

CITY OF SOUTH SALT LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday June 10, 2026
7:00 p.m.

CITY OFFICES

220 East Morris Avenue
South Salt Lake, Utah 84115

PRESIDING:

Council Chair Sharla Bynum

CONDUCTING:

Ray deWolfe, At-Large

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Corey Thomas, District 2

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Carson Aprato, Spencer Redden

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Mayor Wood
Josh Collins, City Attorney
Danielle Croyle, Police Chief
Terry Addison, Fire Chief
Charee Peck, HR Director
Jonathan Weidenhamer, Community & Economic Development Director
Joy Manwiller, Interim Finance Director
Chris Merket, City Engineer
Corby Talbot, Capital Improvements Plan Manager
Craig Giles, Public Works Director
Jenny Diersen, Senior Program Manager
Jodi Fait, Victim Services Supervisor
Matthew Robins, Executive Assistant
Carson Aprato, Police Sergeant
Spencer Redden, Police Officer
Ariel Andrus, City Recorder
Sara Ramirez, Deputy City Recorder

OTHERS PRESENT:

See list

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 13th, Work Meeting
May 13th, Regular Meeting

Council Member Williams made a motion to approve the minutes listed above.

MOTION: Clarissa Williams

SECOND: Joy Glad

Voice Vote:

Glad:	Yes
Thomas:	Yes
Bynum:	Yes
Mitchell:	Not Present
Jones:	Yes
Williams:	Yes
deWolfe:	Yes

NO ACTION COMMENTS

1. **SCHEDULING.** The City Recorder informed those at the meeting of upcoming events, meetings, activities, etc. **Next Council Meeting—June 17th @ 7pm.**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS.**

South Salt Lake resident, Haisel Stout, shared some thoughts regarding a recent news story regarding policing in American Fork.

3. **MAYOR COMMENTS.**

Mayor Wood recognized June as Pride Month and spoke about the Juneteenth Community BBQ held at the South Salt Lake Community Center on Friday, June 5th.

4. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS.**

None.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS.**

Council Chair Bynum echoed the Mayor's sentiments, wished everyone a happy Pride Month and highlighted the Juneteenth event, which she attended and described as getting better every year

Council Member Mitchell also wished the community a happy Pride Month and encouraged everyone to celebrate and enjoy the time.

Council Member deWolfe echoed the Mayor's comments and wished everyone a happy Pride Month.

6. **INFORMATION.**

- a. **Victim Services Federal Grant Update**

Victim Services Supervisor, Jodi Fait, presented the second annual report to the governing board as required by the certified assurances of the federal grants. Ms. Fait reported on the first year of the grant cycle, which ran from June 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

She explained that the City utilizes two federal grants. The first is the

Victims of Crime Act grant, which funds the Victim Services team. Jody explained that her position as the full-time Victim Services Supervisor is fully funded by the City, including fringe benefits. The team also includes three full-time victim advocates, whose salaries are funded 79% by the Victims of Crime Act grant and 21% by the City.

She noted that the City's financial contribution provided the flexibility needed to include the advocates in annual City raises, keeping the positions competitive. The advocates' fringe benefits are fully funded by the City. These advocates support victims of violent crime through the entire criminal justice process, providing services such as scene response, case investigation support, court accompaniment, counseling referrals, medical transportation, and protection orders.

The second grant is the Violence Against Women Act grant, which funds 26% of the salaries for two specialized, trauma-focused, and victim-centered detectives. These detectives handle all domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, and stalking cases.

During the reporting year, the Victim Services team served 2,216 victims of violent crime, of which 1,618 involved crimes against women. Domestic violence remained the most prevalent case type. In total, the supervisor and the three advocates provided 8,797 individual victim services.

Ms. Fait also noted her role in tracking and facilitating U-Visa applications for crime victims seeking citizenship, reporting that 24 applications were processed and submitted to the Police Chief for signature during the grant year.

She concluded by highlighting the team's participation in various community coalitions and committees, as well as their attendance at the annual crime victims conference in Midway, Utah.

Action Items

Appointments by the Mayor

1. Stewart Okobia – Finance Director

The Mayor presented Mr. Okobia to the Council for their advice and consent as a new appointment.

A copy of Mr. Okobia's resume, which was provided to the Council at the Work Meeting, is attached and incorporated by this reference.

Council Member Glad made a motion to approve Mr. Okobia as the Finance Director.

MOTION: Joy Glad

SECOND: Corey Thomas

Roll Call Vote:

Glad: Yes
Thomas: Yes
Bynum: Yes
Mitchell: Yes
Jones: Yes
Williams: Yes
deWolfe: Yes

Unfinished Business**1. Council Q & A: Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

Mayor Wood presented the budget update, noting that the City faced similar budget constraints to those affecting local households and municipalities nationwide, with rising costs and increasing demand for services. She explained that the City took a fiscally conservative approach, predicting flat revenue growth. The proposed budget balanced these challenges through a combination of cost-saving measures and proposed utility fee adjustments.

These included an increase in the Public Safety Service Fund, which is an enterprise fund used strictly to support police, fire, code enforcement, and emergency management services. This change would shift public safety costs off the General Fund, representing an estimated increase of \$7/month for an average homeowner.

The budget also proposed small increases to sewer and garbage utility fees due to vendor contracts and the maintenance of utility infrastructure.

Additionally, a Transportation Utility Fee was proposed to fund road projects. The total monthly impact of these combined utility fee changes was estimated at \$10/month for an average single-family home.

To minimize these increases, the City cut \$11,700,000 from the budget by reducing operating costs, deferring capital projects—including renovations to Fire Station 43, parking lot safety improvements at the police station, and one million dollars in vehicle replacements across all departments—and eliminating three full-time positions.

The City was also forced to pass along increased healthcare premium costs to employees, resulting in a monthly increase of approximately \$100 for employees on a family plan. To offset higher premiums, the City selected plans with higher deductibles.

Mayor Wood noted that the City had partnered with Zion's Public Finance to conduct a comprehensive cost-of-services study to evaluate City fees across all departments.

On a positive note, she reported that construction on the new Public Works campus is on track, with the City scheduled to take possession of the north building on July 22, 2026. She also highlighted progress on the Water Tower Plaza, the City's new culinary water well, downtown transit-oriented development, and the upcoming tenth anniversary of Mural Fest, which would mark the completion of one hundred community murals.

Mayor Wood also addressed specific questions previously submitted by the City Council. She clarified that a historical fund balance comparison handout had been provided.

Regarding the Transportation Utility Fee, she explained that all projects had been delayed by at least one year due to rising material costs and local asphalt production limits resulting from clean air regulations. She noted that only Morgan Asphalt currently met these new standards.

She reported that if the City had enacted Truth in Taxation to capture new property growth over the past two years, it would have generated approximately \$600,000 in total revenue.

She explained that a one percent salary increase across all departments costs the City approximately \$315,000 dollars.

Regarding the Promise Program, she clarified that budget decreases resulted from students transitioning from Moss Elementary to Olene Walker Elementary. Because South Salt Lake students no longer attend Moss Elementary, Millcreek Promise assumed control of after-school programming there.

She confirmed that no funding was allocated for a City mobile application in the fiscal year 2026–2027 budget, as communication staff would focus on existing channels and the website.

She clarified that line item 10-68-889-01 for the Best Buy Teen Tech Center was a two-year grant cycle currently awaiting federal renewal.

Line item 10-70-430-10 consolidated Mural Fest and public art installations to simplify tracking.

Line item 51-70-250-04 funded updates to a water vault and designs for a vault expansion to support a future east tank.

Line item 56-70-260-00 for wastewater system maintenance was increased by \$300,000 to hire a contractor to inspect and assess pipe conditions.

2. Notification that the Executive or Budget Officer of the City Intends to State in a Public Meeting that the Interim Budget Includes a Proposed Tax Rate Increase

City Attorney, Josh Collins, explained that the notification of the intention to state in a public meeting of a proposed tax rate increase is an administrative requirement under state law.

No formal action is needed on this item.

3. Statement by the Executive or Budget Officer that the Interim Budget Includes a Proposed Tax Rate Increase

City Attorney, Josh Collins, confirmed that a statement was made by the City Budget

Officer that the interim budget includes a proposed tax rate increase.

No formal action is needed on this item.

4. A Resolution of the South Salt Lake City Council Acknowledging That an Executive or Budget Officer of the City Stated in a Public Meeting that the Interim Budget includes a Proposed Tax Rate Increase

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

Council Member Williams made a motion to approve the Resolution.

MOTION: Clarissa Williams

SECOND: Corey Thomas

Roll Call Vote:

Glad:	Yes
Thomas:	Yes
Bynum:	Yes
Mitchell:	Yes
Jones:	Yes
Williams:	Yes
deWolfe:	Yes

5. Property Tax Impact Schedule

City Attorney, Josh Collins, explained that the Property Tax Impact Schedule is an administrative requirement under state law to notify the public of the potential tax impact if the proposed property tax increase for the Public Safety Service Fund is approved.

A copy of the Property Tax Impact Schedule was made available to the Council Members and the public attendees at the meeting.

A copy of the Property Tax Impact Schedule is attached and incorporated by this reference.

No formal action is needed on this item.

6. A Resolution of the South Salt Lake City Council Acknowledging That an Executive or Budget Officer of the City Presented and Made Available to the Public a Property Tax Impact Schedule as a Separate Document from all Other Budget Documents

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

Council Member Glad made a motion to approve the Resolution.

MOTION: Joy Glad
SECOND: Corey Thomas

Roll Call Vote:

Glad: Yes
Thomas: Yes
Bynum: Yes
Mitchell: Yes
Jones: Yes
Williams: Yes
deWolfe: Yes

7. An Ordinance of the South Salt Lake City Council Adopting a Final Tax Rate for the General Purposes of the City

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

Council Member Glad made a motion to move this item as Unfinished Business to the next Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Joy Glad
SECOND: Clarissa Williams

Voice Vote:

Glad: Yes
Thomas: Yes
Bynum: Yes
Mitchell: Yes
Jones: Yes
Williams: Yes
deWolfe: Yes

8. An Ordinance of the South Salt Lake City Council Adopting a Proposed Tax Rate for the Public Safety Services Purposes of the City

Mayor Wood reported that the City had not yet received the certified tax rate from Salt Lake County, which was expected by June 13, 2026.

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

Council Member Williams made a motion to move this item as Unfinished Business to the next Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Clarissa Williams
SECOND: Joy Glad

Voice Vote:

Glad: Yes
Thomas: Yes
Bynum: Yes
Mitchell: Yes
Jones: Yes
Williams: Yes
deWolfe: Yes

Public Hearing – 7:25 p.m. (Or As Soon Thereafter as Possible)

- 1. To receive public comment regarding the adoption of the South Salt Lake City budget for fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Said budget to include:**
 - a. General Fund**
 - b. Public Safety Service Special Revenue Fund**
 - c. Lease Debt Service Fund**
 - d. Capital Improvements Fund**
 - e. Public Works Campus Construction Fund**
 - f. Water Utility Fund**
 - g. Wastewater Fund**
 - h. Solid Waste Fund**
 - i. Stormwater Utility Fund**
 - j. Insurance Reserve Fund**
 - k. Transportation Utility Fund**

The public hearing was opened at 7:31 p.m.

Parkway Avenue resident, Garrett Beckler, shared comments and questions regarding the line item for the 1300 East tank.

Parkway Avenue resident, Keith Carrick, shared comments and questions regarding the line item for the 1300 East tank.

Parkway Avenue resident, Bryce Mihalevich, shared comments and questions regarding the line item for the 1300 East tank.

The public hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m.

Council Member Williams expressed appreciation for the work put into the budget under tight economic constraints, noting that the service fee increases for water, sewer, and trash were necessary to maintain the quality of life in the City.

Council Chair Bynum voiced caution regarding any potential reductions to the proposed cost-of-living adjustment, noting that employees are already absorbing significant increases in healthcare premiums, and reducing their cost-of-living adjustment could place them in a financial deficit.

Council Member Mitchell advocated for a more conservative approach, suggesting the Council eliminate cost-of-living adjustments entirely for the fiscal year. He argued that raising property taxes while providing salary increases did not represent

a fair message to the public.

Council Member deWolfe expressed concern over a combined cost-of-living and merit increase, noting that a 6% increase for non-sworn employees was difficult to justify alongside a property tax increase. He requested a breakdown of what a 1% or 2% reduction in the cost-of-living adjustment would look like in savings.

Council Member Jones emphasized that the City must remain competitive with other cities and private employers to prevent losing trained staff, particularly police officers. He supported the proposed property tax increase for the Public Safety Service Fund, noting that citizens are more willing to pay taxes if they know the funds are dedicated to improving emergency response times and keeping them safe.

Council Member Williams noted the recent approval of the Resolution by a majority of the Council that would have the City join the Community Renewable Energy program through a third-party group that would raise residents' utility bills by \$4/month. She stated that making that choice was not the best way to address renewable energy concerns and especially during a time when some or most of the Council Members were also hesitant to amend the Transportation Utility Fee that would now charge residents, as well as the current proposed tax rate increases.

Council Member deWolfe stated that the Resolution expressed an intent to join the Community Renewable Energy program if a spot becomes available, and that the City hasn't officially joined the program yet.

Mayor Wood shared that the \$11.7 million that was cut from the budget was done so with the understanding and the hope that employees' COLA and merit raises would not be impacted in a year where their healthcare premiums had gone up.

Council Member Joy Glad suggested that rather than adjusting the cost-of-living adjustment, the Council could look at adjusting the merit step increases, as cost-of-living increases are essential regardless of performance.

HR Director, Charee Peck, clarified that a cost-of-living adjustment raises the entire pay scale, whereas a merit increase is a step increase on the pay scale (always 3% for non-sworn employees and 4% for sworn officers, based on meeting performance requirements).

Council Chair Bynum acknowledged the first-hand knowledge of the burden that public employees face when they rely on COLA and merit raises to provide livable wages and to pay for their healthcare in comparison to private sector employees.

Council Chair Bynum requested information on the budget savings that would result from a 1% reduction in the cost-of-living adjustment.

Council Member deWolfe requested a comparison of salary increases across neighboring cities.

Mayor Wood agreed to compile and provide this information.

Council Member Glad stressed that while healthcare is a vital need, the City must be careful to avoid losing top talent because of uncompetitive salaries, as replacing staff is more expensive than retaining them.

Council Member Glad made a motion to move all the separate Ordinances for each fund budget as Unfinished Business to the next Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Joy Glad

SECOND: Clarissa Williams

Voice Vote:

Glad:	Yes
Thomas:	Yes
Bynum:	Yes
Mitchell:	Yes
Jones:	Yes
Williams:	Yes
deWolfe:	Yes

Public Hearing – 7:30 p.m. (Or As Soon Thereafter as Possible)

- 1. To receive public comment regarding a compensation increase for Elected and Statutory Officers of South Salt Lake, which is included in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027**

The public hearing was opened at 8:07 p.m.

South Salt Lake resident, Haisel Stout, spoke in favor of increasing compensation for elected and statutory officials. They argued that if compensation for elected offices do not offer a living wage, only wealthy individuals will be able to afford to run for or hold office, leading to a government disproportionately represented by the rich. They noted that while pay increases for officials during tax hikes can feel counterintuitive, adequate compensation ensures that individuals from all socioeconomic backgrounds can serve in government.

No other members of the public came forward to speak.

The public hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Council Member Glad asked how many statutory officers there were in the City.

Mayor Wood said that there are roughly 20.

Council Chair Bynum agreed with the resident's comment and emphasized that inadequate compensation for elected officers prevents lower-income residents from

running, limiting the diversity of representation. She reminded the Council Members that while elected officials can choose whether to accept their salary increases, establishing a fair compensation structure is critical for future candidates who may rely on that income to serve.

Council Chair Williams noted that City Council positions are part-time in theory but often require full-time commitments. She thanked the resident for their input and reminder that representation of the community is tied to fair and livable pay for elected and statutory officers.

Council Member Ray deWolfe expressed that while he understood the structural arguments for competitive pay, he personally found it difficult to accept a pay increase in a budget year that features significant tax and utility fee increases. He noted he has declined raises in the past and felt uncomfortable with the timing.

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

Council Member Williams made a motion to move the Resolution as Unfinished Business to the next Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Clarissa Williams

SECOND: Corey Thomas

Voice Vote:

Glad:	Yes
Thomas:	Yes
Bynum:	Yes
Mitchell:	Yes
Jones:	Yes
Williams:	Yes
deWolfe:	Yes

Council Member Williams made a motion to Adjourn.

MOTION: Clarissa Williams

SECOND: Corey Thomas

Voice Vote:

Glad:	Yes
Thomas:	Yes
Bynum:	Yes
Mitchell:	Yes
Jones:	Yes
Williams:	Yes
deWolfe:	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Sharla Bynum, Council Chair

Ariel Andrus, City Recorder