

SOUTH WEBER CITY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: 11 August 2026

TIME COMMENCED: 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: South Weber City Office at 1600 East South Weber Drive, South Weber, UT
Meeting streamed on YouTube on 11 August 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: MAYOR:	Rod Westbrook
COUNCIL MEMBERS:	Jeremy Davis Joel Dills Blair Halverson Angie Petty Wayne Winsor
CITY RECORDER:	Lisa Smith
CITY MANAGER:	David Larson
FINANCE DIRECTOR:	Brett Baltazar
FIRE CHIEF:	Derek Tolman
INTERN:	Celeste Wu

Minutes: Michelle Clark

ATTENDEES: Paul Sturm, Michael Grant, Amy Mitchell, and Kendalyn Harris.

GENERAL MEETING OPEN (Agenda items may be moved to meet the needs of the Council.)

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Petty**
- 2. Prayer: Council Member Halverson**
- 3. Public Comment: Please respectfully follow these guidelines.**
 - a. Individuals may speak once for 3 minutes or less: Do not remark from the audience.**
 - b. State your name & city and direct comments to the entire Council (They will not respond).**

ACTION ITEMS

Mayor Westbrook opened the meeting by stating that there was one agenda item only--a public hearing on a proposed tax increase. He then read the state required notice explaining that, if

approved, the tax increase would generate approximately \$12,046 in additional property tax revenue for South Weber.

The additional funds would be allocated across city departments for:

- Court supplies
- Administrative equipment
- Public safety and emergency preparedness
- Fire uniforms, training, equipment, supplies, and maintenance
- Building and grounds maintenance and equipment
- Community services and events
- Abatements
- Street, building, and ground maintenance
- Parking and engineering

Councilman Halverson moved to open the public hearing on the proposed tax increase. Councilwoman Petty seconded the motion. Mayor Westbrook called for a voice vote. Council Members Davis, Dills, Halverson, Petty, and Winsor voted aye. The motion carried.

----- **PUBLIC HEARING** -----

4. Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Increase

- a. Individuals may speak once for 3 minutes or less. (Do NOT remark from the audience.**
- b. State your name & city and direct comments to the entire Council. (They will not respond.)**

Mayor Westbrook asked if there was any public comment.

Amy Mitchell of South Weber City expressed strong opposition to increasing property taxes before the City demonstrates meaningful efforts to reduce spending. She urged a line-by-line budget review, prioritization of essential services, postponement of nonessential projects, and evaluation of staffing and expenditures, including salary increases, the public works complex, and water-meter infrastructure. She questioned when residents would see benefits from recent and planned commercial development and requested greater transparency regarding incentives or concessions provided to businesses and developers. She encouraged the City to compare staffing with similar sized cities, maintain existing services and infrastructure, and exhaust reasonable cost-saving and efficiency measures before seeking additional revenue.

Michael Grant of South Weber City acknowledged Amy Mitchell's comments but offered a more supportive view of the City Council's current financial management. He stated he has observed the council working through the budget line by line to reduce costs rather than add unnecessary expenses. He emphasized the importance of paying good city employees competitive market rates so they do not leave, noting that employee turnover would create additional difficulties for the city. He acknowledged while generally supportive of the council's efforts, he said there is always room to improve and encouraged them to keep looking for ways to reduce costs. Mr. Grant believes the council's efforts to control spending and retain qualified staff have been noticed and should be recognized, while still encouraging continued fiscal discipline.

Danell Schmidt of South Weber emailed thoughts that the businesses and not residents should be supporting the needs of the city.

Councilman Halverson moved to close the public hearing on the proposed tax increase. Councilwoman Petty seconded the motion. Mayor Westbroek called for a voice vote. Council Members Davis, Dills, Halverson, Petty, and Winsor voted aye. The motion carried.

----- **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED** -----

5. Resolution 26-32: Tax Year 2026 Certified Property Tax Rate of 0.001434

City Manager David Larson provided background on Utah's property tax system and the proposed South Weber tax rate. The county's certified tax rate was proposed at 0.001421. The council is considering holding the existing rate of 0.001434 which would generate approximately \$13,000 more revenue representing an estimated 0.99% increase. An additional \$30,000 is also expected from new developments. The increased tax revenue would support the Recreation Department (\$11,000) and the tree and trail program (\$2,000). The impact on homeowners, using an average South Weber home value of approximately \$596,000, is estimated to be \$4.26 per year or 36 cents per month. South Weber's city tax rate is roughly middle of the pack among Davis County cities, and when special-service-district taxes are included, South Weber ranks closer to the lower end because some services that other cities receive through separate districts are included in South Weber's rate.

Councilman Dills said his opposition to the proposed tax-rate is because of his concern that the city is not adequately considering its long-term financial obligations. He stated the city should look beyond the immediate \$4.26 annual impact on an average homeowner and consider the cumulative, long-term consequences of maintaining higher spending. He voiced the following concerns:

- The city's has existing debt of an \$8.9 million long-term bond obligation
- South Weber is approaching the end of its buildout, meaning current development-related revenue will eventually decline
- Commercial development is helpful but uncertain.

He concluded that he would vote no, arguing that the city needs a more comprehensive long-term financial review before proceeding.

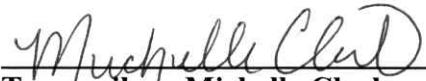
Councilman Halverson agreed that a broader, long-term budget discussion is needed. He explained that the proposed tax rate is intended to maintain the established rate rather than increase it, noting that South Weber's rate has gradually declined as property values have increased. He supported adopting a consistent tax-rate philosophy to avoid larger increases in the future, while also emphasizing the need for greater discussion and evaluation of overall City spending. Mayor Westbroek agreed with Councilman Halverson and supported maintaining South Weber's existing property-tax rate. He emphasized that the proposal is to hold the same rate used last year, not establish a higher rate.

Councilman Halverson moved to approve Resolution 26-32: Tax Year 2026 Certified Property Tax Rate of 0.001434. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Mayor Westbrook called for a roll call vote. Council Members Davis, Halverson, Petty, and Winsor voted aye. Councilman Dills voted nay. The motion carried 4 to 1.

ADJOURN:

Councilman Winsor moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Councilwoman Petty seconded the motion. Mayor Westbrook called for a voice vote. Council Members Davis, Dills, Halverson, Petty, and Winsor voted aye. The motion carried.

APPROVED:  Date 09-08-2026
Mayor: Rod Westbrook


Transcriber: Michelle Clark


Attest: City Recorder: Lisa Smith

