

CITY OF SOUTH SALT LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 7, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

CITY OFFICES

220 East Morris Avenue #200  
South Salt Lake, Utah 84115

PRESIDING  
CONDUCTING

Council Chair Irvin H. Jones, Jr.  
Council Chair Irvin H. Jones, Jr.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharla Beverly, Ryan Gold, Irvin H. Jones, Jr., Kevin Rapp,  
Michael Rutter and Debbie Snow. Council Member LeRoy Turner is excused.

STAFF PRESENT:

Mayor Cherie Wood  
Charee Peck, Chief of Staff  
Ron Morris, Fire Chief  
Jack Carruth, Police Chief  
Dennis Pay, Public Works Director  
Mont Roosendaal, Public Assets Director  
Sharen Hauri, Urban Development Director  
Glenn Smith, Urban Livability Director  
Kari Cutler, Promise South Salt Lake Director  
Kristin Reardon, Justice Court Administrator  
Mike Florence, Community & Economic Development Director  
Aaron Wiet, Recreation Director  
Lyn Creswell, City Attorney  
Kyle Kershaw, Finance Director  
Craig Burton, City Recorder

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

**Matters for Discussion**

- 1. Budget Discussion/Presentations by Department Heads.** Department heads reviewed their top two budget priorities for the 2015/2016 budget with the Council. A copy of their handouts are attached and incorporated by this reference.

Fire Chief, Ron Morris, said the first priority for the Fire Department is to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus for the Department. The current ones are outdated. The second priority is the creation of nine engineer positions for their heavy apparatus. He would also like to get a part-time emergency manager.

Chief Morris reported that this year the Legislature passed a bill that will have Medicaid pay more for each ambulance transport. This should be the last year that the ambulance service will have to be subsidized. He believes they will be close to breaking even in the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

Police Chief, Jack Carruth, said one of his top priorities is trying to retain current officers so they can reduce the turnover rate. One of the challenges they have is some of the perks that come with the job. They currently have a \$700 a year uniform allowance per officer. It is significantly lower than surrounding agencies. The average of the other agencies is \$1,200 a year. Chief Carruth asked that theirs be raised to \$1,000 per year.

The second priority is training. It is part of the job satisfaction is getting the training that is needed. He asked for a \$6,000 increase in the training budget.

Chief Carruth also gave a brief update on body cameras. With the current body camera legislation they have pulled back in their efforts. He doesn't want to put something into place that contradicts whatever legislation comes about. Also, the manufacturer of the car cameras is going to start production of body cameras later this year which will be compatible the car cameras. He is going to use grant money to purchase some body cameras to see what bugs they have before they start spending City money.

Public Works Director, Dennis Pay, advised that South Salt Lake owns about a six percent share of the wastewater treatment plant, Central Valley. Nutrient removal hasn't been required of most treatment plants. The nutrients get into the rivers, streams and lakes and cause water quality issues so the State has now put restrictions on the amount of phosphorus that can be discharged from the sewer treatment plant. To do this will cost between \$50 and \$100 million dollars. South Salt Lake's portion of that is between \$3 and \$6 million dollars. An engineering firm is being asked to do a study to see if there are better way to do this and reduce the cost. They have five years to meet the standard. In five years they are considering possibly imposing standard on nitrogen. So the City could be hit again in 2020.

The City also needs to update the water meter system. It is urgent because two thirds of the meters are outdated and they can no longer get parts or readers and do the reads on them so they need to replace all the meters as quickly as possible, otherwise they will be out doing manual reads which isn't efficient and they don't have the personnel to do it.

There are several summer construction projects that will put a lot of stress on the Public Works staff. One is the 300 East reconstruction project that should be completed by late fall of this year. It should be completed by this fall. They also have the 3300 South I-15 maintenance project and the commuter trail project that runs along 3300 South.

Curb, gutter, sidewalk and storm drain south of 3300 South was budgeted \$50,000 for

this year and will carry over to the next fiscal year. It is currently being worked on.

Mayor Wood advised the Council that if the transportation bill passes the City will get an additional \$1.1 million dollars towards transportation needs.

Public Assets Director, Mont Roosendaal, said he would like to keep his employees. To do this he would like to update the job descriptions and make them accurate and then make sure they are being paid accordingly. Second, he would like to do more training. First he would like to finish the RTA training that was started this year.

Mr. Roosendaal reviewed the needs in the fleet, facilities, and parks.

Urban Development Director, Sharen Hauri, reviewed capital projects that need to be completed.

Urban Livability Director, Glenn Smith, the top of his list is his employees. Their pay needs to be at the top of the list so they can retain their great employees. He is also supportive of the emergency coordinator that Chief Carruth requested. That position is needed for any emergency situations. He would like to create a full-time position out of the current part-time opening he has. They haven't been able to fill the part-time job and it would be more attractive if it is full-time. Public Assets has been assisting with graffiti removal because they haven't been able to get the position filled. He would also like to upgrade the security camera system at the animal shelter.

Promise South Salt Lake Director, Kari Cutler, reported that they have two new neighborhood centers and they need an additional \$1,000 to cover the additional oversight for them. She also requested an additional \$4,000 for the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative.

Justice Court Administrator, Kristin Reardon, reviewed the accomplishments of the court personnel for the last year and the goals for the coming year. She said no budget increase is needed.

Community and Economic Development Director, Mike Florence, requested an additional building inspector. There is a lot of new development coming in and they will need additional help to cover it. The revenue generated by these projects will pay for the position. Mr. Florence would also like some money to do an economic development plan. He also requested some additional funds for gateway/commercial improvements.

Recreation Director, Aaron Wiet, reviewed the accomplishments of the Recreation Department in 2014 and their goals for 2015. To meet the anticipated increase in participation they will need to add more days of facility rentals to the program and Mr. Wiet requested an additional \$3,000 to do that. He also requested an additional \$1,000 to help fund equipment and supplies.

Council Member Snow asked what new ideas they have come up with for Freedom

Fest since it won't be at the former Granite High and they won't be having any fireworks.

Mr. Wiet said they hope to expand the parade with possibly more floats and perhaps, marching bands. They will also enhance the activities that will take place at Fitts Park after the parade.

City Attorney, Lyn Creswell, requested that the budget for professional services remains the same with the option to request additional funding if needed. He also requested a \$30,000 increase in the outside legal fees budget based on upcoming litigation.

City Recorder, Craig Burton, thanked the Council for their earlier approval of an interlocal agreement with Salt Lake County to administer the municipal elections this year. This year the City will be doing a vote by mail election.

Finance Director, Kyle Kershaw, said he discussed with Mayor Wood the notion of adding some training money so some of his people could get a little more proficient at some software applications that are critical. They would be in town trainings. That is the only budget matter he wanted to present.

Mr. Kershaw reported that as they progress towards the 2016 distribution deadline they have seen a ten percent increase in sales tax and twelve percent on the City option so they are doing twice as well as their conservative estimates were on the 2016 Plan. With the things staff has suggested, and the increase in tax numbers, he feels pretty comfortable they are going to be able to deal with it. A ten percent growth rate in sales tax is really good news.

Mr. Kershaw advised that from his vantage point, there has been a lot of serious and thoughtful work put into the information that is presented to the Mayor and him.

After speaking with the Mayor, they are planning on presenting the tentative budget to the Council on April 22, 2015.

Council Chair asked is there is a way to estimate when the new projects will come on line and what the amount will be.

Mr. Kershaw said there is no way to estimate when they will come on line but generally there is at least a twelve month delay, sometimes longer, between when a project gets competed and they remit property tax revenue to the County Treasurer. On the amount they can get a pretty good idea because if they know the value of the construction they can go through the calculations and apply the certified tax rate to the project and determine the amount of property tax that will come into the City. The amount is smaller than you might think.

Council Chair Jones asked how much a wage increase costs.

Mr. Kershaw said it costs about \$130,000 dollars in the General Fund for salary and benefits, for a one percent increase. They are lower in the other funds where they have a few employees.

Council Chair Jones asked how much they would have to increase property taxes to cover a one percent wage increase.

Mr. Kershaw answered that it would take, in the ball park of, a three percent property tax increase.

Council Chair Jones asked how they will pay for the \$3 million dollars over five years for the Central Valley Water project.

Mr. Kershaw assumes Central Valley will issue bonding for it and South Salt Lake would be responsible for a certain percentage of it, about six percent.

Mr. Kershaw said staff would be bringing updated sewer rates to the Council in the near future. The current rates are not keeping up with expenses in the sewer fund. The last two years the sewer fund has been short between \$100,000 to \$150,000 dollars. They are going to try and capture more revenue from those who are affecting the system the most and try to make it easier to administer.

Council Member Snow noted that sales tax revenue is up ten percent in the first six months of the year. She wondered if that increased could be used for a one percent employee salary increase instead of doing a property tax increase.

Mr. Kershaw said the growth in sales tax is really good when they talk about the hold harmless being eliminated but it doesn't put an extra dollar into the City's bank account until they get above the hold harmless amount of \$10,975,000 dollars and that won't happen. To fund an increase of any type, be it a new employee, a raise, a new program, they will have to be looking for a revenue source for it or a corresponding decrease somewhere else in the budget.

Council Chair Jones asked if the City is going to have more revenue, less, or the same amount.

Mr. Kershaw answered that the one revenue source that looks to be bringing in more dollars is the property tax. Right now they are at about \$115,000 dollars more than last year at this time. Since November is when property tax is paid staff doesn't usually like to make any analysis until December or January. He believes the reason is because they have some projects coming on that are starting to benefit the City. Building permits will be larger because of the large projects that are on the drawing board. Activity might begin in the RDA project which would be new revenue. Based on what he knows right now, there might be some expansion in property taxes just because of new growth. The other revenue sources are probably a little flat or might have modest growth. Right now he doesn't anticipate significant new revenue in the budget.

Lunch break began at 11:52 a.m.

Round table discussions started at 12:35 p.m. with individual members of the Council meeting one on one with Department Heads to ask additional questions regarding their budget presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



Irvin H. Jones, Jr., Council Chair



Craig D. Burton, City Recorder