

Hurricane City Water Board
Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2025

Present: Ken Richins, Angie Tripp, Kory Wright, Mac Hall, Dayton Hall, Clark Fawcett, John Slack, Leah Thompson, Bevin Johnson, Gary Cupp, Casey Lofthouse, and Mike Vercimak

Guest: Bruce Zimmerman

Item #1 Call to order, prayer

Mac Hall called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Clark Fawcett gave the prayer.

Item #2 Approval of minutes of May 27, 2025

Leah Thompson motion to approve the minutes from May 27, 2025. Bevin Johnson second the motion. Motion passed

Item #3 Report on irrigation expansion Phase 1 & Phase 2 piping, irrigation ponds, and pump station projects

Kory Wright said Interstate Rock has finished up most of 1300 S going to have it done before school starts. They have got the vault all concreted in. Interstate has gone down 840 S which was finished up last week it's been paved. Interstate is getting ready to head down to 920 S and start putting services in for the irrigation system. Interstate is moving along and everything is going well.

Funding for the next phase is moving along positively.

Item #4 Report on Goulds Wash well and Sky Ranch well and Sky Ranch 2MG water tank status

Ken Richins said the drillers Gardner Brothers have had a hard time getting started, with all the lava rock their drill has had some problems. They now have everything fixed and hopefully it will go well. Ken gave a brief explanation of what the drillers have been doing to get the drilling started. They haven't started on Sky Ranch well but are getting closer.

Kory Wright said they are about ready to prepare concrete for the Sky Ranch 2MG tank. He said he checked it today and looks they are going along well.

Item #5 Update on Dixie Springs well project

Kory Wright explained we are waiting for the pump and motor to get here. Interstate has everything ready to go as soon as the pump gets here. The pump and motor should be here in the middle of August. Interstate Rock has been working on getting the tank ready so when the parts get here, they can get it started. The plan is to have it up and run at the end of August. By having the tank up and running the city won't have to buy as much water from the district.

Item #6 Water rate discussion

Clark Fawcett passed out the attached spreadsheet explaining the months he has calculated rates. The information gathered are from reports pulled off Caselle which is the billing system for the city. The spreadsheet shows what's been billed out by usage only not including the base rate. He put in a 10-cent increase showing how it would affect each tier level. He would like to keep putting data in for a whole year data to see what it will do. Clark went over sections of the spreadsheet which shows a full year broke down for each tier rate. Clark gave a brief discussion of what each section of the spreadsheet represents. He put this together so we can see what the best way is to raise tiers to help with funding. If anyone has any ideas, he is open to suggestions. He suggested maybe raising rates on the higher tiers to generate more income while keeping lower tiers affordable.

Bevin Johnson suggested that those that are on a fixed income that if the city had away to do a hardship waiver for those that need assistance. This would be a form that they would need to fill out and show they need assistance. This would give them a lower rate.

Dayton Hall said the city could do an ordinance that would be across the board for everyone if they fall under certain criteria.

Kory Wright suggested changing the first tier, so they are smaller than raise for the additional tiers. Kory also had some questions about raising just our base rate. By raising the baser rate and the tiers this will help fund the failing infrastructure in Dixie Springs area. He talked to Glen with Alpha Engineering about getting the information together and what it would take to fix the leaks and replace the failing pipes in Dixie Springs area.

Clark Fawcett explained that with the rate increase that will help with some of the projects that need to be done. Clark suggested Ken and Kory get some data together and have Kaden Demille the city manager involved and go over what is needed to get some of the projects completed.

Ken Richins asked if Clark would like him and Kory to put together a project list for at least 5 years together so the board can see what needs to be done and get an estimate of what needs to be taken care of for maintenance and infrastructure projects. Clark felt like that would be a good idea.

John Slack and Casey Lofthouse suggested that those who have secondary/irrigation water are required to hook up and not use culinary water. Mac Hall explained that even though some residents are not hooked up to irrigation they do fall under a higher culinary rate.

The water board had a brief discussion on rates and infrastructure that needs to be taken care of. There was also a discussion on the water sure charge fee.

Item #7 Report on recommendation to the city council for proposed ordinance of water irrigation for development

Dayton Hall explained that the board proposed an ordinance in the meeting pertaining to irrigation water for development to go to city council for approval. The city council passed, and it is now ordinance #2025-13.

Item #8 Discussion on the Sand Hollow Aquifer study

Leah Thompson talked about the meeting they had today July 29th with the state engineer and some of her committee members. Also attending was Nathan Moses from the conservancy district along with the citizen committee and the city mayor Nanette Billings. The state had requested this meeting with the petitioners who asked for the study which was the district, city of St George, and Hurricane city.

Leah Thompson stated that the city of St George has moved their water out of the basin they are not players anymore. For the plan to go forward they need to find a safe yield which they don't have enough data right now to estimate that. They proposed some additional study. The district and Hurricane City are going to get with USGS and come up with some funding estimates. Once this is done, they are hoping to have an outline within a couple of months. The state engineers and participants are hoping to have a scope of study completed in a 1 year to 18 months to determine a safe yield.

The State is looking for additional information to find out how fast the Aquifer is recharging before deciding. There will be some additional data collected from the recovery project out in the reservoir. There is questions about is the water leaks into the river or is someone over pumping. Water flowing from aquifer needs to be studied more.

Leah Thompson gave a brief discussion that was discussed in the meeting held today.

Item #9 Discussion and possible recommendation to the city council on the Hurricane city water conservation plan

This will need to be discussed later while we are still waiting for an approved draft from the district.

Item #10 Discussion on drought

Mac Hall gave a brief discussion on the drought that's been going on in our valley. Explained that we need to be careful about watering, it's really dry in the area. He explained that all the streams are down. The city is doing good with the management of water. The help from the district serving us water has helped. We really need some rain in the valley to help.

Dayton Hall gave an explanation on how zone changes can change some of the development in the valley if we don't have the infrastructure to upzone property. State legislation has created laws that require development.

The board had a discussion on the water issues going on in southern Utah and how the growth is affecting the water usage in the area.

Item #11 Report on Water System

Kory Wright gave a discussion on where the city is with our water rights. The city is doing good with our water rights, but we have doubled what we have had to buy from the district. This happened when our west well went down, right when water usage was getting high and we had to buy the water from the district. Now with Toquerville Springs we must meet the demand of the irrigators first, so it has reduced our water being taken from the springs. With this happening we had to use water from the district which caused it to double in price. The city is pulling the max out of Ash Creek springs.

Item #12 New Business

No new business

Item #13 Adjourn 8:35 pm