

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
Tuesday, January 23, 2024

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in a Special Council Retreat Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Miller Town Hall located at 411 East South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111.

**The following Council Members were present:**

Victoria Petro, Daniel Dugan, Chris Wharton, Alejandro Puy, Darin Mano, Sarah Young, Eva Lopez Chavez

**Present Legislative Leadership:**

Cindy Gust-Jenson – Executive Director, Jennifer Bruno – Deputy Director, Lehua Weaver – Associate Deputy Director

**Present City Staff:**

Katherine Lewis – City Attorney, Cindy Lou Trishman – City Recorder, Stephanie Elliott – Minutes & Records Clerk, Cindy Lou Trishman – City Recorder, Krystyn Mace – Council Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am

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**City Council Retreat**

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**Retreat Summary**

Council Member Petro started the meeting and provided a highlight of accomplishments of the City Council, including:

- Sanctioned Camping ordinance adoption
- Adoption of Thriving In Place Ordinance
- North Point Small Area Plan
- Multi-Family housing
- Urban Forest
- Glendale Regional Park on the West Side
- Ranked Choice Voting (RVC) without a primary for the second time – largest RCV held in the State of Utah

**Katie Lewis** gave a review of the Separation of Powers Document and discussed the following with the Council:

- 10-3-b State Code and identifying roles of the City Council
- The correct way to ask for closed sessions
- Redevelopment Agency (RDA) separation
- Veto powers and financial authority of the Mayor
- Aligning with the Administration to move forward on projects and other City business
- The Council adopts the policy/budget while the Administration executes
- Core municipal function of the City Council

**Karen Kindred ( Licensed Clinical Social Worker)** spoke to the Council on the following regarding business relationships and mindfulness:

- System development for communications
- Relationships and smooth operations
- Code of conduct
- Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory

**Dr. Tim Shriver (Founder & CEO of Dignity Index)** presented the Dignity Index and discussed different ways to handle criticism and other tough situations while serving as a Council Member.

Council Members discussed the following with Dr. Shriver:

- Not responding to contempt and violence in Council meetings
- Biased rooms and conversations and how to handle an aggressive crowd
- Not reinforcing anger
- Power dynamic issues
- Speaking your truth and supporting others who dare to talk about theirs

*Council Members took a short lunch and resumed around 12:30 pm.*

Council Members discussed the following strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities within the City:

- Healthy, fun, and diverse Council

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- Location and geography
- Budget and resource creativity
- Policy leadership and expertise
- Accessibility to community
- Being fiscally conservative and wise
- Structural deficit
- Healthy fund balance
- Budget size
- Major sports investments (Olympics, Major League Baseball, National Hockey League)
- Websites and landing pages
- Changing population
- Property tax increases

**Council Member Lopez Chavez** spoke about priorities for District 4:

- Long-term revenue increase
  - Prioritize small businesses
  - Direct revenue to special services
  - Creating revenue for housing services
- Securing assets and creating high utility and high use in the community
  - Transit and transportation
- Eliminate blighted land and land banking through incentives and enforcement
  - Capitol Hill fenced nuisance property incentive
  - Revitalizing Main Street vacant storefronts
- Demolition ordinance and Boarded Building Fees
- Connecting pocket parks before work on the Green Loop
- Preserving the family-friendly neighborhood
- Safety within the community
  - Mental health support
- Homeownership opportunities
- Indoor air quality

Council members discussed:

- Ways to tie investments into City revenue to move funds into the necessary areas of the City
- How to promote the development of specific sites throughout the City
- Demolition ordinance fee – how to keep people in buildings or redevelop faster
- Mechanisms of enforcement beyond citation

**Council Member Mano** spoke about priorities for District 5:

- Continuing zoning reform
- Community benefit for rezones
- Creating more effective community council and district town hall meetings
- Focusing on already funded projects:
  - Fleet Block
  - Japan Town
  - Ball Park Stadium site
- RDA understanding Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) priorities

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- Suggested to fund housing projects
- Improving communication with constituents and finding new formats to reach the public

Council Members discussed:

- Only approving spot zoning that had City and public benefits (no more one-off rezones)
- Clarifying NOFA uses and how to ensure the use of commercial space
- Social media and newsletters – increasing outreach and interaction with the public
  - Suggestion of monthly group chat with the community in each district
- City investing in established community events instead of creating new ones
- Number of possible projects and reaching an agreement

**Council Member Dugan** spoke about priorities for District 6:

- Deferred maintenance for City buildings
  - The current total of \$14 million to catch up
  - Ongoing maintenance was still required to be funded
- Air and water quality
  - Great Salt Lake preservation
- Consolidation of Community Safety Teams
  - Homelessness and mental illness support
- Train Box
- Housing Sustainability
- Transportation
  - Infrastructure
  - Parks
  - Street safety (potholes, mill and overlay)
- Plastic bag ban
- Parental leave for City employees
- Structural and public safety deficits

Council Members discussed:

- Homelessness impacts on public safety
- Safety and staffing on the Community Health Access Team and other teams

**Council Member Puy** spoke about priorities for District 2:

- Internal goals
  - Taking care of staff, updating structure and pay
  - Utilizing space and talents
  - Lights flickering and issues with technology
- Council pay
- Public safety and trains
  - Jordan River focus and suggestion to create a strike force
- Union Pacific crossing issues
  - AI Audits with camera monitoring
    - Train Signage
- Completing current projects before starting new ones
- Property sustainability

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- Water usage
  - Updating sprinklers, watering trees only in parks when in a drought
- Consolidation of homeless services

Council Members discussed:

- Solving the complaints around the Union Pacific Train crossing and how to solve the issue
- Generating revenue from City-owned properties
- Zoning simplifications

**Council Member Petro** spoke about priorities for District 1:

- Community wealth building
  - Study from Council Office to Administration
- Community engagement
- Homelessness crisis and creating legitimately sanctioned campground(s)
  - Addressing RV and car living issues
- Diversified and independent revenue streams to work on community needs and priorities
- Review of finances to maintain the highest availability of resources
- Public safety and more attention to fire and 911 operators to retain those employees
- Leverage opportunities with communication
  - I-15 expansion
- RDA
- Monitoring at a higher level
- Jordan River Trail safety

Council Members discussed:

- How the City could become a part of the cash stack
- Request for Proposals (RFPs) were being used to develop and create opportunities
  - Sunday Anderson Senior Center RFP
- Using the old Public Safety Building and suggestion of historical preservation
- Community wealth building
  - People investing at different levels in local businesses/structures
  - Green Bay Packers was used as an example of a community-owned team

**Council Member Wharton** spoke about priorities for District 3:

- Affordable housing projects for LGBTQ+ seniors and veterans
  - RDA opportunity
- Eviction defense, tenant resources, and programs
  - Pro bono representation
- Historic preservation and landmarks equity projects
  - Money being allocated, but landmarks were never created/produced
  - Memory Grove – State of Utah War Monuments needed updating, restoration, and preservation
- Neighborhood issues
  - Civilian Response Team clarification
- Trails and Master Plan

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- Building code changes to protect adjacent neighbors
- Mural program, public market, and Rio Grande building

Council Members discussed:

- Approval of \$10,000 funding to erect historical markers throughout the City and maintenance of the Black Lives Matter Mural
- Funding to fix Rio Grande and earthquake damage
- Memory Grove was owned and maintained by the City
  - Asking the State for financing due to the park being a State asset
- Public and international markets
- Murals and involving the Arts Council to create more murals around the City

**Council Member Young** spoke about priorities for District 7:

- Public Safety
  - Safe school routes
  - Crossing guards - noting school closures, children walking/commuting further
  - Current Legislative Bill to require School Resource Officer (SRO) in every school
- Homeless partnership funding – clarifying rules and responsibilities
- Competitive pay for SLC employees
  - Cost versus pay to afford rent
- Communication Team Engagement Strategy – reports on successes within the City
- Great Salt Lake Watershed long-term protection strategy and resources
- Height and density in regards to affordability

Council Members discussed:

- State and City rules and responsibilities for homelessness
  - Clarify statutory duties for health and safety
  - Engage in communication with the State to improve and connect resources
  - Needing to know where to put funding and inform the Council to make decisions

Council Members discussed:

- Cubicle space layout and the Council's top priorities

Katie Lewis spoke regarding the Attorney's Office move, noting what was successful in coming back into the new office and how the Attorney's Office handled choosing office space

- Importance of dedicated space – a private area for each Council Member on a scale of 1-5:
  - Council Member Dugan 1:1
    - Layout was essential, and natural light
  - Council Member Young 1:1
  - Council Member Puy 1:4
    - Requested space for staff to feel welcome
  - Council Member Petro 5:4
    - Requested a safe place to leave work where it was and be able to come back to it
  - Council Member Wharton 5:3

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- Dedicated space and the ability to keep all items in one safe place was essential
- Council Member Mano 1:5
- Council Member Lopez Chavez 1:3

Council Members discussed the following with **Jennifer Bruno** and **Cindy Gust-Jenson**:

- Possibility of combining the RDA, Local Building Authority, and City Council into one meeting instead of separate bodies
- Fund Balance and best practices
  - 13% established to be a reasonable amount
  - Revenue from sales tax rapidly increased and now had drastically slowed
  - Separate accounts for general funds allocated with Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)
- Emergency funds and how to handle different maintenance
- One-time money usage for more minor, undervalued projects
- Sharing goals and priorities with the Administration
  - Requesting a list of City Council goals to be shared with the Mayor
  - Deferred maintenance
  - Communication with the Administration
- Overworking Information Management Systems (IMS) and tech updates needed
- Public comment issues and how to handle open meetings
- Limiting public comment to specific agenda items or topics
- Community Councils/Boards Ordinance
  - Clarifying independent boards and notification process
  - NeighborWorks
  - Diversifying the community councils

**Standing Items:**

**1 Tentative Closed Session**

The Council will consider a motion to enter into Closed Session. A closed meeting described under Section 52-4-205 may be held for specific purposes including, but not limited to:

- a. discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual;
- b. strategy sessions to discuss collective bargaining;
- c. strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation;
- d. strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares, if public discussion of the transaction would:
  - (i) disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration; or
  - (ii) prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms;
- e. strategy sessions to discuss the sale of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares, if:
  - (i) public discussion of the transaction would:

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- (A) disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration; or
  - (B) prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms;
  - (ii) the public body previously gave public notice that the property would be offered for sale; and
  - (iii) the terms of the sale are publicly disclosed before the public body approves the sale;
  - f. discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems; and
  - g. investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.
- A closed meeting may also be held for attorney-client matters that are privileged pursuant to Utah Code § 78B-1-137, and for other lawful purposes that satisfy the pertinent requirements of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act.



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Meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm

Minutes Approved: May 21, 2024

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City Council Chair Victoria Petro

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City Recorder

Please refer to Meeting Materials (available at <https://data.slc.gov> by selecting City Council Meeting Information) for supportive content including electronic recordings and comments submitted prior to or during the meeting. Websites listed within the body of the Minutes may not remain active indefinitely.

This document along with the digital recording constitutes the official minutes of the City Council Formal meeting held Tuesday, January 23, 2024 and is not intended to serve as a full transcript. Please refer to the electronic recording for entire content pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-203.