

**HEBER CITY CORPORATION  
75 North Main Street  
Heber City, UT 84032  
Heber City Council Meeting  
May 8, 2026**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop Meeting #2**

**I. BUDGET WORKSHOP #2 - 6:00 P.M.**

**City Council Present:** Mayor Heidi Franco - remotely  
Council Member Yvonne Barney  
Council Member Aaron Cheatwood  
Council Member Mike Johnston  
Council Member Morgan Murdock  
Council Member Sid Ostergaard

**Staff Present:** City Manager Matt Brower  
Assistant City Manager Mark Smedley  
City Engineer Russ Funk  
Finance Manager Sara Jane Nagel  
City Recorder Andrew Conley  
Chief of Police Parker Sever  
Judge Randy Birch

**Staff Participating Remotely:** Public Works Director Matthew Kennard.

**Also Present:** No one from the public attended the meeting in-person.

**Also Attending Remotely:** (names are shown as signed-in online) A, Bec, MTN, and Shortcake5.

1. Call to Order (Heidi Franco, Mayor) -

Mayor Franco called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM and welcomed everyone present.

**II. 2027 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

1. Finance Director Statement of Proposed Property Tax Increase and Presentation of the Proposed Property Tax Impact Schedule (Sara Nagel, Finance Manager) -

The Statement of Proposed Property Tax Increase and Presentation of the Proposed Property Tax Impact Schedule is included in the meeting materials.

2. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Workshop Number Two (Sara Nagel, Finance Manager, Matt Brower, City Manager)

City Manager Matt Brower listed the follow-up items from the first Budget Workshop as included in the meeting presentation slide-deck. City Engineer Russ Funk explained that the Transportation Utility Fee required a traffic impact study prior to implementation.

Council Member Johnston felt strongly that the Planning Department needed another Planner to meet an acceptable level of service for the City. Mayor Franco hoped to see the City offer property tax relief to the property owners that qualified under the County's tax abatement program. Council discussed funding options for the additional planning position, the salt shed replacement at Public Works, and offering assistance to property owners in need.

Mr. Brower reviewed the Airport funding and contributions from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He provided Airport revenues and explained how the airport projects were funded. Ms. Nagel provided further explanation of the two Airport funds within the City budget.

Ms. Nagel described Fund 42, the Capital Improvement Fund, and proposed the City designate an amount to dedicate to the fund for unforeseen needs of the City. Currently, Fund 42 had no money. Council Member Cheatwood proposed \$100,000.00 be dedicated to Fund 42 and Ms. Nagel agreed to try to find money in the budget to be moved.

Mr. Brower proposed the City perform a utility rate study to ensure the customers were paying a sufficient amount to cover the costs. A replacement line project was needed for the aging lines on the west side of town.

Ms. Nagel and Mr. Brower provided additional information on revenues, expenditures, and departmental requests, as included in the attached presentation and proposed Tentative Budget. The Council asked questions and provided direction on funding priorities, operational needs, and potential adjustments. Council Members discussed options for balancing the budget and ensuring responsible use of public funds. No formal action was taken during the workshop, and staff agreed to incorporate the Council's feedback into the next draft of the Tentative Budget for consideration prior to Council adoption.

Chief of Police Parker Sever shared a presentation proposing the consolidation of the Heber City Justice Court with the Wasatch County Court, as outlined in the attached meeting materials. He listed the benefits to the City that would result in the proposed consolidation. He clarified the decision would need to be made that year as the sitting Judge Randy Birch would be up for re-election. It was a six-year term. Mr. Brower noted that the space used for the Court could be converted to additional office space for the growing need for more staff. It was noted that the Heber Light and Power office building could be converted into City office space.

Judge Birch equated consolidating the courts to hiring consultants. The residents in the City were known to the City's Justice Court system and staff. Prosecutor Mark Smedley reiterated that the residents that appeared in the local Court had a more personable experience but understood if Council felt the decision to consolidate made better sense economically. Consensus of Council majority did not express interest in dissolving the local City Court system, but wished to have additional discussion a coming City Council Meeting in June.

Council decided to cancel the third Budget Workshop Meeting that was scheduled for the following day, Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (3 min per person/20 min max)

No one from the public came forward to comment.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** Council Member Barney made the motion to adjourn.

**Second:** Council Member Cheatwood made the second.

**Voting Yes:** Council Members Ostergaard, Johnston, Barney, Cheatwood, and Murdock.

**Voting No:** None.

The **Motion Passed 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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Trina Cooke, City Recorder