

# SALT LAKE COUNTY

2001 So. State Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
(385) 468-7500 TTY 711



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

**1:30 PM**

**Council Chambers, Room N1-110**

**County Council**

# Minute Book, County Council, Salt Lake County

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Invocation - Reading or Thought - Pledge of Allegiance

### 1.1 Quorum Call—Roll Call Vote

Roll was called, showing the attendance to be as follows:

#### Present:

Council Member Suzanne Harrison  
Council Member Laurie Stringham  
Council Member Natalie Pinkney  
Council Member Jiro Johnson  
Council Member Carlos Moreno  
Council Member Aimee Winder Newton  
Council Member Ross Romero  
Council Member Sheldon Stewart  
Council Chair Dea Theodore

**Council Member Winder Newton** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Ms. Dena Long** stated she was ashamed of Mayor Wilson for not supporting the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Mayor Wilson wants taxpayers to pay the Liefman Group to help the County reduce the number of people with mental health issues who are incarcerated. The Liefman Group accomplished this in Miami Dade County, but its statistics are from 2000 to 2025, and its biggest decline in incarceration and homelessness was in 2020 during COVID, at which time, it deported over 146,000 illegal immigrants, more deportations than any other country. By deporting illegal immigrants, Miami Dade County was able to use funding for other needs. Miami Dade County also recently approved allowing local law enforcement to assist in deportation warrants. Until Sheriff Rivera is able to keep custody injuries down and illegal immigrants are deported, the County should stop asking taxpayers for money to implement new programs.

**Mr. Gary Gygi** stated he was interested in working with a Council Member to commemorate and honor Maynard Koncar, who is deceased, for his service to Salt Lake County's Parks and Recreation Division. Mr. Gygi stated that while growing up, he spent his afternoons at the Millcreek Recreation Center, which at the time was ran by Mr. Koncar and his assistant and they made every attendee feel welcome.

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**Mr. Jerry Schmidt** stated Senator Dan McCay has been trying to abolish property tax relief for low-income seniors. Last year, he said the homeowner's credit program, the only program the State funds when it comes to property tax relief, was growing out of control, but that is not true. Participation numbers have gone down 1.48 percent since 2020. Last year's figures from the Utah Tax Commission show the \$6.4 million program grew financially from 2023 to 2024 by only \$16,000. The State's funded portion is only 8.5 percent of the program's total cost. The Governor vetoed Sen. McCay's bill to abolish that program with the hope Sen. McCay would work with treasurers and auditors throughout the State. At a Utah Association of Counties meeting, Sen. McCay asked counties if they would be willing to take over this program and county treasurers resoundingly said yes. Grand County Treasurer Chris Coffman estimated the cost of the program to taxpayers at \$3.33 per household annually, less than a penny a day. Now, Sen. McCay has a bill, SB 78, which again attempts to eviscerate the homeowner's credit program and instead have home equity loans partially cover the taxes due and have County offices administer that program. County treasurers are opposed to SB 78. Mr. Schmidt asked the Council to join them in opposing the bill.

**Mr. Brandon Frank**, Trustee and Beneficiary of Property Trusts, asked the Council for tax relief under Utah law 59-2-1347, on 90 acres of land in the southwest quadrant, near Herriman City, property which has been Greenbelt for decades. In July 2024, Salt Lake County sent him letters saying it was going to audit the property to make sure it qualified for Greenbelt, but he never received the letters. His secretary, who was supposed to ensure he got the letters, had been diagnosed with a serious disease and had undergone treatment, so he did not find out about the audit until he received his property tax notice, and that was past the appeal date. These property taxes went from being a couple of dollars a year to \$93,000 a year.

### 3. REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

#### 3.1 County Council Members

**Council Member Johnson** asked for a moment of silence for nine people who lost their lives at the hands of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while in detention since the beginning of the year. He read their names aloud:

Keith Porter  
Renee Good  
Alex Pretti  
Parady La  
Heber Sanchaz Dominguez  
Victor Manuel Diaz

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Luis Beltran Yanez-Cruz  
Luis Gustavo Nunez Caceres  
Geraldo Lunas Campos

Council Member Johnson thanked Mayor Wilson for her work to prevent a mega ICE detention facility from being built in Salt Lake County. A 7,500-bed facility was going to be built in his district, and it would have caused a lot of problems for that community.

## 3.2 County Mayor

Mayor Jennifer Wilson made the following announcements:

- UServeUtah awarded Salt Lake County Arts and Culture Division's volunteer program with the Volunteer Management Designation's Gold Level. This designation is good for five years, and it represents the County's commitment to excellence in volunteer programming.
- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is recruiting for board members. It has openings for an at-large member from Salt Lake County and a member from Salt Lake County District 6. Anyone who is interested can go to [slco.to/boards](http://slco.to/boards) to apply.
- The Winter Farmer's Market at the Wheeler Historic Farm is being held on Sundays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, through April 12th, in the Education Center.
- The Aging and Adult Services Division is hosting an annual cell phone drive to support Cell Phones for Soldiers. Cell phones can be dropped off at all senior centers through the end of February.
- Voting is going on now for USA Today's top ten best planetariums. The Clark Planetarium is hoping to be recognized. Mayor Wilson said to spread the word to vote for the Clark Planetarium.
- Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Salt Lake City, is hosting a watch party on February 6, 2026; to celebrate the Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. The watch party is a free community event. Details on the event can be found at [slc.gov/watchparty](http://slc.gov/watchparty).
- Mayor Wilson introduced the new director of the Office of Regional Development, Beth Colosimo. Ms. Colosimo previously led the Mill at Salt Lake Community College, a program for entrepreneurs. She also worked at Goldman Sachs and was a former business owner. Ms. Colosimo has a strong track record of building partnerships and delivering practical support for entrepreneurs, and she understands what it takes to grow and sustain a business.

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- Mayor Wilson stated she discovered that the Federal Government had selected Salt Lake City as one of seven locations to house up to 7,500 United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees. The Federal Administration did not provide local governments with any information about this. Local governments were blindsided by it. Members of the federal delegation had conversations with the developer, although the property owner chose not to move forward with the sale of the facility. Had the developer sold the property for this purpose, the limited sewer system and utilities in that area would have been challenging, and the zoning does not allow for that type of overnight habitation. Mayor Wilson asked the Council to support efforts to ask the federal delegation to come to the table to reform the immigration system. If ICE wanted to expand its operations, local governments needed to be part of the decision, and ICE needed to operate in a manner that did not disrupt families nor detain children. ICE operations throughout the nation needed to be run by well-trained people in humane conditions, not in a manner that harmed and took lives.

## 3.3 Other Elected County Officials

**Sheriff Rosie Rivera** reported on the 2025 Metro Gang Unit statistics, stating there were 338 felony arrests and 404 total arrests. The drugs seized during the investigations included 65,866 units of Fentanyl, 46,304 grams of methamphetamines, 359 grams of Fentanyl powder, and 9,514 grams of cocaine. Multiple firearms were seized as well. The Choose Gang Free prevention program had 554 graduates. The Metro Gang Unit removed 2,352 cases of graffiti throughout the County, 938 cases of which were gang-related.

Sheriff Rivera announced that the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) would hold a free tire inspection and traction law sticker event on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, where residents could have their tires inspected, and learn about the traction law requirements.

## 4. CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### 4.1 Consideration of a Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office Peace Officer Merit Commission re-appointment: David E. Salazar, Jr. (District 4)

26-32

Attachments:

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1. David E. Salazar, Jr., Reappointment letter to council for POMC
2. DAVID SALAZAR - Resume redacted

The vote on this consent item was approved.

## 5. APPROVAL OF TAX LETTERS

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that the Tax Letters be approved, with the exception of Agenda Item 5.6, which would be considered separately. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### 5.1 Personal Property Tax DMV Registration Refunds

26-36

Attachments:

1. 26-36 MV0001 Personal Property Tax Refund DMV Vet \$2730
2. 26-36 MV0002 Personal Property Tax Refund DMV \$1528.66

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

### 5.2 Tax Administration's Tax Relief Letters

26-38

Attachments:

1. 7.1 2025 Timely Tax Relief
2. 7.2 2025 Late Tax Relief
3. 7.3 2025 Veteran Exemptions
4. 7.3a Other Years Veteran Exemptions

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

### 5.3 Tax Administration's Letters for Change of Ownership 1 of 2

26-39

Attachments:

1. 7.6 CIO Abrams, Joshua M Parcel #21-08-151-001
2. 7.6 CIO Anderson, Alvin S Parcel #22-03-277-005
3. 7.6 CIO Ayala, Jeremy F Parcel #20-27-462-014
4. 7.6 CIO Barber, Scott Parcel #22-25-327-037
5. 7.6 CIO Becker, Joyce T Parcel #28-16-376-009
6. 7.6 CIO Borgeson, Larry E Parcel #26-26-426-010
7. 7.6 CIO Cline, Janice M Parcel #21-32-252-014
8. 7.6 CIO Cole, John Parcel #26-36-428-016
9. 7.6 CIO Crank, James W Parcel #27-27-178-038
10. 7.6 CIO Dye, Bradley W Parcel # 26-25-103-026

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11. 7.6 CIO Hutchinson, Spencer J Parcel #21-20-304-007

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

## 5.4 Tax Administration's Letters for Change in Ownership 2 of 2

26-40

Attachments:

1. 7.6 CIO Ivory, Rachel T Parcel #21-33-353-026
2. 7.6 CIO Killion, Erik M Parcel # 16-32-105-053
3. 7.6 CIO Martinez, Gene A Parcel #21-25-403-002
4. 7.6 CIO McCoy, Brian L Parcel #28-10-478-002
5. 7.6 CIO McGuire, Gary W Parcel #28-02-176-023
6. 7.6 CIO McMorris, Philip R Parcel #21-26-106-006
7. 7.6 CIO Nichols, Andrew S Parcel #20-01-306-044
8. 7.6 CIO Nish, David M Parcel #27-08-377-010
9. 7.6 CIO Robinson, Rex Parcel #16-28-309-013
10. 7.6 CIO Rodriguez, Matthew Parcel #21-26-451-022
11. 7.6 CIO Valdez, Wilfred J Parcel #21-21-279-016

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

## 5.5 Tax Administration's Letters for Deferrals

26-41

Attachments:

1. 7.7 Deferral Aboelseud, Abdelaziz Parcel #16-05-302-004
2. 7.7 Deferral Bartling, Galen S Parcel #21-07-358-005
3. 7.7 Deferral Bentley, Shawna G Parcel #08-26-301-028
4. 7.7 Deferral Livezey, Laurel M Parcel #28-16-130-011
5. 7.7 Deferral McCleery, Larry J Parcel #28-08-332-011
6. 7.7 Deferral Meguerditchian, Sirvart Parcel #16-19-234-009
7. 7.7 Deferral Olsen, Rocky M Parcel #16-26-176-037
8. 7.7 Deferral Smith, Kraig L Parcel #22-05-179-023
9. 7.7 Deferral Thompson, Cindy L Parcel #14-36-353-025
10. 7.7 Deferral Vanos, Leslie A Parcel #22-32-430-010
11. 7.7 Deferral Dickinson, Crystal Parcel #15-28-156-006

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

## 5.6 Tax Administration's Letters for Claims under 59-2-1347

26-47

Attachments:

1. 8.1 SMR LLC and others\_Redacted

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**Mr. Brad Johnson**, Deputy District Attorney, reviewed Utah Code 59-2-1347, which read, “if an interested person applies to a county legislative body for an adjustment or deferral of taxes levied against property located in the county, the county legislative body may accept a sum less than the full amount due, or defer the full amount due, where, in the judgment of the county legislative body, the best human interests and the interests of the state and the county are served.”

The Utah Constitution does not allow the County Council to abate taxes unless the property qualifies for a property tax exemption. In the Constitution, there is an exemption to give tax relief to the poor and an exemption for Greenbelt, which this request falls under. The Property Tax Committee did not think a broader statute should be used to grant the property owner tax relief. In this case, there was also a specific appeal timeframe. Greenbelt gives a 120-day extension of that timeframe in the case of a medical emergency, and the property owner was past the extension timeframe.

Utah Code 59-2-1347 should be a gap filler for a unique situation. In this case, Mr. Johnson did not think the situation was unique. Brandon Frank received 32 notices, some of which were sent certified mail and signed for by his employees, including an employee who was not sick. If the Council were to grant Mr. Frank’s request, it could open this up to anyone who missed an appeal deadline, and the County has thousands of valuation appeals every year. The Property Tax Committee was concerned about that and recommended denial in this case.

**Council Member Johnson** asked when the notices were sent.

**Mr. Johnson** stated there are eight parcels and a letter was sent on each parcel, beginning March 6, 2024. Additional notices were sent in April, May, and July. The notices in July started the 120-day appeal time.

**Council Member Stewart** asked if there was a way to know about the audit other than the notices.

**Mr. Johnson** stated no, Mr. Frank found out about the rollback when he got a delinquent tax notice on his yearly tax notice.

**Council Member Theodore** asked what was being done on the property.

**Mr. Johnson** stated the property owner had submitted an affidavit stating the property was used for grazing.

**Ms. Melissa Kelly**, Residential Appraisal Manager, Assessor’s Office, stated the property owner had a lessee who had been using the property agriculturally, but she had



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gotten word that the lease had expired. She contacted the lessee who acknowledged it had been nine years since he had horses or livestock on these parcels, after which, the Assessor's Office sent the audit letter to the property owner asking for an update on that Greenbelt affidavit. The Assessor's Office needed to verify that the property was still being used for agricultural use. Without that verification, there was no way of knowing whether Greenbelt was still taking place on the property.

**Council Member Romero** asked if this non-Greenbelt tax was for one year.

**Ms. Kelly** stated a rollback is five years.

**Council Member Theodore** stated she needed more information to determine if there was another lessee.

**Council Member Johnson** stated if the land had not been used for Greenbelt exemption during this four-month period, the property owner would not have been able to meet the requirements of the Greenbelt exemption. Once the audit was done, the property owner needed to provide information to show the property still qualified for Greenbelt.

**Council Member Winder Newton** stated the issue was not whether this qualified for Greenbelt. The Council's decision should not undermine the Legislature's established framework for what would be a late appeal. State code does not address late appeals for employees who have a medical emergency. She would hate to set a precedent and grant this appeal when it could potentially create problems for other property taxpayers down the road.

**Council Member Harrison** stated not upholding the law or County ordinances put additional burden on other property owners who are paying property taxes. Granting this appeal would set a precedent that all property owners could ignore notices.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the recommendation of the Property Tax Committee. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Council Member Harrison, Council Member Pinkney, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moreno, Council Member Romero, Council Member Stewart, Council Member Winder Newton

Nay: Council Member Stringham, Council Member Theodore

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## 6. ACCEPTANCE OF ETHICS DISCLOSURES

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that this agenda item be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### 6.1 Acceptance of Ethics Disclosures: County Council Office

26-35

Attachments:

1. Suzanne Harrison CC At-Large Disclosure
2. Natalie Pinkney CC At-Large Disclosure
3. Laurie Stringham CC At-Large Disclosure
4. Jiro Johnson CC District 1 Disclosure
5. Aimee Winder Newton CC District 3 Disclosure
6. Ross Romero CC District 4 Disclosure
7. Sheldon Stewart CC District 5 Disclosure
8. Dea Theodore CC District 6 Disclosure
9. Isaac Higham Council Office Director Disclosure
10. Tom Hudachko Senior Advisor Disclosure
11. Kathryn Calderon Senior Advisor Disclosure
12. Mitchell Park Council Legal Counsel Disclosure
13. Hoa Nguyen Budget and Policy Analyst Disclosure
14. Alecia Williams Senior Advisor Disclosure

The vote on this ethics disclosure was received and filed.

### 6.2 Acceptance of Ethics Disclosure: Steven Calbert (County Justice Court)

26-24

Attachments:

1. Steve Calbert 2026

The vote on this ethics disclosure was received and filed.

## 7. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### 7.1 Approval of Revised November 18, 2025, County Council Minutes

26-33

Attachments:

1. 11-18-25 Revised Council Minutes

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A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## 7.2 Approval of January 13, 2026, County Council Minutes 26-48

Attachments:

1. 011326 Council Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## 8. WORK SESSION

### 8.1 Informational Update on the Proposed Hire Report / Incentive Plans - \$3000 and Under / Weekly Reclassification Report 26-56

Presenter: Hoa Nguyen, Council Budget and Policy Analyst  
(Less than 5 minutes)

Informational

Attachments:

1. Proposed Hire Report - 1-21-2026
2. Incentive Plans - \$3,000 and Under 1-21-2026
3. Weekly Reclassification Report 1-21-2026

Ms. Hoa Nguyen, Budget & Policy Analyst, Council Office, reviewed the new hires, reclassifications, and incentive plans.

### 8.2 2026 Legislative Session Update 26-46 The Council May Vote to Take Positions Concerning 2026 Legislation and Other Related Actions

Presenter: Kara Trevino, Council Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
(45 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments: None

Ms. Kara Trevino, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Council Office, reviewed the legislative updates.

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- SB 97 Property Tax Rate Amendments – Sen. Dan McCay

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill caps what a local government taxing entity can obtain above the previous year's revenue when doing a property tax increase. The bill also limits how new growth is calculated. Taking that flexibility away would affect every taxing entity's bond rating.

**Mr. Darrin Casper**, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated one factor the rating agencies use to evaluate a taxing entity is whether or not the taxing entity has control over the revenues it needs to fund its operations. This bill would severely limit that. It would likely mean the County's bond rating would be downgraded by one or two grades, which would cost the County a lot more money.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to oppose SB 97. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Council Moreno was absent for the vote.

- HB 332 Local Building Authority Amendments – Rep. Tiara Auxier

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill prohibits a local building authority from issuing bonds to finance a project that had been previously rejected by the voters. The bill does not include an exception for a jail or correctional facility, so it would impact Salt Lake County's future plans for the jail.

**Mr. Casper** stated if the County's Municipal Building Authority (MBA) wanted to move forward with a bond for the jail, its only viable option would be a lease revenue bond. The County's covenant in its sales tax official statements says the County will continue to maintain a two-times ratio coverage, and the County's sales tax is beyond its capacity, so using sales tax for jail debt would violate that covenant. Since the County already asked the voters to approve a general obligation bond for the jail, and it failed, this bill would preclude the County from doing a lease revenue bond.

**Mr. Mitchell Park**, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated the reason the County elected to go to the voters with a general obligation bond for the jail was because the financing considerations were more favorable.

**Ms. Bridget Romano**, Chief Deputy District Attorney, stated this bill was very broad and went beyond bonding. It would also prohibit a local building authority from constructing, acquiring, approving, extending, or financing.

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A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to oppose HB 332 unless it is significantly changed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- HB 161 Property Tax Modifications – Rep. Jill Koford

- HJR 7 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution - Property Tax Modifications – Rep. Jill Koford

**Ms. Trevino** stated these two bills are related. HB 161 increases the property tax exemption for primary residential property from 45 percent to 60 percent if a constitutional amendment (HJR 7) is passed by the voters to exempt a portion of the fair market value of residential property from property tax. Taxing entities would not lose revenue, but there would be a shift on who paid the property tax exemption.

**Council Member Johnson** stated he was in favor of giving residential property owners a break, but he wanted to know what the consequences of the bill would be.

**Ms. Romano** stated the residents would get relief from this, but the squeeze would be on small business owners, as large business owners could lobby for and get their own exemptions through legislation.

**Ms. Trevino** stated the bill would decrease property taxes on a \$500,000 home by \$400 a year and increase taxes on a \$1 million business or secondary property by about \$1,600 per year.

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to support HB 161 and HJR 7. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- HB 231 Restaurant Tax Repeal Amendments - Rep. Normal Thurston

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill would repeal the Restaurant Tax under the Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, Convention, and Airport Facilities Tax Act, and replace it with a general sales and use tax at a rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as the Restaurant Tax did the previous year. If the bill passed, Salt Lake County would have to impose the sales and use tax. The bill would create some complications for the County because it bonded with these revenues.

**Mr. Casper** stated the County has pledged its restaurant tax revenue for debt service, and it intended to bond against the revenue again for the Daybreak Performing Arts Center. This bill would be problematic for the County because of that. There are other

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disadvantages to the bill as well. It is beneficial to have a diversified revenue base with different kinds of taxes.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to 231. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- HB 239 Local Land Use Amendments - Rep. Jordan Teuscher

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill would establish a commission to study the unincorporated area in Salt Lake County. The membership of the commission would be made up of city mayors or their designees from the cities of Copperton, Herriman, Magna, South Jordan, West Jordan, and West Valley, and members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, and the governor. The commission would make recommendations on where unincorporated land should go if it were to annex, or if it would remain unincorporated. The bill would require the County to staff and pay for this, but it would not have any input.

**Mr. Zachary Shaw**, Deputy District Attorney, stated the commission would have the ability to general-plan and recommend ordinances for the unincorporated portion of the County, which are traditional land use authority roles of the County. This commission would act without input from the County. It was an encroachment on the County's land use authority.

**Council Member Winder Newton** stated she was opposed to the bill. She was appalled that the Legislature wanted to give away the County's land use authority, but still have it pay for this.

**Council Member Stewart** stated he thought the Legislature was trying to mitigate another scenario like Olympia Hills. He wanted to monitor the bill.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Romero, to oppose HB 239. The motion carried 6 to 3, with Council Members Moreno, Stewart, and Stringham voting, "Nay."

**Council Member Harrison** stated she wanted to understand why those who voted against the motion were supportive of the County giving up its land use authority to an unelected committee appointed by the State that the County had no say on. That land use authority is the Council's role.

**Council Member Stewart** stated the bill calls for the mayors of the cities west of I-15 to be members of this commission, and they are elected. When the County approved the

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Olympia Hills development, it subverted those cities, and those cities were impacted by the County's decision.

**Council Member Stringham** stated she was involved with the Olympia Hills situation, and it was a very difficult time for a lot of those west side communities, which had wanted input into what was going on. She did not like the way this bill was written, but she did not want to fully oppose it. She would rather monitor it and work with the sponsor on other options.

**Council Member Moreno** stated he wanted to work with the sponsor to see what could be done together, and he would like more involvement from the cities.

- HB 215 Landscaping Restrictions Amendments - Rep. Thomas Peterson

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill restricts local governments from prohibiting the removal of vegetation on property in a wildland-urban interface (WUI) area. The bill is broadly written, which is problematic. A group of people from cities and counties have gotten together with the sponsor to work through some of that language.

**Mr. Shaw** stated the bill basically says that if the WUI code allows a property owner to create defensible space for their property, cities and counties cannot prohibit that. This broad language would make many of the County's Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ) provisions that deal with tree and vegetation protection unlawful. He drafted some language that said if WUI allowed a property owner to remove vegetation, then cities and counties could not prohibit it, which is a narrower scope than what the language currently provides.

**Ms. Trevino** stated the bill was held in committee. The sponsor said he would work with local governments to achieve what Mr. Shaw represented, but a substitute has not moved forward yet. She suggested supporting the direction that Mr. Shaw outlined or working with the sponsor, but oppose the bill as written.

**Council Member Johnson** stated the goal is to reduce the amount of burnable fuel on areas of people's property that are interfacing with wildlands, to prevent it from turning into a conflagration, particularly in the County's foothills.

**Mr. Shaw** stated the intent of FCOZ is to eliminate clear cutting of vegetation and have a reasonable balance between vegetation protection and wildfire mitigation. There is no balance in the language proposed in the bill.

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A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Moreno, to support the new language that Mr. Shaw was recommending. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- HB 184 Local Land Use Revisions - Rep. Raymond Ward

**Mr. Shaw** stated this bill would impose statewide land use standards on local land use authorities. Any new home being built below the median sales price would qualify for these statewide standards. It would apply on density up to eight units per acre; local setbacks would not apply; there would be no limit to the percentage of the property that is a building; and there would be minimal setback standards for accessible dwelling units (ADUs), three feet from neighbors; and ADUs could be two stories. A local jurisdiction could deny a request for the state standards, but those denials would have to go through a planning commission or the local legislative body, and they would have to be done within 30 days. It was also unclear in the bill whether basic safety and health standards would apply to these homes and buildings.

**Ms. Trevino** stated the League of Cities and Towns is adamantly opposed to the bill. It sees the bill as a State preemption on local zoning. The Utah Association of Counties also took a position to oppose the bill.

**Council Member Winder Newton** stated she thought the State wanted to support higher density and be the bad guy.

**Council Member Pinkney** stated she thought that was exactly what was going on. A lot of people complain about too much red tape at the city level. While housing development needed to be fast-tracked, she did not think this was the way to do it.

**Council Member Stringham** stated this was government overreach. Land use is the job of cities and counties. The County needed to push back.

**Council Member Stewart** stated legislators tried to do this in the past, even after the ADU ordinance was approved, before there was time to see if it was working. Cities need this control, especially when putting in a big infill to ensure it is not out of place.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Moreno, moved to oppose HB 184. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- HB 212 County Formation Amendments - Rep. Jordan Teuscher

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill was introduced last year, but it never got a standing committee. The bill modifies the current process for the creation of a new county. The



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bill has some positive elements to it, such as how to divide assets and the requirement of a feasibility study. The bill would only apply to counties with a population over one million. It would allow a combination of cities to pass resolutions that equaled a population of 330,000 in order to move forward, and that would trigger the feasibility study. However, the County would have to pay for the feasibility study. The establishment of a new county would have to be voted on, but that could be on a primary or a non-countywide election. The bill also requires that the new county and remaining area would have to vote affirmatively for the split. Scott Baird, Director, Public Works and Municipal Services, was concerned that if the County was split in the middle, there could be complications with flood control services. Usually, County lines are drawn based on geographic lines.

**Council Member Winder Newton** stated it would be incredibly expensive to split the County. The best thing to do would be to negotiate with the sponsor to remove the County from being the responsible entity for paying for the feasibility study, to increase the population number, and to require a vote be held in a general election.

**Council Member Romero** stated the Council should oppose the bill. When someone comes to the table to negotiate, legislators often think they are willing to participate in the discussion. He was not willing to participate in the discussion. There were too many variables and it would be too expensive.

**Council Member Harrison** stated splitting the County would cause everyone's property tax to skyrocket. The Council should oppose the bill and work with the sponsor.

**Council Member Stringham** stated this bill will keep coming back, and at some point, it will pass. There has been a push for this for some time. She would rather make sure the bill was good and that it had guardrails around it. It needed to require a 500,000 population threshold in order to move forward; require that cities, not the County, pay for the feasibility study; be on a general election cycle; and both the County and new county would have to vote affirmatively for the split.

**Council Member Stewart** stated a segment of the County's population has struggled with the County, especially with Salt Lake City. He wanted to provide a path for this and work with the sponsor. The path now is unreasonable.

**Council Member Moreno** stated the County population is increasing, so the County might be in a situation in the future where it would want to do this. This bill would create a path to better serve constituents, but he would want to negotiate with the sponsor.

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**Mayor Jennifer Wilson** stated doing anything other than opposing this bill did not make sense. Taxes would go up if the County split. This may come up year after year, but the County kills it every year. By negotiating this bill, someone will say the County is fine with splitting the County, but it is not fine with it.

There is a misunderstanding of how the County works together. The reference to Olympia Hills development earlier was interesting because the County did what it thought was in the best interest of its unincorporated area; it was acting as a City. While the Olympia Hills development project was controversial then, Herriman does not hate it now. The County does a great job at supporting state infrastructure and delivering resources to that section of the valley, and it has disproportionately funded that section of the valley.

It was also interesting that people vilified Salt Lake City, but they would be happy to volunteer or go to the Olympic games in 2034. Some people do not like how people in Salt Lake City vote. As a comparison to that, she has had the privilege of working with one of the world's most prominent religions and appreciated its impact and investment, but she was not a member of that church. Salt Lake City built a world class airport, venues, and infrastructure including the stadium; it just needed to be better at educating about the benefits it provides and about the benefits of a capital city.

**Council Member Stewart** stated the concern with Salt Lake City is not about the political opinion there; it is about the funding. The majority of the resentment is driven by the Utah Transit Authority tax. The southwest part of the County has been paying a large portion of that, but it does not get the resources. It has only one bus, finally, but someone catching that bus at 9:30 AM could not make it downtown at a reasonable time. If the County were split, areas would be able to make decisions with the available resources. This was a path for people who might want to split the County. He wanted to work with the sponsor.

**Council Member Johnson** stated it did not make sense to help the sponsor clean up the language to make this more palatable for voters. He did not want to give credence to the idea that the County should separate. There is a fundamental problem with splitting just because some people could not agree with each other. He did not agree politically with members of this Council, but he enjoyed being around them. People who did not live in his district might not like his politics, but they were all together and they should learn to work together. That is what this nation was founded on.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Moreno, to work with the sponsor on HB 212

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A substitute motion was made by Council Member Romero, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to oppose HB 212. The motion failed 4 to 5 by the following roll call vote.

Aye: Council Member Harrison, Council Member Pinkney, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Romero

Nay: Council Member Moreno, Council Member Stewart, Council Member Stringham, Council Member Theodore, Council Member Winder Newton

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Moreno, to work with the sponsor on HB 212. The motion carried 5 to 4 by the following roll call vote.

Aye: Council Member Moreno, Council Member Stewart, Council Member Stringham, Council Member Theodore, Council Member Winder Newton

Nay: Council Member Harrison, Council Member Pinkney, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Romero

- HB 147 Government Form Submission Amendments - Rep. Jordan Teuscher

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill would require state and local government entities to provide an electronic option for people to fill out forms. The Utah Association of Counties (UAC) opposed the bill because it would be hard to have to do this for every form. It would also be expensive, and difficult to retain everything.

**Mr. Javaid Lal**, Director, Office of Data and Innovation, stated this bill would require that every form have an electronic submission option. That is different from providing a digital form and just turning it into a portable document format (PDF). This would be an unfunded mandate because the County would have to significantly invest in an integrated system so it was capable of intaking electronic transmission of data, and capable of ensuring privacy.

**Council Member Stewart** stated he did not read in the bill that governments needed an integrated system. A person just needed to have the ability to fill a form out electronically and submit it electronically. Riverton City did a similar initiative, and it was highly successful.

**Ms. Romano** stated the bill language is broad, and it could lend itself potentially to Mr. Lal's reading. The text of the bill does not lend an answer one way or the other.

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**Council Member Johnson** stated a lot of families cannot afford computers or software, nor do some people have the fluency to be able to do this. He asked if there was an exception for that. Technology improvements were not cheap, so he shared the concern with where the money would come from.

**Council Member Stringham** stated she was tired of unfunded mandates that the County had to raise taxes for. If the State funded this, she would be in support.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham to oppose HB 147 and work with the sponsor.

**Council Member Winder Newton** stated if the Council opposes a bill, it loses its negotiating power. She suggested working with the sponsor.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Pinkney, to monitor the bill. The motion carried 8 to 1, with Council Member Johnson voting, "Nay."

- HB 88 Public Assistance Amendments - Rep. Trevor Lee

**Ms. Trevino** stated this bill amends provisions regarding exceptions to verification of lawful presence for the receipt of certain public assistance benefits. There are three versions of the bill—the original and two substitutes, none of which have been adopted. The first substitute says no political subdivision could offer assistance, which was concerning with not being able to provide immunizations and treat communicable disease.

**Council Member Winder Newton** stated she did not like the bill at all. She suggested working with the sponsor.

**Council Member Harrison** the bill would exclude children or minors from accessing any assistance, including food, and someone in an exploited trafficking situation would not have a way of accessing help. She thought this bill was in violation of Federal law with the prohibition on emergency medical care. The Council should oppose the bill.

**Council Member Johnson** stated the bill would limit the County's ability to administer federal dollars to individuals who were excluded, which was unconstitutional. This bill did not align with the Fourteenth Amendment. There were serious equal protection problems with it.

**Mr. Romano** stated the first substitute includes the language that it would be unlawful for a political subdivision to provide state or local benefits that would violate Federal

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law, but she did not see that it would require a political subdivision to withhold something required by Federal law.

**Mr. Mitchell Park**, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated line 274 in the second substitute reads, "Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, an agency or political subdivision of the state may not provide a state or local public benefit that is funded by state or local funds, including non-emergency medical health care, local or state-administered health care or health insurance, housing assistance, food assistance, cash benefits, tuition assistance, or other state or locally funded public assistance programs, to an individual who is not a qualified alien or who is without lawful presence in the United States." The bill also says an employee of the state agency or political subdivision who knowingly fails to verify lawful presence or who fails to maintain records regarding verification of lawful presence, as required under this section, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to oppose HB 88. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## 8.3 Informational Update on the 2025 Legislative Jail Audit

26-37

Presenter: Rosie Rivera, Salt Lake County Sheriff; Matt Dumont, Chief Deputy  
(20 minutes)

Informational

Attachments:

1. 2025 Legislative Audit Update (1)

**Sheriff Rosie Rivera** delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office 2025 Legislative Audit Update. She reviewed a performance audit of the Salt Lake County Jail, a summary of Audit Chapter, which examined impacts of overcrowding on the criminal justice system; a summary of Audit Chapter 2, which examined how overcrowding releases affect court appearance rates and highlights the need for the County to address jail capacity challenges; and a summary of Audit Chapter 3, a review of Salt Lake County's awareness of jail overcrowding and efforts to address capacity needs.

**Chief Matt Dumont** stated HB 312 required the Sheriff's Office to operate the jail facilities at a maximum capacity. The Council's approval of the "fifth-fifth" local option sales tax provided revenue for the Sheriff's Office to comply with HB 312. The Sheriff's Office was able to open the third pod at the Oxbow Jail, which added 184 beds. The jail also gained 64 beds with the expiration of a contract with the Utah State Hospital. In

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total, the jail gained 248 beds. As of this morning, the third pod at the Oxbow Jail was 12 percent open.

**Sheriff Rivera** continued the presentation, reviewing a review of the County's criminal justice system; that the Legislature should consider strengthening coordination for criminal justice systems in statute; recommendation 1.1 to amend the statute; a dual approach to criminal justice that could include both recidivism-reducing programs and traditional accountability mechanisms for repeat offenders; and recommendation 1.2 to amend the statute.

**Mayor Jennifer Wilson** stated increasing jail capacity puts pressure on property taxes, but at least one legislator expects the County to increase its jail capacity to a higher level.

## **8.4 Staff Presentation for an Ordinance Amending the Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons General Plan, West General Plan, and Sandy Hills General Plan to Add a Water Use and Preservation Element**

26-58

Presenter: Christine Richman, Principal, GSBS Consulting  
(15 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments:

1. 26-01-12\_SLCoWUPE\_Deck\_Council

**Ms. Lisa Hartman**, Associate Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated this ordinance will help the County meet legislative requirements. The deadline to meet those requirements was December 30<sup>th</sup>, so the County is behind. It has met with 15 municipalities, the Council of Governments, the water districts, Rio Tinto, and Camp Williams to get feedback on this.

**Ms. Christine Richman**, Principal, GSBS Consulting, delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled Salt Lake County Water Use and Preservation Element Amendment to the Wasatch Canyons, Sandy Hills, and West General Plans. She reviewed the project team; purpose; water element vision; water element goals; engagement; existing conditions; a subarea analysis; a subarea dashboard; plan recommendations to reduce water demand in new and existing developments, modify local government operations to improve conservation and implement efficient practices, support coordination for regional water conservation efforts; develop new and utilize existing land preservation tools and resources, protect water resources and the quality of the Great Salt Lake, and

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coordinate to maintain system integrity and protection; and the review process, which is in progress.

## 9. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC NOTICES

### 9.1 Hold a Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment on an Ordinance Amending The Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons General Plan, West General Plan, and Sandy Hills General Plan to Add a Water Use and Preservation Element 26-8

Attachments:

1. OAM2025-001554 - SLCo Water Element Staff Report County Council
2. Ordinance Approving Amendment to General Plan - Water Element
3. 26-01-13 SLCo Water Use and Preservation Element\_FINALDRAFT-compressed

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Moreno, to open the public hearing. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

No one spoke in favor of nor in opposition to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Pinkney, to close the public hearing. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## 10. PENDING LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

### 10. First Reading of an Ordinance, Amending The Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons General Plan, West General Plan, and Sandy Hills General Plan to Add a Water Use and Preservation Element 26-55

Presenter: Jason Rose, Senior Civil Attorney  
(Less than 5 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments:

1. Ordinance Approving Amendment to General Plan - Water Element
2. 26-01-13 SLCo Water Use and Preservation Element\_FINALDRAFT-compressed
3. OAM2025-001554 - SLCo Water Element Staff Report County Council Public Hearing

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A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Theodore, to forward the ordinance to the February 3, 2026, Council meeting for formal consideration, with the following language changes in the Water Use and Preservation Element Amendment, under Recommendation 5: Project Water Resources and Great Salt Lake Quality, implementation actions:

Enhance Water Quality and Habitat to read, *“Promote corridors designed to reduce erosion, filter pollutants, and improve ecological conditions in natural waterways.”*

Support Compliance with Water Quality Standards to read, *“Support Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet updated UPDES<sup>1</sup> permit requirements and support long-term restoration objectives outlined by the Jordan River E. Coli TMDL<sup>2</sup> study and the Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan.”*

The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Mr. Mitchell Park**, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated the ordinance will come back for a second reading with the changes made.

<sup>1</sup>Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES)

<sup>2</sup>Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)

## 11. PROCLAMATIONS, MEMORIALS, AND OTHER CEREMONIAL OR COMMEMORATIVE MATTERS

### 11. TIME CERTAIN 4:00 PM

26-62

#### 1 Ceremonial Recognition of Local Synchronized Figure Skating Teams

Presenter: Laurie Stringham, Salt Lake County Council Member; Dea Theodore, Salt Lake County Council Member; Ross Romero, Salt Lake County Council Member  
(10 minutes)

Informational

Attachments:

1. Figure Skating Proclamation

**Council Member Stringham** stated she worked with the Utah Olympic Oval for many years while a member of the Kearns Quirkh Park Fitness Center Board of Trustees, with both speedskating, figure skating, and hockey groups. Figure skating has been happening



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in Utah for 75 years. New to the Winter Olympics is synchronized figure skating, a phenomenal sport. She had the opportunity to go to Denver, Colorado, last week to watch a synchronized figure skating event, and it was exciting.

**Mr. Eric Hutchings**, former member, Utah House of Representatives, stated he served on the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation Board of Directors for 15 years while serving on the Legislature. He was here to thank the County for its role in winter sports, especially in figure skating. Figure skating in Utah would not exist the way it does now, without the County's support.

Mr. Hutchings introduced his oldest daughter Alissa Pitban, who is a senior gold medalist in figure skating, the highest level of figure skater in the United States, and a synchronized figure skating coach, who coached some of the competitors at the Colorado competition. Synchronized skating is a team event, dominated by women.

**Ms. Alissa Pitban** stated she began skating in the Learn to Skate program at the Utah Olympic Oval and now coaches in a Salt Lake County facility. There are ten figure skating clubs in Utah, five of which are in Salt Lake County. Within these ten clubs, there are approximately 3,000 figure skaters and 2 intercollegiate teams. The figure skaters on the intercollegiate teams represent their college or university, either the University of Utah or Utah State University.

Another event that is happening this year is the U.S. Figure Skating National Development Camp, which hand-selects 150 athletes from the United States to participate in the training camp. This year, Utah had about eight athletes participate, which was double the number it had last year.

This weekend, the Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships took place, and seven synchronized skating teams from Utah qualified to participate in the Pacific Coast Aspire Synchro Classic. Six of the teams placed, with the preliminary team receiving fourth place in the pewter medal, the novice team receiving gold and qualifying for the 2026 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships. Two of Utah's open juvenile teams took silver and bronze on the podium and two Aspire 2 teams took silver and bronze as well. The best teams from Colorado to California participate in that event to try to earn a spot in the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships. In the past ten years, Utah teams have produced at least six collegiate synchronized skating athletes who are now competing or have competed for nationally ranked teams.

Ms. Pitban introduced the Utah Silver Stars and the Star Lit Blades, competitors in last week's event in Colorado.

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**Ms. Michelle Thompson**, Director of Competitions and Events, Salt Lake Figure Skating, announced that the Maverik Center will be hosting the 2026 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships March 4, 2026, through March 7, 2026. The Haydenettes, the most decorated senior-level synchronized skating team, and the Teams Elite Junior, the reigning junior world championship team, will both be on the ice at the Maverik Center during the 2026 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.

**Ms. Pitban** stated the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships event will host over 2,000 athletes, their coaches, and their families. This year, about 89 teams have qualified for the nationals. Ms. Pitban presented a video to introduce this event.

**Council Member Stringham** read the following proclamation.

## Salt Lake County Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of Figure Skating in Utah

WHEREAS, organized figure skating has been an integral part of Utah's athletic, cultural, and community life for 75 years, fostering excellence, discipline, artistry, and teamwork across generations; and

WHEREAS, Utah's figure skating history dates back to the early 1950s with the establishment of the Utah Figure Skating Club, the state's first U.S. Figure Skating-affiliated club, laying the foundation for a strong and enduring statewide skating community; and

WHEREAS, Utah has grown into a nationally recognized center for figure skating, supported by numerous local clubs, intercollegiate programs, and world-class facilities that serve skaters of all ages and levels; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County and the surrounding region have played host to major national and international figure skating events, including U.S. Figure Skating Championships, international competitions, and Olympic-legacy events, reinforcing Utah's reputation as a premier destination for winter sports; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 Olympic Winter Games left a lasting legacy in Utah through infrastructure, facilities, and community engagement that continue to support the development of figure skating and other ice sports today; and

WHEREAS, Utah skaters and programs have contributed significantly to the sport at the national and international levels, including the development of elite athletes, collegiate competitors, coaches, judges, and volunteers who strengthen U.S. Figure Skating as a whole; and

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WHEREAS, among many accomplished Utah-trained skaters, Nathan Chen, a Salt Lake City native who will be inducted into the US Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2026, exemplifies the heights that Utah athletes can reach on the world stage, while also giving back to the community that helped shape his career; and

WHEREAS, synchronized skating has experienced notable growth in Utah, with 7 Utah teams qualified to compete in the 2026 Sectional Championships. Two teams are eligible to compete at the 2026 US Synchronized Skating National Championships, here in Utah! Several Utah teams are qualifying for sectional and national competition and producing collegiate athletes who have gone on to compete with nationally ranked synchronized skating teams; and

WHEREAS, in March 2026, Salt Lake County will proudly host the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships for the first time, welcoming top teams from across the nation and showcasing Utah's continued leadership and excellence in the sport of figure skating;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Salt Lake County Council hereby recognizes and celebrates the 75th Anniversary of Figure Skating in Utah, honoring the athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, clubs, families, and community partners whose dedication has sustained and advanced the sport for three-quarters of a century; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Salt Lake County proudly acknowledges Utah's ongoing contributions to figure skating at the local, national, and international levels and welcomes the opportunity to celebrate this milestone year alongside the upcoming 2026 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Salt Lake County Council hereby sets its hand and seal on this proclamation in recognition of 75 Years of Figure Skating Excellence in Utah.

By: /s/AIMEE WINDER NEWTON

Council Member Winder Newton, Chair

By: /s/SHELDON STEWART

Council Member Stewart, Vice Chair

By: /s/LAURIE STRINGHAM

Council Member Stringham

By: /s/SUZANNE HARRISON

Council Member Harrison

By: /s/NATALIE PINKNEY

Council Member Pinkney

By: /s/JITO JOHNSON

Council Member Johnson

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By: /s/CARLOS MORENO

Council Member Moreno

By: /s/ROSS ROMERO

Council Member Romero

By: /s/DEA THEODORE

Council Member Theodore

## 12. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL

## 13. OTHER BUSINESS

### ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM until Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By 

DEPUTY CLERK

By 

CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL