



SMITHFIELD CITY COUNCIL MINUTES October 15, 2025

The Smithfield City Council met in a regularly scheduled meeting at 96 South Main Street, Smithfield, Utah on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Monson was in the chair.

Opening remarks by Jenn Staker

Council Members in Attendance: Wade Campbell, Sue Hyer, Todd Orme, and Jenn Staker

City Staff: Justin Lewis (City Manager), Dana Lazcanotegui (City Recorder), Travis Allen (Police Chief), Jeremy Hunt (Fire Chief), Clay Bodily (City Engineer), Zach Smyer (Golf Superintendent), Eric Kleven (Golf Professional)

Visitors: Mike Monson, Jennie Orme, Jared Pratt, Candace Pratt, Stuart Reis, Dave Forrester, Paul Lindhardt, Caralee Stokes, Courtney Lower, Velisa Schmuhl, Kim Dority, Stacey Dority, Jon Engler, Dawnette Engler, R. Smart, Jay & Michelle Downs, Cheryl Peck, Sharik Peck, Wendy El-Bakri, Aaron Rudie, Anca Matcovschi, Zane Hyer, Kaisa Olsen, Dallas Sawyer, Kelly Olsen, Jeff Barnes, Lee Helms, Lizette Villegos, Bob Holbrook, Blaine Nuttall, Christopher Woolstenhulme, John Meier, Jim Marshall, Craig Patterson, Melanie Sorensen, Deon Hunsaker, Bob Felshaw, Michael Taylor, Elizabeth Thain, Debbie Zilles

*Note: The meeting was streamed online and is accessible via the city YouTube Channel.

Approval of the City Council meeting minutes from Sept. 10, 2025 meetings.

*****Motion made by Councilmember Campbell to approve the meeting minutes from the September 10, 2025 meeting. Councilmember Orme seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.*****

Yes Vote: Campbell, Hyer, Orme, Staker

No Vote: None

Public Comment on items not on the agenda, or agenda items not requiring a public hearing during the City Council meeting.

Curtis Wall brought in branches recently cut from one of the trees from the park strip in front of his house as a perfect case of how not to trim trees. The lilac trees in his park strip were back from the sidewalk and road. It appears the company used a chainsaw, which clipped bark from trees across the street from his home. He has taken tree pruning courses and said this is not the way to do it. Mayor Monson explained that two companies were hired and are working in different sections of the City. Mr. Lewis will look into which company was working in this area. The trees he referenced were along 120 South.

Youth Council Report

Kaisa Olsen said the Teddy Bear Picnic was a great success with a good turnout. The Youth Council will be helping with Trick-or-Treat Street this week.

Approval of Zachary Smyer as Birch Creek Golf Course Superintendent.

Zach was hired in January 2019 and has been acting as Interim Superintendent since April 2025. Mr. Smyer introduced his wife and two children. He is grateful for the opportunity and enjoys working at the golf course.

*****Motion made by Councilmember Campbell to approve Zachary Smyer to serve as the Birch Creek Golf Course Superintendent. Councilmember Staker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.*****

Yes Vote: Campbell, Hyer, Orme, Staker

No Vote: None

Discussion and possible vote on Resolution 2025-09, a Resolution supporting America250 Utah and recognizing and approving of the America250 Smithfield Utah Committee

Velisa Schmuhl said America will be celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2026, and the goal is for everyone to feel the American spirit. A committee has been formed to help plan for celebration activities. There will be a local kick-off on November 22nd with Smithfield's Annual Turkey Trot. She explained that this is a nationwide program that started in 2016; Utah started it in 2023. Anyone interested can go to the Facebook page and website. Because Smithfield celebrates "Health Days" they are focusing on a 250 walk. They will also be working with the local schools. "America's Potluck" will be held on July 5, 2026 which is a nationwide event. Volunteers are always encouraged.

*****Motion made by Councilmember Campbell to approve Resolution 2025-09, a Resolution supporting America250 Utah and recognizing and approving the America250 Smithfield Utah Committee. Councilmember Hyer seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.*****

Yes Vote: Campbell, Hyer, Orme, Staker

No Vote: None

Discussion and possible vote on Resolution 2025-10, a Resolution amending the Prevailing Fee Schedule of the City.

Eric Kleven said this proposed rate will increase green fees by 10 cents per hole, bringing prices in line with Logan River's current rates. If approved, it will take effect on April 1, 2026. Various fee changes were discussed for the upcoming 2026 season.

*****Motion made by Councilmember Campbell to adopt Resolution 2025-10, a Resolution amending the Prevailing Fee Schedule of the City. Councilmember Orme seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.*****

Yes Vote: Campbell, Hyer, Orme, Staker

No Vote: None

Interviews with applicants applying to fill the city council member mid-term vacancy through December 31, 2027

There were 19 applicants for the vacant city council seat. Two applicants withdrew before the council meeting. All candidates were asked in advance of the council meeting to be prepared to answer the following four questions at the council meeting. The selected candidate will fill the open seat through the end of 2027. State code dictates how the open seat is filled. There was an application period, then interviews are held during a city council meeting. A candidate is then selected by the remaining city council members. The mayor does not vote in the event of a tie. The applicants are going to be interviewed in the order of which their applications were submitted.

Questions posed to each candidate (given to each candidate before meeting):

1. Please tell us about your family, work experience, and why you have submitted your application to fill this vacancy.
2. Why should you be selected by the city council to fill the vacancy?
3. What are your thoughts on growth and how should it be managed?
4. The city has many different departments, is involved in several local events, part of several different boards, etc. If you were chosen, would you have time to be involved with these groups and attend meetings outside regular council meetings? Which areas would you be interested in being involved with?

Mayor Monson explained the process. If there is a tie vote at the end, it will come down to a coin toss per state code. Each applicant was allowed five minutes for their presentations.

Applicants:

Christopher Woolstenhulme

He is an uncle to 13 nephews and nieces. His family has been involved with Cache County for quite some time. His great-grandparents helped build the Logan LDS Temple. He has significant ties to the Valley and wants to see it grow, become stronger, and prosper. He has a PhD in biochemistry. He is a trained problem solver, a small-business owner (Elevation Rock Gym), and a Senior Manager at Cytiva. He uses his skills to manage teams and is very interested in seeing small businesses succeed. He loves the City and has several skills that he could bring to the Council. He is pro-growth, but it should be done responsibly and intelligently. The goal should be based on quality

of life. He expressed interest in serving on committees related to trees and open spaces.

Jay Downs

He served as the Smithfield City Fire Chief for 28 years before he retired. He has lived in Smithfield his entire life and was raised on the west side of town. He and his wife have five children and seven grandchildren. During his time at the Fire Department, it grew from a volunteer station to a fully functional ambulance/paramedic department. He learned how city politics work and is knowledgeable about city budgets. From 2003 to 2020, he served as the Cache County EMS (Emergency Management Services) Coordinator and worked closely with Cache County staff and elected officials on staffing, training, budgeting, and personnel matters. He believes his experience can help Smithfield grow. He wants to make sure the City's infrastructure is intact and in place before growth occurs. He is concerned about the current talks with the Cache County Fire District; he has reviewed the documentation and would like to ensure that Smithfield does not pay more than needed for fire services. He would like to bring his knowledge and skills to the Council to keep the City growing and maintain reasonable costs. He would like to consider additional sidewalks, especially on the west side of town. He has worked with many different city departments, and his time is flexible. He is willing to serve on any committees to which he is assigned.

Jon Meier

He, his wife, and three children have lived in Smithfield for 6 1/2 years and have become deeply rooted in the community. As small-sized business owners, they operate Prisma Salon & Academy. He has a real estate license and is currently a Purchasing Specialist with Casper's Ice Cream, where he helps manage an annual materials budget of approximately \$40 million. He has applied because he believes in Smithfield's potential and wants to actively help shape its future. He has been an engaged citizen since moving to Smithfield, attending several meetings and participating in community events. This opportunity is a way to bring his entrepreneurial mindset, financial acumen, and passion for civic engagement to the table and help Smithfield grow into the best city in northern Utah. He is ready to hit the ground running and will bring a well-rounded community focus perspective to the Council. His background in real estate and business ownership gives him practical experience in zoning, land use, budgeting, and economic development. Managing the materials budget with Casper's has sharpened his ability to make data-driven decisions and balance short and long-term priorities. His academic foundation has equipped him with a strong understanding of government structure, public policy, and negotiation skills that directly support effective governments. Beyond his credentials, he cares deeply about Smithfield and has built relationships as a neighbor, a resident, and a business owner. He wants to ensure the City's decisions reflect the values and needs of residents. He believes in servant leadership and collaborative problem solving. He knows how to work across perspectives, build consensus, and foster respectful dialogue. He is committed to serving with integrity, transparency, and a deep sense of responsibility to the community. Growth is inevitable, but it must be intentional. Having lived in diverse regions, he has seen firsthand how growth can either enhance or erode a community's character. Growth needs to be carefully managed through a comprehensive plan to protect rural heritage and avoid

straining limited resources such as water. Smithfield's growth should reflect our shared values and long-term vision and must be community driven. He has been closely following the General Plan update and is encouraged by the thoughtful approach being taken. The current planning framework positions the City to grow responsibly while balancing economic opportunities with environmental stewardship and quality of life. He is fully committed to the time and energy this role requires and understands that serving on the Council extends beyond regular monthly meetings. It means being present, engaged, and proactive across all facets of City life. He would be especially interested in helping with events, especially the arts council and the library. He would advocate for a community advisory committee to ensure residents have a direct voice.

Lizette Villegas

She is married and has four children. Her family is the heart of why she has built her philanthropy work in Cache Valley. For the last 15 years, she has given her time and effort to help make the valley the best it can be. Working in various non-profit organizations and boards has allowed her to identify what is needed in the community. Smithfield is where her family will grow up. Three of her children have special needs, so she would like Smithfield to be the best it can be. Service needs to be done with love. Doing something new and being willing to learn shows character. Growth needs to happen responsibly, but most of all, she thinks listening to the community is essential. Constituents need to feel that they are heard. She is happy to be involved in any committees that need help.

James Marshall

He has lived in Cache Valley for 50 years and in Smithfield for 30, where he and his wife raised their six children. He has a BS and an MBA from Utah State University. His family owned a couple of businesses, where his work experience began, providing excellent practical grounding. His career spanned 38 years in the aerospace industry, most of which was in leadership positions. His position as Director of Business Development for the Space Dynamics Lab (SDL) had him in and out of government offices of all levels for many years. He served on the Planning Commission from 2001 to 2006 and was its chairman for the last 2 1/2 years, until his work required extensive travel. He retired from SDL a few years ago and is now interested in opportunities to serve the community; for the past two years, he has been serving on the Planning Commission again. His main takeaway from his time on the Planning Commission is the need to be proactive, which begins with the General Plan. As he traveled the country, he saw good and bad examples of city planning. He has been very involved in the current General Plan update and is grateful to be able to provide input and see how some of it has been received. He has demonstrated that he is willing to put in the work, do research, come up with ideas, advocate for them, and be flexible. Growth takes more than a few minutes to discuss; it is where aspirations turn into hard facts and determine what can be done. Growth is being driven by powerful forces, some of which are outside the City's control. The Council can help shape things as they move forward. A moratorium on growth postpones important decisions. He thinks Smithfield will build out at approximately 35,000 people, which is twice the current population. Elected leaders care and listen to constituents, help them understand the hard facts and changes, and

find ways to preserve what is special. He has submitted several ideas during the current General Plan process. He can attend meetings at any time during the day; his strengths would be most useful in a board assignment to help build relationships between Smithfield and other entities such as the CMPO (Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization) and Cache County. He built many lasting relationships while working at SDL. His background can contribute to land use issues, and he is happy to participate in ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns) activities.

Craig Patterson

He and his wife have lived in Smithfield for the past nine years after living in Logan for 20 plus years. He has a vested interest in the community because he has 13 grandchildren who live in the City, and he wants to keep it the way it is, an enviable place to live. He is a person who cares for those he works with or serves. He has a history of doing his best and works well with others. He is a peacemaker and always tries to de-escalate conflicts. He worked in the transportation industry for 35 years and recently retired. He values listening and understanding others' viewpoints. Decisions should be made and carried out together for the benefit of all. He desires to work to preserve Smithfield's valuable community and strives to protect citizens and children from destructive influences. The Council should prepare the community through foresight and wisdom to prevent as many complex and challenging situations as possible and actively promote and inform the community about what is happening. Growth is imminent and necessary but must be sustainable and supported by the resources needed. He is willing to dedicate time to any committee necessary if he has the opportunity to serve.

John Engler

He and his wife moved to Smithfield 27 years ago and raised six children. Early in his career, he worked with municipalities across the country to help implement public safety technology systems for law enforcement and fire departments. For the past 25 years, he has been teaching at USU (Utah State University), assisting students in researching complex problems and exploring solutions rooted in respect and peacebuilding. He also runs a small business as a story coach, helping families collect and share family stories. If his skill set is helpful in the Council, he is ready to serve. He is a good listener, fair-minded, a problem solver, and a community builder. He does not have a partisan agenda; his goal is to reflect and represent the citizens of Smithfield. It is vital to operate with transparency and fiscal responsibility. He has been asked to take on leadership roles when public trust needed to be rebuilt such as with the Sky View High School boys' tennis team where he was the coach for a couple of years. His goal is to keep government small but effective. He wants to strengthen infrastructure, protect public safety, and preserve our small town. Smithfield is at a hinge point relative to growth. With the LDS Temple nearing completion, the City will no longer be a drive-through area, but a destination city. It should be key to make sure growth strengthens infrastructure, not stretches it. He believes in inward development infill first, focusing on areas where services already exist. Growth needs to be guided by residents' voices, with public input gathered through surveys, open forums, and neighborhood planning sessions to keep two-way communication open. As growth occurs, the economy needs

to be bolstered with walkable business hubs throughout the City. He is willing to serve on any committee where he is required.

Cheryl Peck

She and her husband moved to Smithfield two years ago. They have seven children who all attended Sky View High School. She and her husband own their own business, Rezzimax, which is based in Smithfield. They are currently serving as senior missionaries for the LDS Church at the Green Canyon Seminary. She was asked to apply and initially said no, but after thinking it over, she felt she should. She served for eight years on the Richmond City Council and the library board. She has served on the councils at Park Elementary, White Pine Elementary, North Cache Junior High, and Sky View High School for many years. She loves the small-town feel of Smithfield but also realizes the need for places for upcoming generations to live. She is a strong advocate for property rights but recognizes that regulations are in place for the community's good. She is willing and able to make the time to serve on boards and committees where needed. She also noted that she appreciates the recent tree-trimming efforts the City is undertaking in the park strips.

Bob Felshaw

He, his wife, and two stepsons have lived in Smithfield since 2020. He grew up in Brigham City and attended Box Elder High School. After high school, he enlisted in the Utah Army National Guard. He has also worked in construction and for a short time as a security guard; however, most of his career has been in the military and civil service. He still serves and during the week works at the National Guard Armory, managing equipment readiness. His 21 years of military service have given him leadership experience, a strong sense of duty, and the ability to work both independently and collaboratively. He has managed people, budgets, and equipment under tight constraints, requiring careful planning, accountability, and the efficient use of limited resources. These principles are critical for effective city governance. He can make balanced and informed decisions. As he nears the end of his military career, he is eager to continue serving the community. He would like the opportunity to give back to the citizens of Smithfield by applying his leadership experience, resource stewardship, and commitment to service to help guide the City. Growth is something every community faces; when managed with care and foresight, it can be a good thing. One of the things that makes Smithfield special is its small-town feel and neighbors knowing one another, which are worth protecting as we move forward. Growth needs to be planned, investing wisely in infrastructure, and fit the character of the community. The balance lies in welcoming new families and opportunities while still preserving the sense of community that brought many to Smithfield. With deliberate, thoughtful planning and open communication, the City can grow in a way that strengthens rather than changes the community. He is willing and able to serve on any committee; his interests include recreation, youth council, senior citizens, and historical society. He enjoys a challenge and learning new things.

Blaine Nuttall

His family moved to Cache Valley 20 years ago. His wife has lived in Smithfield her entire life. The City is a great community. They have two boys who are involved in many activities, and he would like to be more involved. He works at Conservice, helping manage multi-million-dollar portfolios. He has been the team lead of the Quality Control Team for the past three years. He coaches and trains new employees. His career, including leadership and finance experience, can help with this position. Growth will keep happening; managing it responsibly is a priority. Water and safety are significant concerns. He desires to do what is best for the community.

Michael Beckstead

He and his wife have two children and have lived in Smithfield for 20 years. He grew up in Weston, Idaho. He has a vested interest in the City. He started his career at LW Miller 19 years ago and has been working at Logan City as the Fleet Manager for the past eight years. During his tenure at Logan, he has worked with many city departments and has helped with planning, budgeting, and purchasing. He would like to see growth managed responsibly, with infrastructure in place to make it feasible and to provide a high quality of life. He could be a valuable part of planning, including master planning, and is willing to help wherever needed.

Melanie Sorensen

She has lived in Smithfield since 2008. She noted that she did not like looking directly at the council members during this presentation because the position is serving the residents not the council and mayor. Although she understands, she does not like the law of how to fill a mid-term vacancy specifically, a coin toss if necessary and thinks it should be handled through an election. She has attended many government meetings and feels the need to take a step forward and “put yourself out there”. She has heard many candidates talk about trying to keep their communities the same without growing but that is not a reality. Growth is inevitable, but necessary, and has to be done the best way possible. She works as a Lead Regulatory Strategist at Cytiva and is a global RA. She is very familiar with laws and policies and shaping them. She has been involved in many different associations and has learned through experience that everyone is a person first. Building trust and bringing people together can help get positive results.

Deon Hunsaker

He and his wife were both raised in Cache Valley. They have five children and 16 grandchildren. Four of their children live nearby. He worked for 50 years at Hickman Land Title before he retired. Part of his responsibilities included checking plats and property records to ensure correctness. He also prepared water reports for the State Water Rights Office. He previously served on the Smithfield City Council for 12 years. Over the past seven years, he has held a church assignment auditing local units, during which he has helped with corrections and important budget work. Regarding growth, when he first started working on the General Plan several years ago, the ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns) advised that 97% of growth in Cache Valley was internal. A large part of the growth is in families. The City Council cannot control growth but can plan for it. Transportation, especially when the LDS Temple is completed, is a critical component that needs to be considered. He has worked with many city departments

and served on numerous committees during his tenure on the Council, and he has extensive experience.

Jared Pratt

He has lived in Smithfield for 12 years and has four children who have graduated from Sky View High School. He has developed a deep appreciation for the community. He is a dedicated public service professional and has worked in public works for many years, currently as Water and Wastewater Manager. He would like to serve the community's citizens, whom he loves. He recognizes that you never truly feel ready for such a responsibility; readiness is a decision he is prepared to take on. Some great candidates have applied. He has extensive experience and, with his deep commitment to the community, has gained first-hand insight into how city decisions impact residents' daily lives. He is deeply committed to engaging in transparency. Growth is a vital component of a thriving community, bringing new opportunities; however, it must be managed thoroughly and sustainably to preserve the quality of life. He has seen the impacts on infrastructure and services. To effectively manage growth, he believes in community engagement and feedback to ensure decisions align with community values; to educate residents on why specific actions are necessary; and to sustain practices and keep infrastructure up to par. He believes in diverse housing opportunities; a variety of housing types need to be encouraged. Economic development and supporting local businesses are key to the local economy. He is willing to serve where needed but is most interested in the tree committee and community heritage.

Anca Matcovschi

She has lived in Smithfield since 2018, when she and her husband moved from Salt Lake City to take a role at USU (Utah State University). Her husband was raised in Cache Valley. She currently works as a Chief Communications & Marketing Officer at one of USU's most innovative research centers, which specializes in transportation infrastructure innovation. She has two daughters who take advantage of all the opportunities within the community such as the schools, parks, splash pads, farms, canyons, and recreation and community events. It is through this family lens that she has learned to appreciate the community. The knowledge she can offer stems from over 15 years of experience in marketing and communications across three continents. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics & Marketing, an MBA in Data Analytics, and is currently enrolled in the PhD program at USU. She has been an active Rotary Club member since 2019. She can help the Council with program planning and implementation experience, and a wealth of creative ideas. She is a pragmatist with knowledge across a broad array of areas and topics and hopes these talents and skills will complement the Council. Through her professional work, education, and service, she has sought to understand what it takes to build a self-sufficient, economically thriving community where multiple generations can gather, support one another, and learn from one another. Important elements of such a community include a thriving downtown with entertainment, local businesses, and energy that builds essential skills in our youth and prepares them for the future. She is mindful of the tensions between growth and maintaining a small-town feel and can offer a balanced perspective. She would be happy to contribute to any committees that support economic development, entrepreneurialism, and intergenerational programs and spaces.

Caralee Stokes

Caralee has lived in Cache Valley most of her life. She grew up in River Heights and moved to Smithfield in 1988. She has three children and 15 grandchildren. She attends City meetings regularly and has seen a lot of changes. There are some great candidates for this position and recognizes this will be a difficult decision. Although she may not have as many experiences as other applicants, she tries to stay involved in the process. She works at Lee's Marketplace. She is very patriotic and knows Smithfield well. Growth has to happen, but it should happen in the right way. It has been discussed for years. She would like to see more families and neighborhoods; there are already many dense housing units and rentals. There should be a vision of what the City will look like in 20 years and plan accordingly. She has time to participate in any committee assigned to her.

Michael Taylor

He moved to Smithfield 25 years ago. He is married with four daughters; all of whom attended Sky View High School. He sold his car dealership eight years ago. During that time, he managed personnel and budgets and made difficult decisions. He is pro-growth if it is done responsibly and logically. He is happy to help on any committee/assignment. He would really enjoy helping with the golf course and public works.

Discussion and possible appointment of a new city council member to serve through December 31, 2027.

Mayor Monson thanked everyone who applied. Most mid-term vacancies do not usually get this type of turnout, and it is very much appreciated and an absolute honor. It shows what a great community we live in. If not selected, there are many other opportunities for participants to be involved in other areas.

*****Motion made by Councilmember Campbell to appoint John Engler to serve as a new city council member to serve through December 31, 2027.**

Councilmember Staker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.***

Yes Vote: Campbell, Hyer, Orme, Staker

No Vote: None

Dana Lazcanotegui, the City Recorder, administered the Oath of Office to John Engler, and the City Council congratulated and welcomed him.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

SMITHFIELD CITY CORPORATION

Kristi Monson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dana Lazcanotegui, City Recorder



**SMITHFIELD CITY CORPORATION
96 South Main
Smithfield, UT 84335**

AGENDA

Public notice is given that the Smithfield City Council will meet in a regularly scheduled meeting at 96 South Main, Smithfield, Utah on **October 15, 2025**. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome/pledge of allegiance and thought/prayer by Jenn Staker.

1. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes from September 10, 2025.
2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda, or agenda items not requiring a public hearing during the City Council meeting.
3. Approval of Zachary Smyer as Birch Creek Golf Course Superintendent.
4. Discussion and possible vote on Resolution 2025-09, a Resolution supporting America250 Utah and recognizing and approving the America250 Smithfield Utah Committee.
5. Discussion and possible vote on Resolution 2025-10, a Resolution amending the Prevailing Fee Schedule of the City.

6. Interviews with applicants applying to fill the city council member midterm vacancy through December 31, 2027.
7. Discussion and possible appointment of a new city council member to serve through December 31, 2027.

Adjournment

A training session will be held with Craig Call and the City Council and Planning Commission from 5:30 – 6:20 P.M.

*****Items on the agenda may be considered earlier than shown on the agenda*****

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing unique accommodation for this meeting should contact the City Recorder at (435) 792-7997 at least three (3) days before the date of the meeting.

The meeting will be streamed at the following link: [YouTube Channel](#)