MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL
Thursday, May 21, 2026

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in Work Session on Thursday, May 21, 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, Jill Love – Chief Administrative Officer, Lindsey Nikola – Deputy Chief of Staff, Megan Yuill – Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Present City Staff:
Mark Kittrell – City Attorney, Keith Reynolds – City Recorder, Thais Stewart – Deputy City Recorder, Caitlin Carlino – Minutes & Records Clerk, Taylor Hill – District Liaison/Policy Specialist, Scott Corpany – Staff Assistant, Allison Rowland – Senior Public Policy Analyst, Kate Werrett – Budget & Policy Analyst, Michael Sanders – Budget & Policy Analyst, Jorge Chamorro – Director of Public Services, JP Goates – Deputy Director of Public Services, Julie Crookston – Deputy Director of Public Services, Kim Shelley – Director of Public Lands, Tyler Murdock – Deputy Director of Public Lands, Matt Kammeyer – Golf Division Director, Karl Lieb – Fire Chief, Alicea Caccavo – Financial Analyst - Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 1:16 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: Department of Public Lands** ~ 1:00 p.m. 45 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Department of Public Lands budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Thursday, May 21, 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:

Allison Rowland introduced the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget for the Department of Public Lands and noted that, excluding the Golf Fund, the department budget would increase modestly while continuing to absorb utility, contract, and personnel cost increases.

Kim Shelley, alongside Tyler Murdock, presented the department's updated mission, recent accomplishments, operational efficiencies, requested budget increases, and proposed reductions. The presentation noted proposed reductions affecting administrative costs, operations, charges and services, park security, and Park Ranger staffing.

Council Members and staff discussed:

- Whether proposed reductions would affect timelines for projects funded through the 2022 general obligation bond
- The health of the City's sycamore trees after a recent late frost/freeze
- Water conservation and irrigation upgrades and updates, including maintenance implications for new properties
- The role and expected impacts of reducing Park Ranger staffing
- The native plant propagation program and addition of native plants into public parks
- The Regional Athletic Complex fee structure and a need for further analysis of economic growth opportunities
- Overall improved maintenance and responsiveness in parks and public spaces

Council Requests:

- Council Member Puy requested additional information on the Folsom Trail and what nearby residents should expect from the project.
- Council Member Puy requested additional information about Park Ranger programming, community outreach, and the types of contacts Rangers had with residents. Staff indicated they would provide a response.
- Council Member Puy requested follow-up regarding tree losses on North Temple, maintenance expectations for newer tree plantings along 300 West, and additional information about the Thousand Trees Program. Staff responded they would follow up.
- Council Member Wharton requested follow-up on the proposed Foothills subcommittee within the Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry & Trails Advisory Board (PNUT) and emphasized the importance of including people who were not already members of the advisory board. Staff confirmed a follow-up and estimated they would provide that information in June.
- Council Member Petro requested clearer performance measures for the Park Ranger program, including objective measures of success and how the program should be evaluated as a use of public funds.

Council Member Puy left during this item.

2. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Golf Fund ~ 1:45 p.m.
45 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Golf Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Thursday, May 21, 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:

Allison Rowland introduced the proposed Golf Fund budget and explained that revenues were projected to continue increasing, allowing the fund to support a larger capital improvement program while reducing reliance on General Fund support.

Matt Kammeyer described six years of financial improvement, growth in play and revenue, planned capital investments, and the request to add one full-time position. The presentation also highlighted recent division accomplishments, including golf path repairs, continued design of the Rose Park irrigation project, and installation of golf

simulators at the Forest Dale golf course. Staff said the division's long-term goal remained self-sufficiency and that user fees were helping fund major deferred capital needs.

Council Members and staff discussed:

- The Golf Division's financial improvement over the last six years and its continued progress toward becoming self-sustaining
- Revenue growth, increased demand, and how playable days and utilization affected budget projections
- Water conservation practices at golf courses, including irrigation upgrades, drought-response measures, reduced cart washing, and dry areas residents may notice on course properties
- Council Member appreciation for the division's operational and financial turnaround and for ongoing improvements at City golf courses

Council Member Young left during this item.

3. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Fleet Fund ~ 2:30 p.m. 30 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Fleet Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27, which provides vehicles, fuel, and vehicle maintenance and repair services for all City departments. Fleet also maintains over 2,700 pieces of equipment.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Thursday, May 21, 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

This item was moved to a future Council Meeting agenda.

4. Tentative Break ~ 3:00 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

5. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Department of Public Services ~ 3:20 p.m.
45 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Department of Public Services budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Thursday, May 21, 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:

Kate Werrett introduced the proposed Department of Public Services budget and identified key policy issues, including staffing changes, street maintenance funding, and a proposed public electric vehicle charging fee.

Jorge Chamorro, alongside Julie Crookston and JP Goates, outlined the department's organization, recent accomplishments, operational efficiencies, overall proposed budget reduction, and specific reductions and requests. The discussion included assumption of responsibility for the Ballpark and Old Library (The Leonardo) building, consolidation of cleaning functions into the Urban Services Division, improved response times for occupied recreational vehicles and bioclean requests, roadway condition improvements, and reductions in contracted cleanup services and vacant crossing guard positions.

Council Members and staff discussed:

- The proposed fee for public electric vehicle charging stations and the logistics of implementing a metered charging fee
- Roadway condition improvements following the Mill and Overlay Program and how roadway eligibility affected the Overall Condition Index
- Department reductions and savings, including appreciation for efforts to identify operational efficiencies

- The proposed Ballpark administrator position and the timeline for that position
- The sufficiency of the mill-and-overlay program and the level of investment needed to prevent roads from deteriorating into more costly reconstruction candidates
- Department responsibility for the Ballpark and Old Library building, along with broader maintenance obligations for City facilities

Council Member Puy returned to the meeting during this item.

6. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget: Fire Department ~ 4:05 p.m. 45 min.

The Council will receive a briefing about the proposed Fire Department budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

FYI – Project Timeline: (subject to change per Chair direction or Council discussion)
Briefing - Thursday, May 21, 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:

Michael Sanders introduced the proposed Fire Department budget, including the proposed increase, the request for 10 new full-time positions, and the use of proposed property tax revenue for staffing and operational costs.

Chief Karl Lieb and Alicea Caccavo presented department accomplishments, including completion of the Station 1 bay extension, a memorandum of understanding with the Salt Lake City School District, elimination of toxic aircraft firefighting foam, and several operational efficiencies. The presentation also addressed service demand, apparatus needs, and the department's resource allocation strategy.

Council Members and staff discussed:

- Reallocation of resources to improve responsiveness and the department's data-driven approach to deployment
- The request for nine firefighters to staff a fourth truck at Station 3 in Sugar House
- Whether the department would need another Community Health and Assistance Team (CHAT) and whether increased deployment would create more wear on vehicles
- The relationship between increased density and high-rise development in Sugar House and the need for additional fire-response capacity
- Possible overtime needs or whether additional funds should be set aside
- Possible improvements to the fire inspection and permitting process
- High call volumes and public-service costs in the Avenues and near the University of Utah

Council Request:

Council Member Puy requested staff explore ways to reduce calls associated with the University of Utah and whether there is a path to recoup some related response costs.

Council Member Young returned to the meeting during this item.

7. 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 stated the Property Tax Impact Schedule item was required by Utah State Code to be included in the agenda and was available for the public to view in the meeting materials included in the Agenda.

There was no further discussion.

Standing Items

8. Report of the Chair and Vice Chair - -

Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

There was no report of the Chair or Vice Chair.

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.

There was no report and announcements from the Executive Director.

10. Tentative Closed Meeting -
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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.

Motion:
Moved by Council Member Wharton, seconded by Council Member Dugan to enter into a Closed Meeting for the purposes of strategy session to discuss collective bargaining and for advice of counsel.
AYE: Victoria Petro, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young
Final Result: 6 – 0 Pass

Summary:

Closed Meeting started at 4:05 p.m.

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

Staff and Administration in attendance: Lehua Weaver, Mark Kittrell, David Buchanan, Melissa Green, Jonathan Pappasideris, Nick Tarbet, Mayor Mendenhall, Jill Love, Megan Yuill, Lindsey Nikola, MaryBeth Thompson, Lisa Hunt, Andrew Reed, Keith Reynolds, and Thais Stewart

Closed Meeting ended at 4:57 p.m.

Motion:
Moved by Council Member Dugan, seconded by Council Member Wharton to exit the closed meeting.
AYE: Victoria Petro, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young
Final Result: 6 – 0 Pass

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Minutes Approved: August 18, 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, May 21, 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.