

CITY OF SOUTH SALT LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday April 15, 2026  
6:15 p.m.

CITY OFFICES

220 East Morris Avenue  
South Salt Lake, Utah 84115

PRESIDING:

Council Chair Sharla Bynum

CONDUCTING:

Council Chair Sharla Bynum

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joy Glad, Corey Thomas, Sharla Bynum, Nick Mitchell,  
Irvin Jones, Clarissa Williams, and Ray deWolfe

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Mayor Cherie Wood  
Josh Collins, City Attorney  
Terry Addison, Fire Chief  
Jonathan Weidenhamer, Community & Economic Development Director  
Craig Giles, Public Works Director  
Joy Manwiller, Interim Finance Director  
Jenny Diersen, Senior Program Manager  
Chris Merket, City Engineer  
Eliza Ungricht, Community Development Deputy Director  
Tereza Bagdasarova, City Planner  
Matt Robins, Executive Assistant  
Carson Aprato, Police Sergeant  
Spencer Redden, Police Officer  
Ariel Andrus, City Recorder  
Sara Ramirez, Deputy City Recorder

**Matters for Discussion**

**1. 2026 Legislative Session Update**

Lobbyists Ashley Spatafore, Dave Spatafore, and Dave Davis introduced themselves and presented a comprehensive overview of the 2026 Utah Legislative session's outcomes.

Ms. Spatafore began by commending the collaborative efforts between the lobbying team, the Mayor, and City staff. She noted that out of a record 1,016 bills introduced, 542 were passed. The lobbying team organized their presentation into four primary categories: property taxes and revenue; land use, housing, and economic development; general government operations; and homelessness and shelter mitigation.

Regarding property taxes, Ms. Spatafore highlighted that early legislative pushes aimed to lower property taxes, which required the team to advocate for the City's ability to maintain municipal services. Several concerning bills failed, including a proposed taxpayer bill of rights and a measure to modify residential property reductions. A significant bill, Senate Bill 97, which would have required cities to reduce their fund balances, ultimately failed on the Senate floor. However, House Bill 236 passed, implementing new Truth in Taxation requirements. This legislation mandated that fiscal year taxing entities, such as the City, must issue preliminary statements, adopt interim budgets with impact schedules, and utilize set-aside accounts when pursuing property tax increases.

In the realm of land use and housing, Ms. Spatafore explained that many bills focused on allocating transportation funding toward housing infrastructure grants. House Bill 68 reorganized state housing policy under the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, which was anticipated to prompt further modifications to moderate-income housing plans in the coming year. The legislature also focused heavily on tax increment financing. Several existing hybrid financing tools were scheduled to sunset by 2028, replaced by a newly created Regional Economic Development Zone model. A major success for the City was securing a new definition for extraterritorial affordable housing within these bills, allowing the City to utilize certain Housing and Transit Reinvestment Zone funds for affordable, owner-occupied housing outside the immediate zone boundaries.

Addressing government operations, Ms. Spatafore reported the defeat of several problematic bills, including one that would have modified governmental immunity regarding property nuisances and an election bill that would have heavily restricted mail-in voting. A positive development was the passage of House Bill 79, which retroactively restored and expanded governmental immunity protections for emergency medical services provided by first responders.

Mr. Davis then provided an update on homelessness legislation. He noted the defeat of a bill that would have required individuals to prove their documented status to access emergency shelters, a measure that would have severely impacted the City. Furthermore, Mr. Davis explained that the omnibus homelessness bill initially failed on the session's final night. However, the lobbying coalition successfully negotiated to insert its key components into a separate bill, securing a critical fifteen percent increase in mitigation funding from contributory cities for a one-year period. Mr. Davis stated that a work group would convene during the interim to pursue a long-term solution for mitigation funding.

Ms. Spatafore concluded the presentation with a preview of the interim legislative period. She outlined upcoming topics of interest for the City, including election costs, law enforcement technology, water conservation, impact fees, and tax increment financing.

Council Chair Bynum expressed gratitude for the lobbying team's hard work and added the Council's appreciation, characterizing the session's results as having caused minimal damage to the City.

**2. Discussion – Request for a Resolution for the Dedication of 802 West and 2400 South to a Public Right of Way**

City Planner, Tereza Bagdasarova, discussed the Resolution requesting the dedication of 802 West and 2400 South to a public right-of-way. Ms. Bagdasarova provided a brief overview, noting that a formal presentation would be given on April 29.

Ms. Bagdasarova explained that the Utah Transit Authority had submitted an application to amend a subdivision and combine two parcels to expand an existing maintenance of way training facility. During the permitting process, the Utah Transit Authority encountered an issue with the Salt Lake City Corporation Department of Public Utilities regarding water line access. The required access line crossed a parcel labeled as City-owned property on the assessor map. Ms. Lopez stated that the City had historically treated this parcel as a road and needed to officially dedicate it as a public right-of-way to allow the Utah Transit Authority to proceed with their facility improvements.

The Council Members had no questions regarding this item.

A copy of the presentation is attached and incorporated by this reference.

**3. Discussion – Petition to Vacate the Remaining Portion of Wentworth Avenue Located Between 107 West Utopia Avenue and 2194 South West Temple**

City Planner, Tereza Bagdasarova, presented a petition to vacate the remaining portion of Wentworth Avenue near 107 West Utopia and 2194 South West Temple. She explained that the applicant, DB Urban Communities, previously had a portion of the road vacated by the City Council in 2021 to facilitate a seven-story multi-family development project. The applicant paid for the entire road at that time and was now returning to request the vacation of the remaining portion to proceed with a new forty-eight-unit micro-dwelling project.

The Council Members had no questions regarding this item.

A copy of the presentation is attached and incorporated by this reference.

**4. Appointments by the Mayor:**

**a. Ramona Lopez – Civilian Review Board Regular Member**

City Attorney, Josh Collins, presented Ms. Lopez on behalf of the Mayor to the Council.

This item was added to the Work Meeting agenda for initial discussion per Council rules. The Council Members had no questions.

Ms. Lopez will be presented for the Council's consent and approval in the Regular Meeting.

A copy of the appointee's resume is attached and incorporated by this reference.

**b. Kacie O'Maley – Civilian Review Board Alternate Member**

City Attorney, Josh Collins, informed the Council Members that this item would be moved to a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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Sharla Bynum, Council Chair

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Ariel Andrus, City Recorder