

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 12, 2026

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in Work Session on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

The following Council Members were present:

Victoria Petro, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young

Present Legislative Leadership:

Jennifer Bruno – Executive Director, Lehua Weaver – Deputy Director, Nick Tarbet – Deputy Director

Present Administrative Leadership:

Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Rachel Otto – Chief of Staff, Lindsey Nikola – Deputy Chief of Staff, Megan Yuill – Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Present City Staff:

Mark Kittrell – City Attorney, Keith Reynolds – City Recorder, Stephanie Elliott – Minutes & Records Clerk, Scott Corpany – Staff Assistant, Michael Sanders – Budget & Policy Analyst, Mary Beth Thompson – Chief Financial Officer, Ben Luedtke – Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Lisa Hunt – Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Jojo Liu – Justice Court Presiding Judge, Valeta Hitchcock – Financial Manager

The meeting was called to order at 2:23 p.m.

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Work Session Items

[Click Here for the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.](#)

1. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Administration's Overview ~ 2:00 p.m.
20 min.

The Council will receive an overview from the Administration of the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Salt Lake City for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

For more information visit <https://link.slc.gov/slcfy27>.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)

Briefing - Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

Summary:

Mary Beth Thompson and Lisa Hunt presented an overview of the Mayor's Recommended Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget and revenue projections. The presentation highlighted proposed budget reductions, revenue assumptions, strategic investments, and the proposed property tax increase.

Council Members and staff discussed:

- General Fund revenue and expenditure projections, including sales tax trends, property tax revenues, and fund balance assumptions
- Proposed revenue-generating measures, including short-term rental licensing, parking-related revenues, and future revenue options such as a transportation utility fee
- Proposed uses of the property tax increase, including public safety, community services, infrastructure, and capital improvement projects
- Budget reduction strategies, vacancy savings, position eliminations, operational efficiencies, and efforts to reduce reliance on one-time funding sources
- The agreement with the Utah Inland Port Authority providing reimbursement for 13 proposed Police Department positions
- Implementation requirements associated with Truth in Taxation legislation

2. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Administration's Revenue Update ~ 2:20 p.m.
30 min.

The Council will receive a briefing from the Administration on the revenue components of the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Salt Lake City for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

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This item was consolidated with Item 1 for presentation purposes.

3. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Council Staff Overview ~ 2:50 p.m.
30 min.

The Council will receive an overview from Council Staff of the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Salt Lake City for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

For more information visit <https://link.slc.gov/slcfy27>.

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TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

The item was moved to a future Council Meeting.

4. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Finance Department ~ 3:20 p.m.
30 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Finance Department budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The Finance Department oversees the City's revenues and expenses and helps departments remain transparent, accountable, and within their budgets.

For more information visit <https://link.slc.gov/slcfy27>.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, April 21, 2026
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TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

Summary:

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Mary Beth Thompson, Lisa Hunt, and Ben Luedtke presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Finance Department budget. The presentation highlighted departmental accomplishments, technology improvements, operational efficiencies, and proposed budget reductions.

Council Members, Jennifer Bruno, and staff discussed :

- Department accomplishments, including development of long-term financial planning tools and recent implementation of a new Human Resources (HR), payroll, and financial operations software called Workday
- Proposed departmental budget reductions and staffing changes resulting from process improvements and technology investments
- Financial transparency measures, including investment advisor fee reporting and creation of a Property Tax Pass-Through Fund

5. Tentative Break ~ 3:50 p.m.
20 min.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)

Briefing - n/a

Set Public Hearing Date - n/a

Hold hearing to accept public comment - n/a

TENTATIVE Council Action - n/a

6. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Sustainability Department and Refuse Fund ~ 4:10 p.m.
45 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Sustainability Department budget and Refuse Fund for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

For more information visit <https://link.slc.gov/slcfy27>.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)

Briefing - Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

The item was moved to a future Council Meeting.

7. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Justice Court ~ 4:55 p.m.

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45 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Justice Court budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The Justice Court handles misdemeanor criminal citations, small claims, traffic citations and traffic school for moving violations. Please note that the Justice Court represents only one component of the overall justice system. Budgets for the Legal Defenders Association and the Prosecutor's Office will be presented separately.

For more information visit <https://link.slc.gov/slcfy27>.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)

Briefing - Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

Summary:

Michael Sanders gave a brief introduction to the Justice Court's Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget and increased funding requests. Jojo Liu and Valeta Hitchcock presented the proposed Justice Court budget, including staffing and operational requests associated with increasing criminal caseloads and court workload demands.

Council Members, Jennifer Bruno, and staff discussed:

- Staffing and operational needs associated with significant increases in criminal filings, hearings, and overall court workload
- Coordination among the Justice Court, Prosecutor's Office, Legal Defenders Association, and other criminal justice partners to address systemwide demands
- Property tax-supported funding requests associated with Justice Court and related criminal justice operations

Council Request:

Council Member Puy requested a follow-up briefing regarding Justice Court facility needs and opportunities to improve operational efficiency.

8. Tentative – Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Property Tax Impact Schedule TENTATIVE

The Council will discuss the proposed property tax impact schedule that was received with the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Salt Lake City for Fiscal Year 2026-27, including reviewing and discussing the items proposed for funding through a property tax increase.

For more information visit <https://link.slc.gov/slcfy27>.

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FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Recurring Briefing Through May and June 2026
Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, May 19, 2026
TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

Summary:

Jennifer Bruno reviewed the proposed Property Tax Impact Schedule and explained new State requirements related to public notice and property tax increase adoption. The item was presented for informational purposes and would be updated as budget deliberations continue.

Council Members and Jennifer Bruno discussed requirements governing property tax increase notices, hearings, and adoption processes. Lehua Weaver stated all budget information was publicly available in the City's Budget Hub located at link.slc.gov/slcfy27

Standing Items

9. Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

Item not held.

10. Report and Announcements from the Executive Director

Report of the Executive Director, including a review of Council information items and announcements. The Council may give feedback or staff direction on any item related to City Council business, including but not limited to scheduling items.

Item not held.

11. Tentative Closed Meeting

The Council will consider a motion to enter into closed meeting. A closed meeting described under Utah Code Annotated (UCA) Section §52-4-205 may be held for specific purposes including, but not limited to discussing:

- a. discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.
- b. strategy sessions to discuss collective bargaining.
- c. strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

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- d. strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares, if public discussion of the transaction would:
 - (i) disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration, or
 - (ii) prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms.
- e. strategy sessions to discuss the sale of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares, if:
 - (i) public discussion of the transaction would:
 - (A) disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration, or
 - (B) prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms.
 - (ii) the public body previously gave public notice that the property would be offered for sale, and
 - (iii) the terms of the sale are publicly disclosed before the public body approves the sale.
- f. discussion regarding deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems.
- g. investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.

A closed meeting may also be held for attorney-client matters that are privileged pursuant to Utah Code § 78B-1-137, and for other lawful purposes that satisfy the pertinent requirements of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act.

Motion:

Moved by Council Member Wharton, seconded by Council Member Dugan to enter into Closed Meeting for the purposes of discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; strategy sessions to discuss collective bargaining; strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation; and attorney-client matters.

AYE: Victoria Petro, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young

Final Result: 6 – 0 Pass

Summary:

Closed Meeting started at 4:07 p.m.

Council Members in attendance: Council Members Petro, Dugan, Wharton, Carlsen, Puy, and Young.

Staff and Administration in attendance: Jennifer Bruno, Mark Kittrell, Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Rachel Otto, Lindsey Nikola, Megan Yuill, Allison Parks, Katherine Pasker, Lehua Weaver, Nick Tarbet, Mary Beth Thompson, Lisa Hunt, Laura Briefer, Benjamin Luedtke, Jonathan Pappasideris, David Buchanan, Melissa Green, and Keith Reynolds

Closed Meeting ended at 5:12 p.m.

Motion:

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Moved by Council Member Dugan, seconded by Council Member Wharton to exit Closed Meeting.

AYE: Victoria Petro, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young

Final Result: 6 – 0 Pass

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Minutes Approved: July 14, 2026.

City Council Chair – Alejandro Puy

City Recorder – Keith Reynolds

Please refer to Meeting Materials (available at <https://data.slcc.gov> by selecting City Council Meeting Information) for supportive content including electronic recordings and comments submitted prior to or during the meeting. Websites listed within the body of the Minutes may not remain active indefinitely.

This document along with the digital recording constitutes the official minutes of the City Council Work Session meeting held Tuesday, May 12, 2026 and is not intended to serve as a full transcript. Please refer to the electronic recording for entire content pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-203.