

**HEBER CITY CORPORATION
75 North Main Street
Heber City, UT 84032
Heber City Council Meeting
June 25, 2026**

DRAFT Minutes

5:00 p.m. Special Meeting

I. SPECIAL MEETING - 5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Heidi Franco called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present, noting that Fire Chief Eric Hales was in attendance.

City Council Present: Mayor Heidi Franco
Council Member Yvonne Barney
Council Member Mike Johnston
Council Member Morgan Murdock
Council Member Sid Ostergaard

City Council Absent: Council Member Aaron Cheatwood

Staff Present: City Manager Matt Brower
Assistant City Manager Mark Smedley
Deputy City Recorder Andrew Conley
Community Development Director Tony Kohler

Staff Participating Remotely: City Planner Jacob Roberts, IT Director Anthon Beales, Planning Administrative Assistant Meshelle Kijanen, City Attorney Jeremy Cook, and Chief of Police Parker Sever.

Also Present: Barb Clark, Grace Doerfler KPCW, Fire Chief Eric Hales, and others who did not sign in or whose handwriting was illegible.

Also Attending Remotely: (names are shown as signed-in online) Sydnei, A, Heber Resident, Jordan, Ken, Jacob, Morgan, Shorty5, Taylor B, Tim, and Troy Morgan.

II. ACTION ITEMS: (Council can discuss; table; continue; or approve items)

1. Resolution 2026-17 Heber City Fireworks Ban (Matt Brower, City Manager) -

Mayor Franco quoted the following statement distributed by the Utah League of Cities and Towns issued from the Governor's Office:

"The governor has declared a state of emergency and is suspending the law that prevents the state forester from banning fireworks within municipalities. The state forester will be releasing an order that will ban fireworks state-wide, unless it is a licensed fireworks show or the fireworks are used within a municipality's designated area, to be jointly determined by the mayor and the chief."

Mayor Franco advised there would be a webinar from the State at 9:30 a.m. the following morning with additional information.

City Manager Brower shared a video of the governor's press conference held earlier that afternoon to declare a state of emergency and ban fireworks, as included in the meeting recording. He reiterated that the ban did not include licensed fireworks shows and allowed the mayor and fire chief in a municipality to designate sanctioned locations to allow fireworks. Mr. Brower showed a slide with possible locations to allow fireworks. Public Works Director Matthew Kennard offered suggestions of City Parks that had been identified as possible locations as well. Council and Fire Chief Eric Hales discussed the possible locations, potential traffic issues, safety precautions, and the distribution of information to notify the community.

Consensus of Council majority was that the City Council could express support for the decision of the Mayor and Fire Chief to establish permitted locations for fireworks but did not need the proposed resolution. Mayor Franco and Chief Hales agreed to meet the following morning after the State webinar to determine where to allow fireworks. Council further discussed the dates and time to allow fireworks, to impose a fine of \$1,000.00 for anyone violating the order, to encourage strict enforcement by the Police Department, and clean-up by City Staff at the designated locations.

Mayor Franco opened the discussion for public comment.

Barb Clark expressed appreciation for the Council discussion and direction. She wanted to see all fireworks banned entirely. She suggested the City reach out to the HOA's (homeowners associations) to help distribute the message.

Sydnei McShaw also wanted to see all fireworks banned now and in the future. She proposed a drone show as an alternative, noting the dry State that we lived in and the exceptionally dry winter that year.

Matt Brower informed everyone that there would be a free concert and a drone show as part of the Red, White, and Blue Festival on Friday, July 3rd, 2026. He suggested the public attend that event as an alternative to July 4th festivities.

Council Member Barney referred to comments made online indicating that it was not legal for the City to ban fireworks so late in the year. She hoped the educational information would include the fact that the decision had been made by an executive order issued from the Governor based on the emergency wildfire crisis the State was currently facing.

Council and Staff agreed to meet in the morning to finalize the decisions and have the information distributed to the public by the afternoon.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Council Member Ostergaard made the motion to adjourn.

Second: Council Member Barney made the second.

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

Voting No: None.

Council Member Cheatwood was absent.

The **Motion Passed 4-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM

Trina Cooke, City Recorder

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (received by email at ccpublic@heberut.gov)

From: sue Oquendo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 5:37 PM
To: CC Public Comments <ccpublic@heberut.gov>
Subject: (EXTERNAL)

Caution: This is an EXTERNAL email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact your IT Department

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Please please! For the safety of all ban home fireworks this year!
Susan K Carlton

From: Evelyn Terranova [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2026 11:15 AM
To: CC Public Comments <ccpublic@heberut.gov>
Subject: (EXTERNAL) fireworks input 2026

I highly support banning fireworks unless at the fairgrounds or other large, no home and no tree area. No neighborhood fireworks of any class.

I live in Muirfield and there are many many homes next to the canal that runs through Muirfield. The grass is high, dry and kindling just ready to burn at the slightest spark.

Thank you for even considering banning them this year in this drought. I'm grateful for all your efforts.

Evelyn Terranova

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Trina Cooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2026 11:52 AM
To: CC Public Comments <ccpublic@heberut.gov>
Cc: Matt Brower <mbrower@Heberut.gov>; Andrew Conley <aconley@heberut.gov>
Subject: Forwarding a Comment

Hello Council -

I took a call from Liz Field this morning who is unable to access the internet or email, and unable to attend the meeting tonight. She asked me to pass along her plea for the City to prohibit all fireworks this Fourth of July. She said she had spoken to 20 to 30 of her neighbors who were all in agreement that they would rather not have any fireworks this year than risk any more wildfires.

Thank you -

Trina Cooke, MMC, UCC
City Recorder

From: Tyson Bolduc [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2026 5:28 PM
To: CC Public Comments <ccpublic@heberut.gov>
Subject: (EXTERNAL) Ban Fireworks

Dear city Council,

I lived in Heber City for going on five years and every holiday season especially the Fourth of July seems like a war zone in the city. The number of fireworks that are lit off is not only a pollution issue a sound issue but also a trauma issue for many residents and animals. This year with the increased fire risk sending the message for people to be more cautious and aware of the fire risks before the state has the potential to burn down is imperative.

Please implement and follow the recommendations of governor Cox and issue the fireworks band in Heber city.

Thank you,
Tyson Bolduc

From: Tyson Bolduc <bolductyson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2026 6:03 PM
To: CC Public Comments <ccpublic@heberut.gov>
Subject: (EXTERNAL) Shocking

Dear City Council,

Listening to this meeting was absolutely appalling. Who are you guys trying to appease by setting up multiple locations for people to light off fireworks during one of the worst fire in drought seasons that the city has ever seen?

The same people who are probably arguing and complaining about food prices, and gas prices going up for the ones that miraculously have money to blow up in the sky?

Now you guys are going through extreme measures in order to open up specific areas for people to light off fireworks, however, those areas happen to be the places where people recreate with their children. So now all of the pollutants, trash, waste and byproduct of these fireworks are gonna be in the areas where you want people to go recreate and play with children. Additionally, many of these parks are right across from areas where people have cattle, horses, and other animals. The blatant disregard for logic in this discussion is absolutely shocking. Going through such great lengths to find loopholes instead of just following the blanket recommendation from the states is laughable.

What a joke.

Disappointed, but no longer shocked by this city council.

For the record, i'll add a list of some of the chemicals found in fireworks just so you're aware of what is going to be spread around our Parks:

The most common toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and byproducts found in fireworks include: [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

1. Heavy Metals & Metallic Compounds

- **Barium:** Used to produce brilliant green colors. Barium compounds are known to be poisonous and can cause gastrointestinal issues and respiratory distress.
- **Copper:** Creates vivid blue and bluish-green colors. Copper dust and fumes are highly irritating to the respiratory tract and can release trace dioxins.
- **Strontium:** Produces the bright red colors in many common fireworks.
- **Lead:** Sometimes found in firework smoke and specific pyrotechnic formulations. Lead is a highly toxic heavy metal that causes severe, long-term neurological and developmental damage.
- **Aluminum & Magnesium:** Used to create bright white flashes and crackling spark effects. While generally benign in larger pieces, their fine metallic dust can irritate the lungs when inhaled.
- **Cadmium & Manganese:** Trace heavy metals often released into the air during the explosion. Both are recognized as toxic air pollutants that impact respiratory and neurological health.

2. Oxidizers & Stabilizers

- **Perchlorates:** Chemicals such as potassium perchlorate and ammonium perchlorate act as oxygen donors to fuel the explosion. They are highly toxic to the environment, frequently contaminating local drinking water and altering thyroid function.
- **Potassium Chlorate:** Another common oxidizer used to make fireworks highly reactive. It can be toxic to the kidneys if ingested in large enough quantities.
- **Potassium Dichromate:** Sometimes used in smaller quantities as a fuel or whistle agent. Chromium compounds are known carcinogens and respiratory hazards.
- **Arsenic:** Used in trace amounts as a stabilizer or color enhancer in some formulations. It is a well-known systemic toxicant and carcinogen.

3. Combustion Gases & Particulate Matter

- **Sulfur Dioxide & Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x):** Formed when gunpowder (sulfur and charcoal) burns. These gases contribute to acid rain and can severely irritate the eyes, lungs, and throat.
- **Carbon Monoxide:** Released in the confined explosion.
- **Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}):** The microscopic dust left suspended in the air after the show. These tiny particles carry heavy metals deep into the lungs, triggering asthma attacks and heart issues for vulnerable individuals.

For a deeper dive into the regulatory framework surrounding pyrotechnic safety, you can review the official [Department of Transportation Table of Standard Fireworks Chemicals](#). You can also learn more about the heavy metal fallout from [NYU Langone Health](#).

Nice work city council. Spineless as usual.
TB