

Please note: these minutes have been prepared with a timestamp linking the agenda items to the video discussion. Electronic version of minutes will allow citizens to view discussion held during council meeting.



PROVO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Work Meeting Minutes

5:00 PM, Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Electronic meeting: [youtube.com/provocitycouncil](https://www.youtube.com/provocitycouncil)

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

Roll Call

The following elected officials participated:

Council Chair David Sewell, conducting
Council Vice-chair David Shipley
Councilor George Handley
Councilor Bill Fillmore, arrived 5:06 PM
Councilor Shannon Ellsworth
Councilor David Harding
Councilor Travis Hoban
Mayor Michelle Kaufusi, arrived 5:07 PM

Prayer

Councilor Travis Hoban offered the prayer.

Business

1. A discussion regarding the Council's budget priorities for FY 2021-2022. (21-015) ([0:09:27](#))

Cliff Strachan, Council Executive Director, presented. Mr. Strachan reviewed the priorities which the Council had discussed at a March 2020 retreat just before the start of the pandemic. Mr. Strachan also reviewed the budget priorities as presented by various City departments over the last several months, as well as potential budget appropriations or opportunities.

The Council began into their discussion of the issue, with Council Chair David Sewell first asking Mayor Michelle Kaufusi and CAO Wayne Parker what would most assist them in preparing their budget to present to the Council before April 20. Mayor Kaufusi expressed that her number one goal was to return employee benefits and department budgets back to their levels pre-pandemic. Mr. Parker noted that more general direction would be helpful, as far as projects or items that have resonated with the Council as priorities, rather than programming specific line items. Mr. Parker noted that Provo was projected to receive upwards of \$30 million through the American Rescue Plan Act in the coming couple of years. Given these responses, Mr. Sewell suggested to the Council that they focus on the ongoing budget priorities, since the deadline for

the regular budget did not apply to these other funding sources. Councilors shared comments and briefly outlined items that were among their priorities for the budget. Councilors voiced broad support for the Mayor's intent to restore benefits, positions, training, and other cuts made during the pandemic. Several focused on the necessity of these budgets to sustain the longevity of the City organization and staffing. Mr. Sewell invited each Councilor to share comments and noted that due to the limited time, he intended to rotate through and ensure every Council had an opportunity to speak before moving to second round comments.

(0:24:54) Besides the earlier support for restoring pre-pandemic staffing and training budgets, which was voiced by all Councilors, Councilors shared priorities which are summarized below:

- Councilor David Shipley
 - Support IT department in goal of cybersecurity
 - Long-term Police staffing (strategic plan and how to make it happen)
 - Overall financial health of the city
- Councilor David Harding
 - Discuss ongoing budget and one-time funds as distinct categories
 - Budget process and measuring outcomes
 - Many Community and Neighborhood Services functions
- Councilor George Handley
 - Sustainability plan
 - Legacy CIP: \$1.8 million for Slate Canyon
 - ARP funds: conservation efforts
- Councilor Shannon Ellsworth
 - Public Safety staffing
 - Infrastructure
 - Legacy CIP: \$1.8 million for Slate Canyon & Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST)
- Councilor Bill Fillmore
 - Public Safety staffing
 - Community and Neighborhood Services functions (Zoning, parking)
 - Southeast Provo (Slate Canyon, BST, grocery store on South State Street)
- Councilor Travis Hoban
 - Public Health and Safety
 - Planning and Infrastructure
 - Prosperity – economic development
- Councilor David Sewell
 - Community and Neighborhood Services functions (Zoning, parking)
 - Public Safety staffing
 - One-time budget items

Once all Councilors had shared comments, Mr. Sewell invited follow-up comments from the group. Councilors shared brief comments in support of priorities named by others, as well as policy approaches for the forthcoming budget discussions, including:

- Councilor Shannon Ellsworth
 - Economic development
 - Reinvestment in southeast Provo

- Councilor David Harding
 - What are we going to take out from the budget? (can't always add)
 - Infrastructure, particularly street safety and sidewalks
- Councilor Bill Fillmore
 - ARP funds & economic development opportunities

Mr. Sewell thanked the Council for their participation and for keeping the discussion at a high level. He indicated that Council Leadership would continue to discuss and refine these priorities. Mayor Kaufusi thanked the Council for their support of restoring benefits and training budgets for staff to pre-COVID levels. She acknowledged that it would be a tight budget once those restorations were factored in. Mr. Parker said the Administration would continue to review and discuss the budget before presenting it to the Council on April 20. He suggested they would try to align their budget as best they could with the Council's stated priorities. ***Presentation only.***

Adjournment

Adjourned by unanimous consent.