

MINUTES OF THE DRAPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 14, 2024, IN THE DRAPER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1020 EAST  
PIONEER ROAD, DRAPER, UTAH

PRESENT: Mayor Troy K. Walker, and Councilmembers Bryn Heather Johnson,  
Tasha Lowery, Fred Lowry, and Cal Roberts

EXCUSED: Councilmember Green

STAFF: Mike Barker, Acting City Manager; Kellie Challburg, Assistant City  
Manager; Spencer DuShane, Assistant City Attorney; Battalion Chief  
Kevin Holt; Rich Ferguson, Chief of Police; Ashley Johnson, Deputy City  
Recorder; Rhett Ogden, Parks and Recreation Director; Laura  
Oscarson, City Recorder; John Vuyk, Finance Director; and Jared  
Zacharias, Assistant Finance Director

---

## Business Session

1. Call to Order by Mayor Troy K. Walker
2. 2.a Public Hearing: Proposed Tax Increase – Salt Lake County. If the proposed budget is approved, Draper City would increase its property tax budgeted revenue by 21.41%. This hearing is an opportunity for Draper residents living in Salt Lake County to provide public comment on the proposed increase. No action will be taken on this item.

Mayor Walker opened the public hearing.

Sally Kendrick spoke about the hardship of a tax increase for those on a fixed income and the rising cost of living.

Gene Call shared three thoughts: more homes have been built in Draper, he wanted to know where the need for more money stops, and suggested that economizing is a better solution than more money.

David Gustin shared his thoughts about property tax as revenue.

William Savage questioned the total valuation of the city and why that amount wasn't enough to pay the public safety staff a living wage.

Barbara Coates shared her concerns about continually higher taxes, the rising cost of living, and living on a fixed income.

Lenny Linn wants to know if the city is spending wisely on other projects and if that money could be used for public safety. He wanted to know how residents could see how the city was spending money.

**Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.**

**2.b. Public Hearing: Proposed Tax Increase – Utah County. If the proposed budget is approved, Draper City would increase its property tax budgeted revenue by 21.41%. This hearing is an opportunity for Draper residents living in Utah County to provide public comment on the proposed increase. No action will be taken on this item.**

**Mayor Walker opened the public hearing and no one came forward so Mayor Walker closed the hearing.**

Mayor Walker shared why a tax increase was needed to attract and retain quality public safety. He shared where residents could find the annual budget, how the city gets revenue, and his feelings about raising taxes only as needed rather than every year. He reminded the residents that Draper

is the lowest taxed city in the county and even with the tax increase will either be the lowest taxed or the second lowest taxed city in the county.

Councilmember Roberts explained how property tax is distributed and the difference between residential and commercial property tax assessments.

Councilmember F. Lowry understands the difficulty the tax increase will pose for those on a fixed income.

Councilmember T. Lowery thanked the residents for coming and assured the residents that this needed to happen.

Councilmember Johnson shared how this decision was taken with careful thought and understanding of the impact it would have on residents.

### **3. Adjournment**

**Councilmember T. Lowery moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Councilmember Roberts seconded the motion.**

**A voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.**