

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 11, 2026

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in Formal Session on Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

The following Council Members were present:

Alejandro Puy, Victoria Petro, Chris Wharton, Jennifer Napier-Pearce, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young

Present Legislative Leadership:

Jennifer Bruno – Executive Director, Nick Tarbet – Deputy Director

Present Administrative Leadership:

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

Present City Staff:

Allison Parks – Deputy City Attorney, Keith Reynolds – City Recorder, Thais Stewart – Deputy City Recorder, Caitlin Carlino – Minutes & Records Clerk, Cindy Lou Trishman – Deputy Director of Operations and Administration, Taylor Hill – District Liaison/Policy Specialist, Scott Corpany – Staff Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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A. OPENING CEREMONY:

1. Council Member Alejandro Puy will conduct the formal meeting.

Summary:

Council Member Puy introduced the limited formal meeting, explaining that the Council would consider final adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget and the required Truth-in-Taxation action, including a proposed property tax increase to support City operations. Council Member Puy also provided resources for additional public information.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Welcome and Public Meeting Rules.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Ordinances: Truth-in-Taxation Hearing Adopting the Rate of Tax Levy, including the Levy for the Library Fund for Fiscal Year 2026-27**

The Council will accept public comment and consider adopting an ordinance approving the final rate of tax levy for all City funds, including the Library Fund, upon all real and personal property within Salt Lake City made taxable by law for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

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

Briefing - n/a

Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7 p.m.

TENTATIVE Council Action - Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Staff Recommendation - Refer to motion sheet(s).

Items B-1 and B-2 were heard as one public hearing.

Summary:

Jennifer Bruno provided a brief introduction to the Truth-in-Taxation hearing and directed the public to information regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget and property tax increase.

Public Comments:

Eric Miller commented on rising property taxes and water utility rates, noting that water bills continued to increase despite lower usage.

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Susana Arguello spoke in opposition to the proposed property tax increase, citing concerns that higher housing costs would affect both homeowners and renters already facing broader increases in living expenses.

R. Scott Birdsall spoke in opposition to the proposed property tax increase, citing the amount of the increase, the judgment levy, and a lack of clear information for affected taxpayers.

Brook Bryn opposed the proposed property tax increase, citing financial hardship and concerns about increased Police Department funding, and highlighted the upcoming September 15 public hearing on automatic license plate reader technology.

Council Remarks:

Council Member Wharton acknowledged concerns regarding affordability and referenced prior Council budget discussions and public hearings addressing those concerns, adding that Council Members were available to speak with residents following the meeting.

Council Member Puy discussed increased costs affecting City operations, resident expectations for infrastructure and services, departmental budget reductions and savings considered during the budget process, and the challenge of balancing City needs with affordability for residents.

Motion:

Moved by Council Member Dugan, seconded by Council Member Petro to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance 44 of 2026, approving the final rate of tax levy for all City funds, including the Library Fund, upon all real and personal property within Salt Lake City made taxable by law for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

AYE: Alejandro Puy, Victoria Petro, Chris Wharton, Jennifer Napier-Pearce, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young

Final Result: 7 – 0 Pass

2. Ordinance: Fiscal Year 2026-27 Final City Budget Adoption

The Council will accept public comment and consider adopting an ordinance approving the final budget for Salt Lake City for Fiscal Year 2026-27, including the property tax increase outlined in the Property Tax Impact Schedule. The final budget action includes a tax rate adjustment exceeding the certified tax rate and will release revenue funds received through the tax rate increase from the restricted fund created at the time of the interim budget adoption.

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

Briefing - n/a

Set Public Hearing Date - Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Hold hearing to accept public comment - Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7 p.m.

TENTATIVE Council Action - Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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Staff Recommendation - Refer to motion sheet(s).

Motion:

Moved by Council Member Wharton, seconded by Council Member Dugan to close the public hearing and adopt Ordinance 45 of 2026, approving the final budget for Salt Lake City for Fiscal Year 2026-27, including the property tax increase outlined in the Property Tax Impact Schedule. The final budget action includes a tax rate adjustment exceeding the certified tax rate and will release revenue funds received through the tax rate increase from the restricted fund created at the time of the interim budget adoption.

AYE: Alejandro Puy, Victoria Petro, Chris Wharton, Jennifer Napier-Pearce, Erika Carlsen, Daniel Dugan, Sarah Young

Final Result: 7 – 0 Pass

Items B-1 and B-2 were heard as one public hearing. Please see Item B-1 for minute entry.

Summary:

Cindy Lou Trishman explained that the final budget required a separate motion for adoption prior to adjournment of the meeting.

C. POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS:
NONE.

D. COMMENTS:
NONE.

E. NEW BUSINESS:
NONE.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
NONE.

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G. CONSENT:
NONE.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

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Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Minutes Approved: August 25, 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 Formal meeting held Tuesday, August 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.