for annexation with conditions.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations and Finding of Facts for annexation with conditions. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Sanders; aye, Councilman McCarthy; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to amend City Code 8-1B-1-E Sidewalk, Curbs, and Gutters, 8-4-5 Excavation Fee, and 8-4-6 Bonding Fees.

Councilman Harjo said that there were some discussions had around City Hall, and Chris Curtis informed him that it had been roughly 20 years since that section of code had been updated. He said that the purpose of this was to take the fees out of the ordinance and to set them right resolution of the Council as it would give more maneuverability.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to amend City Code 8-1B-1-E Sidewalk, Curbs, and Gutters, 8-4-5 Excavation Fee, and 8-4-6 Bonding Fees.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked for clarification as Item 4 was setting a public hearing for those fees.

Tiffany Belt explained the clerical process and all the required steps that would need to be followed.

Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion.

Councilman McCarthy and Chris Curtis discussed the reason behind increasing the fees and it being based on increasing the cost for the City staff, cost of materials, cost of goods and services at 2026 values instead of 2006 values.

The vote goes as follows: Councilman McCarthy; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Sanders; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to set a Public Hearing for February 10, 2026, on the increase in Street Fees.

Councilwoman Wirkkala made a motion to set a Public Hearing for February 10, 2026, on the increase in Street Fees. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Harjo; Councilman Sanders; aye, Councilman McCarthy; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to allow City Staff to draft a formal agreement with Marathon Cheese to use the parking lot at Optimist Park during the facility expansion project.

Mayor Sykes said that his thought process was to allow them to park there, however he wanted to get a more formal agreement to see if that would be doable. He wanted to make sure the City wasn't liable if something were to happen.

Councilwoman Wirkkala made a motion to allow City Staff to draft a formal agreement with Marathon Cheese to use the parking lot at Optimist Park during the facility expansion project. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion.

Councilman Harjo asked to say something before taking a vote. He wanted to make sure that we were not being too cumbersome on Elmore County Sportsmans use on those trailers and that they have access that was preserved as they do have a lease for that over a 10-year duration. He also mentioned finding out if the Police Department and Public Works had any concerns, discussion on dust mitigation and maybe temporary fencing if needed as items to take into consideration.

Mayor Sykes agreed and thanked Councilman Harjo for that request.

The vote goes as follows: Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilman McCarthy; aye, Councilman Sanders; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINAL COMMENTS

Councilman Sanders made a motion in accordance to Idaho Code 74-204(4)(c), to add to the agenda a discussion on an item regarding the funding, timing and conduct for the Railroad Park contract.. He said that this item could not be requested earlier as some of the information needed was only received today from a public records request. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion.

Mayor Sykes let Councilman Sanders know that all he needed to do was have three council members say this is what you want on the next item to add it.

Councilman Sanders said that he considered this to be a time sensitive issue and had a financial impact, he would like to have a discussion this evening.

Mayor Sykes and Paul Fitzer discussed adding items to the end of the agenda and it was determined that you could, although typically it would be done at the beginning of the meeting and the reason behind the urgency would need to be stated.

The vote goes as follows: Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman McCarthy; aye, Councilman Sanders; aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Councilman Sanders said that he had a PowerPoint presentation that he wanted to share to go along with his discussion request. He stated for the record that he was not opposed to the project, he had some concerns including funding and time and went on to share his presentation.

Councilman Harjo said that having been present for the budget discussions, he disagreed with Councilman Sanders view of the costs assessed with phasing the project versus doing the project all at once. He also went on to say that there were a lot of detailed in person conversations that took place outside of the information obtained via a public records request. He said that he appreciated the effort that was put in, but stated that it was lacking in context to be accurate and to have a discussion. He then asked if Councilman Sanders had the goal of delaying the project and undoing what had already been done.

Councilwoman Wirkkala said that she appreciated Councilman Sanders work. She asked Paul Fitzer if this was an action item or if it was a discussion. She then said that she would support anything Councilman Sanders wanted to do.

Councilman Sanders said that any City funds used for the project would replace potential outside funding and reduce money going back into the community through subcontracting. He said he preferred to avoid that outcome and suggested the Council consider exercising the contract under Articles 8 and 12 as tools in deciding whether to proceed, especially given the time constraints and the goal of maximizing available funding.

Mayor Sykes discussed the conversations and meeting regarding funding and in-kind work. He said that he did not understand the talking point of economic loss of a million dollars when the people of the City would be spending their money in downtown Mountain Home. He then asked if we did, for example, a million dollars of economic disservice to the City by using in-kind work to complete the pool.

Councilman Sanders said that URA funds come from a separate tax stream that must be spent in the project area and directly benefit the local economy. He explained that any City contribution removes available URA funding and requires the City to replace it with taxpayer dollars. He noted that the URA was close to fully funding the project and questioned whether it was worth using City funds at all.

Councilman Harjo said the contracts had already been executed and the agreement with Pioneer remained in effect. He noted that years of work had gone into reaching this point and that delaying the project could create complications, including potential legal and contractual issues. He explained that pushing the timeline would likely increase overall project costs due to rising prices and could also affect the donation agreement with Pioneer. He added that URA leadership had stated they were pleased with Pioneer's donation because it allowed the project to move forward in a single phase and freed additional funds for use within the revenue allocation area.

Councilman McCarthy, Mayor Sykes, and Tiffany Belt discussed the contingency funds and contracts and agreements.

Councilman McCarthy, Chris Curtis, and Mayor Sykes discussed what the in-kind work looked like and how it would push back other projects that the City had planned.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked if a Special Meeting could be called in order to make the discussion an action item.

Councilman Sanders and Councilman McCarthy supported the request for a Special Meeting.

Paul Fitzer said the comment raised by Councilman Harjo was his primary concern, as he did not want the City to risk breaching a contract it had already executed. He said he understood Councilman Sanders' logic regarding the benefits of using another taxing entity's funding, but emphasized that the City could not unilaterally delay or change the project without potentially violating existing agreements. He noted that any changes would need to be voluntary modifications agreed to by all parties. Without having the contracts in front of him, he said the situation made him uneasy, especially if construction was imminent.

Mayor Sykes said to Councilman Sanders that these were the types of conversations he wished that in the future, he would come into City Hall and discuss in person ahead of time. He said that he wished that of all the Council would do that in the future.

Councilman Sanders said that he knew in order to have a Special Meeting that there had to be at least 24-hour notice to post an agenda, which would take Wednesday, but that would open Thursday up to have the issues discussed and a decision made. He said that the partners involved could be invited to be a part of the discussion and then action could be taken.

Paula Szfranski, City Treasurer, said that she would like to offer a different perspective for the Council to consider. She said that as a staff executive, she saw it as training opportunities for the different departments involved in the project. She said that she saw it as a tremendous opportunity for staff.

Councilman McCarthy and Councilwoman Wirkkala both discussed how training in real time would open the City up for liability if an accident were to occur.

Mayor Sykes and Paul Fitzer discussed going forward with the groundbreaking tomorrow and how until a different agreement was negotiated, they needed to operate as the agreements had been executed.

There was continued discussion about funding and what making changes to the agreements could mean for the City.

Councilman Sanders requested that a Special City Council Meeting take place on January 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM and Councilwoman Wirkkala and Councilman McCarthy agreed.

Mayor Sykes said that for the time being, the ribbon cutting will go forward tomorrow and that work would still continue. He meant no disrespect to the Council, but he did not want to put the City in a position for a lawsuit. He said that he would reach out to GUHO, Pioneer, and the URA and invite them to the meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. by orders from Mayor Sykes.





Rich Sykes, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk