

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in Work Session on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

The following Council Members were present:

Victoria Petro, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Eva Lopez Chavez, 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, Jill Love – Chief Administrative Officer, Lindsey Nikola – Deputy Chief of Staff, Megan Yuill – Deputy Chief Administration Officer

Present City Staff:

Mark Kittrell – City Attorney, Keith Reynolds – City Recorder, DeeDee Robinson – Minutes & Records Clerk, Taylor Hill – District Liaison/Policy Specialist, Scott Corpany – Staff Assistant, Brian Fullmer – Public Policy Analyst, Austin Kimmel – Public Policy Analyst, Laura Briefer – Public Utilities Director, Lisa Tarufelli – Public Utilities Finance Administrator, Paul Nielson – Senior City Attorney, Jennifer Coffman – Airport Operations Manager, Tyler Murdock – Public Lands Deputy Director, Amy Reid – Public Lands Associate Landscape Architect, Jason Brown – Public Utilities Deputy Director

The meeting was called to order at 2:22 p.m.

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Work Session Items

1. **Ordinance: Lost and Mislaid Property at Airports Text Amendment** ~ 2:30 p.m.
20 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about a proposal that would amend portions of *Salt Lake City Code* pertaining to lost and mislaid property at airports. The proposal is necessary to comply with Senate Bill 172, passed in the 2026 general session of the Utah Legislature, and to codify the process by which the Salt Lake City Department of Airport disposes of lost or mislaid property left at the international airport. Chapter 2.10 and Section 16.10. would be impacted.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.
TENTATIVE Council Action - Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Summary:

Nick Tarbet provided an introduction to the item.

Paul Neilson and Jennifer Coffman outlined the process to amend state code regarding the Airport's lost and mislaid property and presented a proposal to align City code with recently adopted State legislation. The proposal would formalize procedures for receiving, inventorying, storing, and disposing of lost property at qualifying airports. They also reviewed the Airport's previous practices, noted that the legislation applied only to airports with a federally required law enforcement presence, and explained that City code had been updated to reflect the changes in State code.

Council Members and Paul Neilsen discussed the process for disposing of unclaimed property that has become the property of the Airport.

2. **Ordinance: Indefinite Alleyway Closure in Jefferson Park** ~ 2:50 p.m.
15 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about a proposal that would indefinitely close a 16-foot by 275-foot north/south alleyway and a portion of a 15-foot by 100-foot east/west alleyway Block 1 of the West Boulevard Subdivision within Jefferson Park, pursuant to Utah Code §72-5-105. The proposal would consolidate all parcels that make up Jefferson Park into a single parcel to facilitate park improvements that are being funded by the Parks, Trails, and Open Space General Obligation Bond (GO Bond) and Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding. If the closure is approved, the alleyways will continue to be part of Jefferson Park. There are no properties that rely on these alleyways

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for access. The alley portion used by residents on 200 West and Goltz Avenue to access their properties will not be affected by the proposed closure.

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

Briefing - Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7 p.m.

TENTATIVE Council Action - Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Summary:

Brian Fullmer provided an introduction to the item.

Tyler Murdock and Amy Reid presented a proposal to vacate two alley segments located entirely within Jefferson Park to consolidate parcels and facilitate planned park improvements, including stormwater detention basin functions and other site enhancements. They also reviewed state code requirements for closing an alley, and the public process to date.

Council Members and staff discussed whether future park parcel consolidations and alley closures could be grouped together rather than addressed individually. Staff said they had identified additional parks that would require similar actions, but current team capacity required them to address the items individually at this time.

3. Tentative Break ~ 3:05 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

4. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Metropolitan Water District ~ 3:25 p.m.
30 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed budget for the Metropolitan Water District for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The Council does not formally decide on this budget but accepts public input. The Council appoints a majority of the District's Board of Trustees, which has the ultimate authority to approve the budget.

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

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

Briefing - Tuesday, May 5, 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:

Austin Kimmel provided an introduction and reviewed the Council's role in the Metropolitan Water District budget process.

Tom Godfrey (Chair of the Board of Trustees, Metropolitan Water District (MWD)) and **Annalee Munsey** (MWD General Manager) presented the proposed MWD Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget, including revenue sources, expenditures, major capital projects, and infrastructure needs. They also reviewed water supply details (Deer Creek Reservoir, Little Cottonwood Creek, and Jordanelle Reservoir), plans for future bonding, and a likely fiscal year 2027-28 property tax increase to help fund capital projects addressing aging infrastructure.

Council Members and Annalee Munsey discussed statewide water conservancy efforts not affecting the MWD budget due to flat-rate billing regardless of water usage.

5. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Budget: Department of Public Utilities ~ 3:55 p.m.
45 min.

The Council will be briefed about the Mayor's recommended budget for the Department of Public Utilities 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 5, 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:

Austin Kimmel provided an introduction.

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Laura Briefer, along with Lisa Tarufelli and Jason Brown, presented information on significant generational capital investments, operational efficiencies and cost savings including federal loans and grants, budget and rate drivers, the proposed \$427.8 million budget, utility fund budgets (water, sewer, stormwater, and streetlighting), projected revenues and expenditures, proposed rate changes, and examples of monthly impacts to water, sewer, stormwater, and streetlighting charges.

Council Members and Laura Briefer discussed:

- Use of federal grants and low-interest loans to reduce costs for aging infrastructure
- Comparative rate increase implications for Salt Lake City and other jurisdictions based on infrastructure needs and water access
- The potential effect of not increasing rates, including risks to bond ratings, long-term resiliency, and water security
- Protections for the Great Salt Lake included the incorporation of conservation into the Public Utility rate structure and upgrading aging infrastructure
- Multi-family and commercial rate impacts seeing a decline with the separation of indoor and outdoor water meter adjustments
- Opportunities for renewed partnership with federal investment/agencies to address aging infrastructure
- Clarification on the \$20k contribution from the General Fund to the Public Utilities enterprise fund
- Projection of water conservation and its impact to the department's budget
- The goal of improving equity in street lighting service levels throughout the City

Council Request:

Council Member Petro requested coordination to educate residents on utility usage and rate structures for water, sewer, and stormwater services. Laura Briefer invited further discussion on the topic and indicated the department would help in any way necessary.

Council Member Lopez Chavez left the meeting during this agenda item.

6. Board Appointment: Housing Authority of Salt Lake City – Deborah Chiquito ~ 4:40 p.m.
5 min.

The Council will interview Deborah Chiquito, resident of Salt Lake County, prior to considering appointment to the Housing Authority of Salt Lake City for a term ending May 5, 2030.

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

Briefing - Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Set Public Hearing Date - n/a

Hold hearing to accept public comment - n/a

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Summary:

An interview was held. Council Member Puy said Deborah Chiquito's name would be on the Consent Agenda for formal consideration.

7. **Board Appointment: Housing Authority of Salt Lake City – Turner Bitton** ~ 4:45 p.m.
5 min.

The Council will interview Turner Bitton, resident of District 2, prior to considering appointment to the Housing Authority of Salt Lake City for a term ending May 5, 2030.

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

Briefing - Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Set Public Hearing Date - n/a

Hold hearing to accept public comment - n/a

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This agenda item was moved to a future Council Meeting.

Standing Items

8. Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

Item not held.

9. 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.

Summary:

Jennifer Bruno advised Council Members that meeting packets would now be provided on Fridays during the budget process to allow staff additional time to prepare materials, Council Meetings would adjust to starting at 1:00 p.m., Thursday Council Meetings would be added starting May 14, 2026, and the Community Reinvestment Agency budget would be discussed May 19, 2026.

10. 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.
- 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:

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- (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.

Summary:

Closed meeting started at 4:49 p.m.

Council Members in attendance: Council Members Lopez Chavez, Puy, Dugan, Carlsen, Young, Petro, Wharton

Staff and Administration in attendance: Jennifer Bruno, Lehua Weaver, Nick Tarbet, Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Jill Love, Rachel Otto, Lindsey Nikola, Megan Yuill, Mark Kittrell, Johnathan Pappasideris, Dave Buchanan, Melissa Green, Mary Beth Thompson, Keith Reynolds, Matthew Brown

Closed meeting ended at 5:26 p.m.

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, and for attorney-client matters, and for other lawful purposes that satisfy the pertinent requirements of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act.

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

ABSENT: Eva Lopez Chavez

Final Result: 6 – 0 Pass

Motion:

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

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

Final Result: 7 – 0 Pass

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Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Minutes Approved: July 21, 2026

City Council Chair – Alejandro Puy

City Recorder – Keith Reynolds

Please refer to Meeting Materials (available at <https://data.sl.c.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 5, 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.