



## PROVO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL Legislative Breakfast Minutes

7:00 AM, Wednesday, January 22, 2020  
Room 310, Provo City Conference Room  
351 W. Center Street, Provo, UT 84601

### Agenda ([0:00:00](#))

#### Roll Call

The following elected officials were present:

Council Chair George Handley, conducting  
Council Vice-chair David Harding  
Councilor Shannon Ellsworth  
Councilor William Fillmore  
Councilor David Sewell  
Councilor David Shipley  
Senator Deidre Henderson  
Senator Curt Bramble  
Representative Norm Thurston  
Representative Marsha Judkins

**Excused:** Councilor Travis Hoban, Mayor Michelle Kaufusi, Deputy Mayor Isaac Paxman, and Representative Adam Robertson

#### Prayer

The prayer was offered by Brian Jones, Council Attorney.

#### Business

##### 1. Discussion items from Legislators ([0:10:05](#))

Council Chair George Handley welcomed the legislators and thanked them for attending. He invited the legislators to share discussion topics of interest with the Council.

Senator Curt Bramble shared an update on the tax reform bill, as well as the current citizen referendum process. Many legislators felt that there had not been sufficient or robust discussion of the proposal. Sen. Bramble also shared information about a resolution encouraging the Utah League of Cities and Towns to examine the sales tax break-down and how changes to it would impact municipalities throughout the State. Councilor David Harding noted the relationship between tax revenue and housing affordability. Councilor David Sewell asked about a market facilitator and the relationship with collecting online sales tax for small businesses.

Representative Norm Thurston shared details about a bill to reduce the cost of insulin, which would be his primary focus during the upcoming legislative session. Representative Marsha

Judkins did not think any of her initiatives would negatively impact Provo. She was working on a bill regarding data gathering for prosecutors, which would simply require a certain standard and policies for data that is collected.

The legislators expressed that during the session, they are incredibly busy. They invited and encouraged the Councilors to contact them directly on their cell phones; they wanted to maintain direct contact with City officials, as the concerns of the City are helpful for them to know.

Mr. Harding highlighted significant concerns about the towing bill. He thanked the legislators, particularly Rep. Judkins for championing the opposition to this. Mr. Harding felt that while much of the most egregious content has been removed, the compromise bill still contained many objectionable items. Brian Jones, Council Attorney, shared his concern about the content; it was problematic that a major proponent of its contents was Leo Lines, who owns a towing company. Mr. Lines and Representative Cory Maloy had proposed content that ran afoul of what UDOT recommended for a universal towing signage scheme.

Mr. Handley asked about tier-3 gasoline and whether the legislators would champion a bill promoting tier-3 gasoline or requiring more explicit signage. Rep. Judkins expressed surprise that businesses have not already done so, as many people care about clean air and would be apt to patronize those businesses. Sen. Bramble expressed that Utah is still at the forefront of having refineries in Utah making tier-3 gas available. Sen. Bramble expressed that the legislators were supportive of finding an appropriate way for the State to be involved. Councilor Shannon Ellsworth said that there were two non-profits, Envision Utah and LDS Earth Stewardship, which were working on creating awareness and an app for where to find tier-3 gasoline.

## **2. Discussion items from the Council ([0:46:45](#))**

Ms. Ellsworth asked the legislators about their thoughts on Salt Lake City hosting the Olympics in 2030 or 2034. The Legislature previously passed a resolution in support of this. Senator Deidre Henderson expressed that they have been supportive of the proposal in the past. Councilor Bill Fillmore noted that the 2002 Olympic Games required massive transportation funding from the State. Sen. Bramble serves on the State's sports commission and shared insight on what positions Utah as a unique venue to host the games—much of the needed facilities and infrastructure are already in place. Many athletes already train at the Olympic Sports Center in Park City. Rep. Thurston expressed that transportation would likely be a key factor in the image Utah presents. There may be some areas where they will need to shore up the infrastructure, but there was broad support at the legislature.

Mr. Handley asked about the future of mass transit and light-rail expansion. The legislature has had debates on whether they want UTA (currently functioning as a service district with its own funding mechanisms) to be a state agency under UDOT (and therefore receive funding through the state legislature). The legislators all agreed that double-tracking should be the highest priority of UTA and was a key component in addressing growth in the Wasatch Front. Mr. Handley commented on major areas of Provo that are not accessible by mass transit. As developers wished to increase density in key areas, it was critical that these areas be serviced by UTA but they are routinely faced with this catch-22.

Councilors shared feedback with the legislators regarding ongoing frustration with the losses in property tax due to not having automated inflation adjustments. School districts have the ability to have inflation automated automatically and cities and counties would simply like the same ability. It is frustrating to go through the truth-in-taxation process for what amounts to minimal updates that do not dramatically impact the average taxpayer. Meanwhile, the losses from inflation continue to impact the city's revenue sources. Councilors also commented on the political complications of holding truth-in-taxation. Part of the complication for Provo is the large proportion of tax-exempt/non-profit land holdings in the city, which are not assessed for property taxes.

Mr. Fillmore asked the legislators whether they had updates regarding the inland port and how it would impact Utah County. The legislators did not have any specific updates to share and it was too soon to know what the impacts would be for Utah County. The legislators were excited about the prospects of the airport expansion in Provo and what that would mean for the region. Regarding a question about UVU expansion and enrollment, several legislators expressed that UVU leadership was interested in continuing growth.

Sen. Bramble asked about the latest with the City center construction. Wayne Parker, CAO, shared an update on the process, which was currently in the schematic design phase with construction to launch in the spring. The building should be ready to occupy in early 2022.

Chair Handley thanked the legislators for joining the Council. The Council appreciates the invitation to contact the legislators directly.

## **Adjournment**

*Adjourned by unanimous consent.*