

Fountain Green City – Public Hearing

FY2025-2026 Budget and Proposed Property Tax Increase

The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 21, 2025, in the Fountain Green City Hall, located at 375 N. State.

Presiding: Mayor Mark Coombs

Councilmembers Present: Kerry Farnsworth, Alyson Strait, Rod Hansen, Kim Johnson, Jacob Littlefield

Purpose

To receive public comment regarding the proposed FY2025-2026 property tax increase.

Presentation

If the proposed budget is approved, Fountain Green City would receive an additional \$15,779 in property tax revenue per year as a result of the tax increase. If the proposed budget is approved, Fountain Green City would increase its property tax budgeted revenue by 15.07% above last year's property tax budgeted revenue, excluding eligible new growth.

Mayor Coombs explained that this property tax increase is being considered to meet rising operating costs, maintain essential services, and address infrastructure needs. He outlined:

- The last increase (2024) was split into two phases.
- The City portion of property taxes remains significantly lower than the school district and county portions.
- Utah's "truth in taxation" process requires transparency and public hearings before any increase.
- Revenue is needed to cover general fund operations, road maintenance, sewer capacity improvements, and recent flood-related expenses.

Public Comment

The following key points were raised by citizens:

- **Fixed Income Concerns:** Several residents expressed difficulty affording higher property taxes, noting the impact on seniors and those on fixed incomes.
- **Budget Transparency:** Questions were asked about specific budget line items, available reserves, and whether cuts could be made instead of raising taxes.
- **Alternative Revenue:** Suggestions included exploring grants, user fees, or other revenue sources before increasing property taxes.
- **Roads and Infrastructure:** Some citizens supported the increase if funds are dedicated to road improvements and sewer upgrades.
- **Flood Costs:** Concerns were raised about recent flooding expenses and whether state or federal disaster funds might be available.

- **General Support:** A few residents stated an understanding of the need for additional revenue to maintain services.

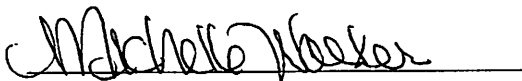
Council Response

Councilmembers acknowledged the concerns expressed, emphasized the need to balance affordability with maintaining city services, and clarified that:

- All departments have been asked to keep budgets lean.
- The City has sought outside funding, but options are limited.
- Dedicated project funds (roads, sewer) cannot be reallocated to general operations.
- Any tax increase would be the minimum necessary to meet obligations.

Adjournment

Mayor Coombs thanked all citizens for their input. The hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.



Michelle Walker, City Recorder

