



VINEYARD
STAY CONNECTED

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE VINEYARD
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City council Chambers
125 South Main Street, Vineyard Utah
January 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM

Present

Mayor Julie Fullmer
Councilmember Sara Cameron
Councilmember Brett Clawson
Councilmember Jacob Holdaway
Councilmember Mardi Sifuentes

Staff Present: City Manager Eric Ellis, City Attorney Jayme Blakesley, Community Development Director Morgan Brim, Finance Director Kristie Bayles, Public Works Director Naseem Ghandour, Parks and Recreation Director Brian Vawdrey, Communications Manager Jenna Ahern, City Recorder Pamela Spencer and Deputy City Recorder Tony Lara

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT/PLEDGE
OF ALLEGIANCE**

- ▶ Mayor Fullmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. PRESENTATION

2.1. Open and Public Meetings Act / Ethics Training

City Attorney Jayme Blakesley will present on the Open and Public Meetings Act.

- ▶ City Attorney Jayme Blakesley presented on the Open and Public Meetings Act. He covered several aspects of the law, including specifics on issues as they pertained to closed sessions.
- ▶ Mr. Blakesley covered the ethics act.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1. Code of Conduct (Ordinance 2025-01)

City Attorney Jayme Blakesley will present a recommendation for a city council code of conduct. The mayor and City Council will act to adopt (or deny) this request by Ordinance.

- ▶ Mr. Blakesley presented the proposed code of conduct.
- ▶ Councilmember Clawson asked about the enforcement of the code of conduct, specifically as it pertained to the number of votes needed for any action.
- ▶ Councilmember Cameron had additional questions about the process and clarification on how investigations would be conducted or initiated. Councilmember Sifuentes shared concerns that some of the language may be too broad. There was a discussion regarding amending or adding clarifying language to create a more formalized process.
- ▶ Councilmember Holdaway asked if there was any public involvement in the creation of the code of conduct. He suggested having citizens work on putting together a code of conduct. A discussion ensued.
- ▶ Councilmember Cameron commented on the process of how an agenda is formed. She reminded the council that it has always been the position of the mayor that if there was an item that someone on the council felt needed more work, that votes could be delayed. She stated that she never felt like there was an item that she was being pushed to vote on.
- ▶ Councilmember Holdaway suggested that city staff and those on the council had made false claims about him or his family, though he did not detail those allegations. He stated that almost everyone in the room had spread disinformation in some way, even himself, and that because of that censure is not necessarily a just consequence. He asserted that in some cases to get to what he believed were the core issues he had to be aggressive in a way that some might characterize as bullying.
- ▶ Councilmember Holdaway stated that abuse is subjective and that it would be inappropriate to give the council authority to decide if a member had been abusive, that the term is too hard to define.
- ▶ Councilmember Holdaway shared additional concerns with the terminology regarding going above and beyond and outside the bounds of authority. He felt that its inclusion in a code of conduct would prevent him from speaking to stakeholders outside of council meetings. He stated that in some instances he had, while using what he believed was his authority as an elected official, had to disseminate protected information. He believed that as a member of the council he had the authority to define what falls within attorney client privilege. He felt that the public's right to know was more important than a document being protected. He believed that prohibiting that in a code of conduct would tie his hands.

▶ Mr. Blakesley added clarification on several points raised by Councilmember Holdaway. Specifically, how attorney client privilege worked as it pertained to the council and who was responsible for classifications of records. He stressed that councilmembers have an obligation to verify the classification of a document before sharing it publicly.

▶ Councilmember Holdaway felt that those classifications should be discussed and reevaluated. That due to unspecified issues with city leadership that those issues had necessitated violation of those classifications. He stated that he trusted Mr. Blakesley but that on some matters he felt he had not been truthful and that if something isn't true then it isn't a protected document. Additionally, he asserted that if he determined whether a document or statement was false or misleading that he would share it publicly and accept the consequences, choosing to side with transparency and the citizens.

▶ Councilmember Sifuentes asked for clarification on statements made by Councilmember Holdaway, regarding what he described as his duty to represent a minority voice in the city. A discussion ensued. Mr. Blakesley recommended creating a subcommittee that would evaluate the code of conduct and recommend changes.

▶ Councilmember Cameron asked for clarification on the previously discussed ethics board. A discussion ensued.

▶ Mayor Fullmer established a subcommittee, including councilmembers Holdaway and Clawson, to evaluate the code of conduct and recommend changes.

▶ Mayor Fullmer called for a motion to move the code of conduct to the next meeting.

▶ **Motion:** COUNCILMEMBER SIFUENTES MOVED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE 2025-01 TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 29TH. COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON, SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR FULLMER AND COUNCILMEMBERS CAMERON, SIFUENTES, CLAWSON, AND HOLDAWAY VOTED YES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. CLOSED SESSION

▶ **Motion:** COUNCILMEMBER SIFUENTES MOVED TO ENTER A CLOSED SESSION, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL. COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION. ROLL CALL WENT AS FOLLOWS: MAYOR FULLMER AND COUNCILMEMBERS CAMERON, SIFUENTES, CLAWSON, AND HOLDAWAY VOTED YES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fullmer adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED ON:

1/29/2025

CERTIFIED CORRECT BY:



TONY LARA, DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

