MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL
Thursday, June 11, 2026

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in Work Session on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

The following Council Members were present:
Victoria Petro, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Jennifer Napier-Pearce, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young

Present Legislative Leadership:
Jennifer Bruno – Executive Director, Lehua Weaver – Deputy Director, Nick Tarbet – Deputy Director

Present Administrative leadership:
Jill Love – Chief Administrative Officer, Megan Yuill – Deputy Chief Administration Officer

Present City Staff:
Mark Kittrell – City Attorney, Keith Reynolds – City Recorder, Caitlin Carlino – Minutes & Records Clerk, Taylor Hill – District Liaison/Policy Specialist, Scott Corpany – Staff Assistant, Allison Rowland – Senior Public Policy Analyst, Michael Sanders – Budget & Policy Analyst, Mary Beth Thompson – Chief Financial Officer, Kim Shelley – Director of Public Lands, Sophia Nicholas – Sustainability Deputy Director, Zach Posner – Chief Information Officer, Jorge Chamorro – Director of Public Services

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

For more information on the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, visit the Council's hub: link.slc.gov/slcfy27.

Click Here for the Mayor's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Work Session Items

1. **Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Unresolved Issues Follow-Up** ~ 4:00 p.m. 90 min.

The Council will receive a follow-up briefing about unresolved issues relating to the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Thursday, May 28, 2026, Tuesday, June 2, 2026 , Tuesday, June 9, 2026, and Thursday, June 11, 2026
Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, April 21, 2026 and Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 and Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 7 p.m.
TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

Summary:

Jennifer Bruno clarified that Council had until June 22, 2026, to determine the property tax increase limit and said updated new-growth information appeared to be in a favorable position relative to the Mayor's recommended budget, though not yet final.

Council Members discussed the impact of a property tax increase combined with public utility increases, the need to support core City services, and the importance of predictability for future budgets. Council Members also discussed whether possible savings should be used to reduce the proposed property tax increase or strengthen fund balance to avoid similar budget pressures in future years.

Council Members and City staff then discussed unresolved budget issues as follows:

Hive Pass
The program was considered as a possible cut because of cost, usage, and administrative burden.

- Whether low participation justified discontinuing the program
- Value of the program for families and transit access
- Possibility of a future partnership model with Utah Transit Authority to administer discounted passes
- Tension between preserving useful programs and making difficult cuts

Landscape Exchange Program

The Council discussed a possible temporary suspension of the program.

- A one-year pause with a way to revisit the program in a future budget year
- **Council Request:** Council Member Puy requested a legislative intent to explore similar programs, partnerships with the private sector, and an income qualified voucher.

Drone Program and Related Public Safety Equipment
The Council explored whether drone-related costs could be delayed, reduced, or shifted without undermining public safety benefits.

- Infrastructure costs, including the drone dock
- Viability of delaying the start of the Drone Program by 5 months
- **Council Request:** Council Member Young requested clarification on drone pilot funding and related infrastructure costs. Michael Sanders said they would follow up with Council after clarifying with the Police Department.

Cameras, Supplies, and Equipment for Police Department
The item was discussed for possible reduction from the Funding Our Futures budget.

- Repairs and replacements versus purchasing new equipment
- Council interest in public safety investments and their impact on crime reduction and crime hotspots

Police Leadership Development Program
A possible partial reduction was considered while recognizing the program's role in culture, retention, and leadership.

- A 50 percent reduction rather than a full elimination
- The value of leadership and trauma-informed training for public-facing service and morale

Public Lands Staffing and Park Rangers
Potential staffing reductions, service impacts, and alternative response functions were discussed between Council Members, Allison Rowland and Kim Shelley.

- Clarification of a reduction/rescoping and not a cancellation of the Park Ranger program
- Concerns that eliminations in Park Ranger positions would push calls for service onto other City departments
- The value of educational programs to the public and how a rescoping of the program would operate
- **Council Request:** Council Member Puy requested information on how a reduction in Park Ranger staffing would impact educational programming, patrol hours and other park experiences. Kim Shelley stated they would provide that information.
- **Council Request:** Council Member Young requested details on whether the reduction in Park Rangers would affect time spent on core duties and whether

impacts would be limited to specific parks or absorbed citywide. Kim Shelley confirmed that information would be provided.

Food Microgrant Program and Utility Assistance
The program was discussed as a reduction/refocus toward household food production and affordability with general Council support.

- A proposal to reduce the program's total budget and focus the funds towards reduced flat grants for households
- An alternative proposal to cut the organizational aspect of the program, keeping the original and higher grant amount
- Grant prioritization for food growing households on fixed incomes and those in multigenerational homes
- **Council Request:** Council Member Petro requested a legislative intent regarding City voucher programs to ensure they were designed to advance City goals, such as reducing emissions and encouraging transitions to cleaner energy, rather than primarily making planned actions more affordable. The request also applied broadly to voucher programs across the City, not only to the program under discussion.

Community Health Access Team (CHAT)
Council Members and Jill Love discussed expanding alternative response capacity through a third CHAT team.

- Additional social workers as a central staffing need
- The value of an additional CHAT team in addressing citizen's emotional and mental health emergencies
- Budget constraints as a reason why a third response team was not proposed by the Administration
- Council Member Young stated additional clarification was needed on whether the proposed estimate included operational and equipment costs.

IMS Innovation Program
The Council discussed with Jill Love, Zach Posner, Jennifer Bruno, Lehua Weaver, and Mary Beth Thompson a proposed scaling back of the program with clearer goals and measures of success.

- A possible reduction rather than a complete removal
- Examples of positive returns from the program such as reduced wait times for customers and greater efficiency
- A legislative intent for a mid-year report on a pilot program with clear metrics for success

Capital Improvement Program and Deferred Maintenance
Council Members, Mary Beth Thompson, Kim Shelley, Jill Love, and Jorge Chamorro discussed potential Capital Improvement Program reductions.

- Possible partial redcution in urban trails funding

- Deferring the Washington Park septic project for one-year
- Analysis of proposed facility deferred maintenance projects and the risk of more costly failures if deferred
- **Council Request:** Council Member Puy requested information on possible 1-year deferral of the Washington Park septic project. Kim Shelley stated they would provide that data.

National League of Cities Membership and Travel
A possible one-year pause in membership and conference participation was considered as a cost-saving measure.

- Travel and registration cost savings
- The group's intergovernmental relationship value
- Utah League of Cities and Towns membership dues

Golf-Related Funding
Council Members, Jill Love, and Kim Shelley discussed the remaining golf-related operating subsidy.

- Clarification that the remaining $500,000 was tied to the Energy Service Company (ESCO) debt that the City entered into several years ago and that no ongoing subsidy was proposed moving forward
- The importance of using the funds for golf course maintenance and capital improvements to enhance the user experience and maintain competitiveness

Tree Maintenance / Tree Health
Tree maintenance was discussed as a possible priority if savings were identified elsewhere.

- Tree health as a preservation issue rather than an expansion topic
- Proposal for departments to identify what tree preservation work could be accomplished with $136,000

Council Members concluded the discussion by clarifying the objectives of the budget review process. While Members shared different perspectives on the value of small budget reductions, there was broad recognition of the need to balance strengthening the City's financial reserves, preparing for unforeseen expenses, and considering the cumulative financial burden on residents. Members agreed the discussion would help inform budget decisions after updated revenue estimates were received.

2.

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.

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 and Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, May 19, 2026 and Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 7 p.m.
TENTATIVE Council Action - TBD

Summary:

Council Member Puy indicated this item was posted on the agenda as required per State law and the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget's property tax impact schedule was accessible online.

Standing Items

3. Report of the Chair and Vice Chair -

Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

There was no report of the Chair and Vice Chair.

4. 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:

Lehua Weaver coordinated scheduling for a new Council group photo. Council Members agreed to finalize photos thirty minutes before the next Work Session and briefly discussed attire.

5. 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:
    (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.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes Approved: July 21, 2026

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City Council Chair – Alejandro Puy

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City Recorder – Keith Reynolds

Please refer to Meeting Materials (available at https://data.slc.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 Thursday, June 11, 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.