

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL LIMITED FORMAL MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in an electronic Special Limited Formal Session on Friday, December 11, 2020 pursuant to the Chair's determination and Salt Lake City Emergency Proclamation No. 2 of 2020 (2) (b).

The following Council Members were in virtual attendance:

Chris Wharton	James Rogers	Andrew Johnston
Daniel Dugan	Darin Mano	Amy Fowler
Analia Valdemoros		

Cindy Gust-Jenson, Council Executive Director; Jennifer Bruno, Council Executive Deputy Director; Rachel Otto, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Katherine Lewis, City Attorney; Benjamin Luedtke, Council Policy Analyst; Blake Thomas, Community & Neighborhood Department Director; Dan Rip, HAND Policy & Program Manager; David Litvack, Mayor's Senior Advisor; Elizabeth Buehler, Civic Engagement Manager; Jennifer McGrath, Community & Neighborhood Deputy Director; Joel Paterson, Planning Programs Supervisor; JP Goates, HAND Policy & Program Manager; Lehua Weaver, Council Associate Deputy Director; Lindsey Nikola, Mayor's Communications Director; Lisa Shaffer, Chief Administrative Officer; Lorna Vogt, Public Services Director; Michelle Hoon, Homeless Services Project Manager; Mike Brown, Chief of Police; Nick Tarbet, Council Senior Public Policy Analyst; Olga Crump, Real Property Agent; Paul Nielson, Senior City Attorney; Russell Weeks, Council Senior Advisor; Samuel Owen, Council Public Policy Analyst; Shellie Finan, Real Property Manager; Tracey Fletcher, Assistant to the Council Executive Director; Amanda Lau, Council Public Engagement/Communications Specialist; and Cindy Lou Trishman, City Recorder were also in virtual attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m.

A. OPENING CEREMONY

#1. [2:38:00 PM](#) Councilmember Wharton conducted the formal meeting.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

C. POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

None.

D. COMMENTS

None.

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E. NEW BUSINESS

#1. 2:38:51 PM Ordinance: Temporary Zoning Regulations Authorizing Temporary Overflow Homeless Shelter Use at approximately 2333 West North Temple

The Council will consider adopting an ordinance enacting a temporary land use regulation to allow a temporary overflow homeless shelter at approximately 2333 West North Temple. [View Attachment](#)

Councilmember Johnston moved and Councilmember Fowler seconded to adopt Ordinance 61 of 2020, enacting a temporary zoning regulation authorizing an overflow homeless shelter use at approximately 2333 West North Temple.

Councilmember Valdemoros asked for clarification regarding the length of the temporary regulation. Katherine Lewis said temporary regulations were typically valid for up to six months. She said this one was scheduled to expire on April 15, 2021.

Councilmember Wharton **called for the question**, which motion carried, all members voted aye (roll call).

Council Members Valdemoros, Johnston, Rogers, and Wharton took a moment of personal privilege to comment on the proposal.

Councilmember Valdemoros (summary of comments): Councilmember Valdemoros stated the Council was again considering approval of an emergency shelter at the 11th hour (despite efforts to find solutions throughout the year), and there was hope the Council would not be having this same conversation as Salt Lake City (SLC) has participated in above and beyond measures. She expressed gratitude to Millcreek Mayor Silvestrini for his efforts/leadership in hosting a winter shelter and appreciation for those joining the effort and utilizing opportunities to help people struggling with mental health issues, drug addiction, living in encampments, etc., and it was now a moral obligation to provide shelter and keep individuals from freezing. Councilmember Valdemoros encouraged community leaders and residents to be engaged in compassionate service and for leaders to help carry the burden of hosting emergency facilities and provide resources needed to address issues contributing to chronic homelessness. She stated that homelessness was not only an issue for SLC and the ongoing requests for State leadership, neighboring cities and counties to get involved in the efforts will address the humanitarian crisis.

Councilmember Johnston provided a written statement (summary of comments): Councilmember Johnston expressed gratitude to the Mayor, the Council and Staff for supporting the ordinance, gratitude to Millcreek,

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Midvale, and South Salt Lake for hosting homeless resource facilities, sharing that community members often blame the City for causing and/or not fixing the issues while overflow shelters remain desperately needed. Councilmember Johnston expressed anger and frustration to the blatant inequity being highlighted by the situation. He continued that with the temporary shelter being located between two of the lowest areas of opportunity in the City, where a devastating impact of COVID-19 already existed in the communities and neighborhoods, and the continued healthcare disparities between the poor and affluent communities the westside neighborhoods continue as an economical and socially marginalized area with persistent discrimination. Councilmember Johnston stated that SLC does not have enough resources for the County's unsheltered residents and was currently hosting 7 of 10 homeless service sites (all effectively located west of State Street) and the City remains responsible to make the unconscionable choice between standing up for neighborhoods or letting people freeze on City streets. Councilmember Johnston concluded that the City's continued willingness to address the difficult and unfair situations was evident and it was well past time for other leaders to do the same.

Councilmember Rogers (summary of comments): Councilmember Rogers shared that the proposal impacts Districts 1 and 2 equally (westside being impacted by new prison, Inland Port development, homeless issues, etc.) and the Council continuing to clean-up a situation created by circumstances not created by the efforts of the City. He continued that with increasing problems along North Temple, the shelter opening, decreasing revenues impacting police and response times, the City's westside was continually impacted by outside issues. Councilmember Rogers shared that the current Council has been the most outspoken about the creation of westside opportunities, and the necessary discussions to actively stop the ongoing burdens being placed on the westside. Councilmember Rogers added that with the upcoming budget season the Council will need to seriously discuss funding and find creative ways to address the issues which are continually being concentrated on the westside.

Councilmember Wharton (summary of comments): Councilmember Wharton stated that the ordinance was not fair or aligned with the desires of the community - safer streets, parks, trails, equitable housing, support for small business, Grande Boulevard, etc., and discussion regarding funding to mitigate impacts and resident expectations must occur. He included that the proposal was not fair to SLC and particularly to the traditionally underserved westside communities who were expected to continue to shoulder the burden of a Statewide crisis. Councilmember Wharton included that the City faces the need to act to prevent people from freezing to death, but also needs the State and other Wasatch Front municipalities to engage in the humanitarian effort. Councilmember

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Wharton said he would continue to meet with North Temple residents, along with others, to try and help the community understand why the Council made this decision.

(O 20-22)

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

G. CONSENT

None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Minutes were approved on Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Council Chair

City Recorder

This document is not intended to serve as a full transcript as additional discussion may have been held; 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 Salt Lake City Special Limited Formal Session held December 11, 2020.

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