

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

The City Council met in Work Session on Tuesday April 21, 2020, in an Electronic Meeting, pursuant to Salt Lake City Emergency Proclamation No. 2 of 2020(2)(b).

In Attendance: Council Members Andrew Johnston, Amy Fowler, Chris Wharton, Daniel Dugan, Darin Mano, James Rogers, and Analia Valdemoros.

Staff in Attendance: Cindy Gust-Jenson, Council Executive Director; Jennifer Bruno, Council Deputy Director; Erin Mendenhall, Mayor; Rachel Otto, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Cindy Lou Trishman, Council Administrative Assistant; Lynn Pace, Mayor's Senior Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs; Ben Kolendar, Economic Development Deputy Director; Lani Eggertsen-Goff, Housing & Neighborhood Development Director; Jennifer Schumann, Housing & Neighborhood Development Deputy Director; Tony Milner, Housing & Neighborhood Development Policy & Program Manager; Pamela Lofgreen, Emergency Management Program Director; David Litvack, Mayor's Senior Policy Advisor; Peter Bromberg, Library Executive Director; Jace Bunting, Library Finance Director; Bill Wyatt, Executive Director of Airports; Brian Butler, Airport Director of Finance and Accounting; Nick Norris, Planning Director; John Anderson, Planning Manager; Russell Weeks, Council Office Policy Analyst; Sam Owen, Council Policy Analyst; Laura Briefer, Director of Public Utilities; Felicia Baca, Arts Division Director; Benjamin Luedtke, Council Policy Analyst; Paul Nielson, Senior City Attorney; Katherine Lewis, City Attorney; Scott Crandall, Deputy City Recorder; and DeeDee Robinson, Deputy City Recorder.

Guests in Attendance: Nathan Ricks (Applicant, Item #4); and Andrew Bybee (Applicant, Item #4).

Councilmember Wharton presided at and conducted the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

#1. [2:13:27 PM](#) UPDATE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE MAYOR'S EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS RELATING TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) AND THE MARCH 18TH EARTHQUAKE IN THE SALT LAKE VALLEY. *As part of the update, the Council may discuss public health and other public safety, policy and budget issues stemming from the emergency declarations. Discussion may include a proposal to create an emergency relief fund from existing Arts Council funds for*

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individual artists of all disciplines who are residents of Salt Lake City and who are experiencing loss of work due to COVID-19. The Council may also receive information or updates from organizations or experts related to the emergency responses and coordination, including but not limited to earthquake damage to the City, the functioning of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), City response and aid, and the status of City buildings. [View Attachments](#)

Mayor Mendenhall, Pamela Lofgreen, Lynn Pace, Ben Kolendar, Rachel Otto, Felicia Baca, Lani Eggertsen-Goff, and David Litvack briefed the Council regarding changes to the County's Stay Home directive (easing of some restrictions), coordination with State Epidemiologist regarding the use of specific measures to track the rate of community spread (rate of transmission spread, consistent/available testing/tracing, and consistent decrease in no known sources of infection), coordination with County partners to continue to receive zip code specific data for all of Salt Lake City (transparently tracking/making decisions based on data), addressing earthquake damage assessments (City/County-wide), current status of Fix The Bricks program (third year of funding, closed out 55 homeowner projects to date, and remaining funding to serve 300 more homes), coordination with various emergency management partners (Unified Command, County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), and University of Utah), first responder shelters/decontamination stations, cloth masks donated to the City from the community, geo-targeting placement for COVID-19 flyers/posters (heavily impacted zip codes/hotspots) to improve awareness, updates on the City's unsheltered population/resource centers regarding COVID-19, initiation of the Stay Home Stay Safe hotel project (offered for high-risk individuals in the homeless community), updates on the Arts Grant program, updates regarding funding for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), and legislative report on COVID-19/earthquake standing items including: HR 302 (House Resolution) (extension of emergency declaration for earthquake to May 18, 2020), HB 3005 (House Bill) (Governor must give 48 hour notice to legislature before declaring emergency/issues executive order), HB 3006 (election amendments/eliminated in-person voting for primary election in June 2020), HB 3009 (Local Government Emergency Response), SB (Senate Bill) 3004 (implementing steps to re-open the economy), SB 3006 (COVID-19 Financial Relief Funding), and (Senate Joint Resolution) SJR 301 (State's acceptance of funds from CARES).

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Straw Poll: Support for the Arts Grant program. All Council Members were in favor.

Councilmember Fowler said there was currently confusion among City residents regarding the County's recent change to the Stay At Home order (seen as a lift of staying at home), and requested information from the Administration to relay to concerned City residents regarding those changes. Mayor Mendenhall said it was critically important for the public's understanding of their ability to reduce the rate of transmission (in terms of moving about/engaging with other community members), and agreed to coordinate with the Council on messaging points for constituents.

Councilmember Fowler expressed concerns regarding Salt Lake County Jail inmates who were exposed/infected with COVID-19 being released back to Salt Lake City residences (potentially infecting family/others), and inquired if they should be tracked, or be provided space to quarantine when necessary. Ms. Lofgreen said, with the Administration's support/direction, she would formalize a communication process with the County Jail/Sheriff's Office to see how the City could better support those returning members to the community, protecting them and the public at large.

#2. [3:23:21 PM](#) FOLLOW-UP BRIEFING REGARDING UPDATING THE CITY'S 2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD). *The Consolidated Plan details the City's goals and objectives to build healthy and sustainable communities through four federal grants: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), Home Investment Partnerships, and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA).* [View Attachments](#)

Benjamin Luedtke, Lani Eggertsen-Goff, and Jennifer Schumann briefed the Council with attachments. Discussion was held regarding amended proposed target area maps: [Option #5](#) (combining elements of Administration's alternative target areas, focused on spending resources on low-income residents), and [Option #6](#) (same as #5 with exception of the 300 North boundary extending straight across).

#3. [3:43:11 PM](#) FOLLOW-UP BRIEFING REGARDING THE MAYOR'S FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND AN APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ONE-YEAR ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 THAT INCLUDES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING, EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)

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FUNDING, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) FUNDING, AND APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN SALT LAKE CITY AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD). [View Attachments](#)

[3:43:17 PM](#) Councilmember Johnston recused himself from the discussion due to his employment with Volunteers of America.

Mayor Mendenhall, Benjamin Luedtke, Lani Eggertsen-Goff, Jennifer Bruno, and Tony Milner briefed the Council with attachments. Discussion was held regarding three applications the Council requested clarification on (Inn Between, South Valley Sanctuary, and Journey of Hope), options for re-allocating funds, impacts to programs if funding partial/fully cut, the inclusion of the Weigand Center programming in the Administration's proposed budget (\$127,000 from Community & Neighborhoods budget), opportunities to fund applications with COVID-19 relief funds, and Council support for ways to possibly fund the Inn Between.

Straw Poll: Support for not disturbing the Administration's recommended funding, contingent upon the effort of finding (at minimum) \$30,000 for the Inn Between from other funding sources, and for the Administration to reach out to Journey of Hope for future (2021) application mentoring. All Council Members were in favor, except Councilmember Johnston who was recused.

#4. [4:10:28 PM](#) FOLLOW-UP BRIEFING REGARDING A REQUEST TO INCREASE THE BUILDING HEIGHTS WITHIN A PORTION OF THE G-MU (GATEWAY MIXED USE) ZONING DISTRICT FROM A CURRENT MAXIMUM OF 120 FEET UP TO 190 FEET ACROSS PORTIONS OF TWO SEPARATE BLOCKS LOCATED BETWEEN 500 WEST AND THE RAILROAD TRACKS (APPROXIMATELY 625 WEST) AND 200 SOUTH AND 400 SOUTH. *The applicant was requesting the change for a specific development project and is not seeking to alter height limits across the entirety of the zone. The Planning Commission forwarded a negative recommendation, therefore an ordinance has not been drafted. If the Council decides to approve the zone amendment, an ordinance would be drafted and considered for approval.* [View Attachments](#)

Councilmember Johnston re-joined the meeting/discussion.

Russell Weeks, Nick Norris, John Anderson, Paul Nielson, Nathan Ricks, and Andrew Bybee briefed the Council with attachments. Discussion was held regarding the Planning Division's general support for additional building height in the downtown

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area (including G-MU zones), City code not adequately addressing impacts created by height (tall buildings causing down-draft effects, impacts to solar-energy production, impeding growth of trees/plants, obstructing view corridors, etc.), Planning Department/Commission's recommended denial, height study needed in the downtown/G-MU zones, height in relation to affordable housing/historic preservation, considerations for increasing building height (design review requirement & environmental impacts), current Planning Department resources/processes, Planning Department working on significant code changes (freeing up more Staff time/more resources allocated to similar proposals), Council Members in favor of additional building heights across the City, and options for appropriating funds for similar future requests vs. approving this project (carefully addressing the design review standards/issues).

#5. Tentative Break

#6. [5:03:44 PM](#) BRIEFING REGARDING THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021. [View Attachments](#)

Laura Briefer and Sam Owen briefed the Council with attachments. Discussion was held regarding four different enterprise funds (utilities: drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and street lights), budget priorities (heavy emphasis on infrastructure), proposed budget reflecting COVID-19 pandemic considerations (including a mid-year budget and economic review), total Public Utilities budget (\$362,313,149) (including projected revenues, sewer rate increases, operations budget, eight additional full-time employees, etc.), water utility budget (\$126,333,193), sewer utility budget (\$212,638,399), stormwater utility budget (\$17,961,860), street lighting utility budget (\$5,379,697), five-year rate adjustments for all utilities (projected), monthly impact of increased sewer rate, and water and sewer rate comparisons (nearby states/local cities).

Councilmember Wharton requested an update from Public Utilities regarding the 4th Avenue Pump House at a future Council meeting. Ms. Briefer acknowledged the request and thanked the Council/Staff for attending community meetings related to the project.

#7. [5:36:08 PM](#) BRIEFING REGARDING THE LIBRARY BOARD'S RECOMMENDED OPERATION AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-

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2021. [View Attachments](#)

Peter Bromberg, Jace Bunting, and Jennifer Bruno briefed the Council regarding expectations should there be a short-fall in property tax (large part of Library's budget relying on property tax), projected fund balance of current fiscal year being 24%, re-opening precautions/measures, balancing new initiatives (expansion of services) with future need for capital maintenance/improvements, and three budget guided priorities, including: the Library being a great place to work for Staff (cost of living increase, 1.5% merit increase, etc.), creation of meaningful outcomes/experiences in the lives of patrons (community outreach, increase in custodial staff, in-house safety officers, and programs/partnerships supporting arts & creativity, critical literacy, economic success, healthy together, and inclusion/belonging), and exhibiting operational excellence/promote long-term sustainability (long-term stewardship of facilities, in-house technology staff, updating/replacing technology for patrons, climate control, etc.).

Mr. Bromberg provided an update regarding current Library operations, virtual community programs (story time, book/writing groups, etc.), website redesign to highlight community/digital resources (e-books, audio books, streaming films, learning platforms, etc.), Wi-Fi being provided for residents lacking internet connectivity, and capital expenditure priorities (Sprague Library renovation, and roof replacement at Main Library).

#8. [6:14:26 PM](#) BRIEFING REGARDING THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021. [View Attachments](#)

Bill Wyatt and Brian Butler briefed the Council with attachments. Discussion was held regarding updates on current Airport status, redevelopment schedules, FY 2021 Budget Goals & Objectives, current/projected enplaned passenger traffic, income statement forecast, original/revised FY 2021 Operating Revenues budget, comparison of airline/concession revenues, original/revised operating expense increase, cost per enplaned passenger, original/revised capital equipment budget, on-going construction (capital improvement projects), and the future of air-travel post COVID-19.

#9. [6:47:55 PM](#) INTERVIEW MARJORIE RASMUSSEN PRIOR TO CONSIDERING HER APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

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FOR A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 25, 2023. [View Attachments](#)

Councilmember Wharton said Ms. Rasmussen's name was on the Consent Agenda for formal consideration.

#10. [6:49:43 PM](#) INTERVIEW KERRY DOANE PRIOR TO CONSIDERING HER APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 25, 2023. [View Attachments](#)

Councilmember Wharton said Ms. Doane's name was on the Consent Agenda for formal consideration.

#11. [6:51:21 PM](#) INTERVIEW MYRON WILLSON PRIOR TO CONSIDERING HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 25, 2023. [View Attachments](#)

Councilmember Wharton said Mr. Willson's name was on the Consent Agenda for formal consideration.

#12. INTERVIEW JIM ESPELAND PRIOR TO CONSIDERING HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 25, 2023. [View Attachments](#)

Councilmember Wharton said Mr. Espeland's interview would be rescheduled.

STANDING ITEMS

#13. REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

No discussion was held.

#14. 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*

- Agenda Packet Days; and
- Scheduling Items.

No discussion was held.

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

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Item not held.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 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 April 21, 2020.

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