

PRESS RELEASE

Proposed Policy Updates Set Vision for Ogden-Hinckley Airport's Future

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"Two years ago, Ogden-Hinckley Airport faced some tough questions and even tougher circumstances," said Mayor Ben Nadolski. "Today, we're not declaring victory—but we are making meaningful, measured progress. Trust takes time to rebuild, and sound policy takes time to craft. What matters most is that we're listening, learning, and taking thoughtful steps forward with the people who use and rely on this airport every day."

The 2024 legislative audit served as a valuable turning point for Ogden-Hinckley Airport, providing a clear and actionable roadmap for improvement. City leaders embraced the recommendations as a framework for progress and since then has worked diligently to strengthen governance, increase transparency, and elevate operational standards. These updates reflect not only a thoughtful response to the audit but a growing foundation of stakeholder collaboration, internal reform, and a shared commitment to responsible, long-term success.

These efforts have been strengthened through the guidance of Ascension Group Partners, a nationally recognized aviation consulting firm retained to help align the airport with modern industry best practices. The firm's recommendations have helped shape updates to commercial standards, lease policies, and the organization of airport governance. Equally important has been the consistent engagement of airport stakeholders, including Fixed Base Operators, commercial tenants, and private users, all of whom have provided direct input into the improvement process.

One of the most visible and immediate steps now before the City is the proposed realignment of Ogden's City Code, which will be presented initially at the Ogden City Council work session on July 15. Under the proposed structure, core operational ordinances would remain under Title 8 and continue to be subject to City Council oversight, while day-to-day airport policy development and administrative functions would shift to Title 11, placing those responsibilities within the Mayor's executive authority. This framework is intended to balance strong public oversight with the operational flexibility necessary for a modern municipal airport. "This next step is small in the big picture, but fundamental for the long term," said Mayor Nadolski. "We've laid the groundwork through collaboration, policy development, and community engagement—now it's time to put that structure into place. The City Council's initial review on July 15 is the next step in the path forward, and I believe it reflects the kind of accountable, forward-thinking governance our community expects and deserves."

Stakeholder input has been central to this process. In early 2024, the City began working more closely with a coalition of airport users by creating structured opportunities for dialogue, information sharing, and policy feedback. This effort has led to more meaningful collaboration, helping bridge the gap between the airport's daily operations and its long-term strategic planning.

“At the Mayor’s Direction, we’ve made it a priority to engage the people most affected by airport policy,” said Airport Director Brian Condie. “That means listening carefully, giving people a chance to speak candidly, and working through disagreement when it happens. This process hasn’t been fast, nor has it been perfect—but that’s because we’re doing it right. We’re building policies around real needs and real input, and that takes time and effort.”

“I want to sincerely thank the many individuals and organizations who have contributed their time, insight, and experience to this effort so far,” said Mayor Nadolski. “From our Fixed Base Operators to commercial aviation partners and general aviation tenants, their perspectives have been instrumental in shaping a stronger, more responsive airport that serves everyone more effectively.”

The City Council is now preparing to formally consider the proposed realignments to Titles 8 and 11, marking a key step in the airport’s ongoing transformation. The changes proposed are structured to realize efficiencies in ongoing operations, tenant expectations, and public accountability. Implementation will be accompanied by new communication tools to ensure continued transparency, including website updates, public briefings, and opportunities for additional stakeholder feedback.

“As we bring the proposed updates to Titles 8 and 11 before the City Council, we recognize this as just one step on a much larger path,” said Mayor Nadolski. “We’re not done—there’s still important work ahead to fully realize the airport’s potential. But every good step builds momentum, and this one reflects the kind of thoughtful collaboration, transparency, and public service that will guide us moving forward.”

Even as this process continues, Ogden-Hinckley Airport remains a vital part of Northern Utah’s economy. According to the Utah Department of Transportation’s 2020 Aviation Development Strategy, the airport generates more than \$328 million in annual economic activity, supports over 2,600 jobs, and contributes nearly \$13 million in tax revenue.

With a modernized foundation, a culture of stakeholder-driven governance, and a renewed focus on trust and accountability, Ogden-Hinckley Airport is building a better future—step by step, and the right way.

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