

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

The City Council met in Work Session on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, in Room 326, Committee Room, City County Building, 451 South State Street.

In Attendance: Council Members Erin Mendenhall, Chris Wharton, James Rogers, Charlie Luke, Andrew Johnston, Analia Valdemoros, and Amy Fowler.

Staff in Attendance: Cindy Gust-Jenson, Council Executive Director; David Litvack, Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff; Rusty Vetter, Deputy City Attorney; Johnathon Larsen, Transportation Director; Jeff Gulden, Transportation Section Manager; and Scott Crandall, Deputy City Recorder.

Councilmember Luke presided at and conducted the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

#1. [5:58:31 PM](#) RECEIVE A BRIEFING ABOUT A STUDY COMPLETED BY THE TRANSPORTATION DIVISION EVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF MODIFYING THE 900 SOUTH FREEWAY RAMP IN THE BALLPARK NEIGHBORHOOD TO BALANCE THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH REGIONAL TRAFFIC ACCESS. [View Attachments](#)

Johnathon Larsen, Jeff Gulden, and Russell Weeks briefed the Council with attachments. Mr. Weeks said the proposal was an update regarding a technical study about options/feasibility to shorten freeway ramps at 900 South. Mr. Larsen and Mr. Gulden provided background information about the proposal. Comments included issue ongoing for decades, request by area residents to address the impact of ramps on the neighborhood (find better way to tie community together), noise/traffic issues, ramps creating barrier to walking/biking, ramps owned by Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) (collaborative partnership needed), study data analysis, explore/determine potential scenarios to modify/shorten/realign 900 South ramp, three scenarios being selected by Steering Committee, potential land acquisition, eliminating ramp would push traffic to other areas, potential for short-term solutions, UDOT being content with existing infrastructure (modifications would have to be initiated/funded by City), ongoing maintenance issues, and UDOT being opposed to any option that would remove traffic lanes.

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mr. Gulden provided further details/advantages-disadvantages about the top three options (outlined in attachment): Scenario A - 300 West, Scenario B - 400 West, and Scenario C - 300/400 West combination. He said Scenario C operated the best from a transportation perspective (better traffic separation).

Councilmember Mendenhall talked about underutilization of the southbound route and wanted to expand conversations with UDOT/community about ramp changes and potential land development which could revitalize the neighborhood (eliminate berms/barriers, create walking routes, add lighting and art elements, etc.).

Councilmember Valdemoros asked about next steps. Mr. Larsen said they planned to contact community councils in the coming month. He said conversations needed to continue and those involved needed to work together to determine options going forward (find short and long-term solutions).

Councilmember Wharton asked about the tunnel (cut/cover) option. Mr. Gulden said it was not selected by the Committee to be evaluated in further detail mainly due to costs (traffic would also be removed with that option). He said UDOT would still own the land above the tunnel which could not be used for development/buildings (potential for open space/park).

Councilmember Johnston expressed interest in undergrounding and wanted to explore the feasibility of extending the scope to include Interstate 15 (I-15)/ramps. He said he felt that could potentially transform the City in multiple ways. Mr. Gulden said he could provide as much detailed analysis as the Council desired. He said he could also do a quick search regarding how other cities (across the country/world) handled similar situations. He said any interaction with the freeway would require Federal participation and approval.

#2. [6:24:25 PM](#) 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.*

Ms. Gust-Jenson said there were no announcements.

#8. [6:24:35 PM](#) REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

Councilmember Luke said the Millcreek City Council approved

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

the interlocal agreement relating to the boundary adjustment with the City and thanked everyone for their participation. He said additional steps were needed before the process could be completed.

Councilmember Rogers talked about the County Council voting (6-3) to deny the North Salt Lake Annexation. Councilmember Luke said although that was a positive step, the issue would not go away so the City needed to position itself to ensure participation in ongoing discussions. He said there was potential for significant impact to adjacent neighborhoods in that area.

#9. (TENTATIVE) CONSIDER A MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION, IN KEEPING WITH UTAH CODE §52-4-205 FOR ANY ALLOWED PURPOSE.

Item not held.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAIR

CITY RECORDER

This document is not intended to serve as a full transcript as other items may have been discussed; please refer to the audio or video for entire content pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-203(2) (b).

This document along with the digital recording constitute the official minutes of the City Council Work Session meeting held September 24, 2019.

sc