

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

The City Council met in Work Session on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, in an Electronic Meeting, pursuant to the Chair determination and Salt Lake City Emergency Proclamation No. 2 of 2020(2)(b).

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

Staff in Attendance: Cindy Gust-Jenson, Council Executive Director; Jennifer Bruno, Council Executive Deputy Director; Erin Mendenhall, Mayor; Katherine Lewis, City Attorney; Lisa Shaffer, Mayor's Chief Administrative Officer; Allison Rowland, Council Public Policy Analyst, Lehua Weaver, Council Associate Deputy Director; Amanda Lau, Council Staff Assistant; Michelle Hoon, Homeless Service Project Manager; Kira Luke, Council Policy Analyst/Public Engagement; Nick Tarbet, Council Policy Analyst; John Anderson, Planning Manager; Nick Norris, Planning Director; Allison Parks, Senior City Attorney; Lorna Vogt, Public Services Director; and Scott Crandall, Deputy City Recorder.

Guests in Attendance: Jim Wood, Senior Fellow - Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute (Item #1).

Councilmember Wharton presided at and conducted the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:47 p.m. [4:47:26 PM](#)

AGENDA ITEMS

Note: *Items 1 and 2 were discussed as one item.*

#1. [4:48:46 PM](#) Informational: Updates Relating to Mayor's Proclamations Declaring Local Emergencies for COVID-19, March Earthquake, and Windstorm

The Council will receive an update from the Administration about the Mayor's emergency declarations relating to COVID-19 (coronavirus), the March 18th earthquake in the Salt Lake Valley, and the September 8th windstorm. As part of the update, the Council may discuss public health and other public safety, policy and budget issues stemming from the emergency declarations. 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 Attachment](#)

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Mayor Mendenhall thanked Salt Lake City Fire Fighters for assisting with wild fire fighting in Oregon (23 employees deployed) and California (six employees deployed), provided COVID-19 updates/data (uptick in illnesses related to younger population bringing it home to the elderly, City/County-wide data starting to show improvement, working with County Health Dept to determine what data would trigger restrictions, etc.), provided a homelessness update (Community Commitment Program, homeless camp outreach/service matching, camp closure notifications, community volunteering opportunities, etc.), and summarized personnel changes occurring in the Police Department (resignations/retirements/new recruitment).

Lorna Vogt spoke on windstorm cleanup efforts, including:

- Goal to have all debris cleared from City streets by October 15th
- Over 4,500 tons of debris hauled off the streets with the help of 14 local agencies including the National Guard
- 200 City employees working full-time/six days a week since event occurred (all trucks/equipment deployed)
- Mutual aid agreements with Salt Lake County and State to assist with cleanup efforts
- No significant injuries or illnesses reported during cleanup efforts
- Procuring an archaeologist for assistance with historical restoration of headstones and monuments at the cemetery

Jim Wood provided a rental and mortgage assistance program update, including:

- Unemployment rate was down (4.1% - 1 in 25 within the labor force was unemployed)
- State-wide record in permits issued for new residential units (City was 3rd highest ever)
- New residential prices within Salt Lake County increased by 10%, State-wide by 8%
- Expectation of homeowners needing mortgage assistance (up to \$2.3 million), and renters needing rental assistance (up to \$2.5 million)
- Details of a rent collection survey with City landlords on how COVID-19 impacted rent collection
- Number of renter households (at 80% or less of median, with cost burden greater than 30%) was 17,300, with 350 found to need assistance

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Councilmember Wharton requested an informational handout of all housing assistance information and statics found for the Council to review.

Michelle Hoon provided clarity regarding homelessness outreach at existing camp locations, with focus on larger/growing camps, locations close to services for vulnerable populations, and in areas with maximum impact to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Councilmember Valdemoros inquired what constituted a high concentration of homeless individuals and the thresholds in determining which areas were in most need of outreach/cleanup/etc. and priority levels. Ms. Hoon said there was no matrix (count of persons) being used at this time in certain areas, as encampments tend to evolve/shift frequently, but there was ongoing work with service partners to prioritize locations with the most need. Councilmember Valdemoros requested to be informed on which camps would be aided and when so she might inform her constituents.

#2. Informational: Updates on Relieving the Condition of People Experiencing Homelessness

The Council will hear updates and discuss issues pertaining to relieving the condition of people experiencing homelessness in neighborhoods throughout Salt Lake City.

(Discussion held on Item #1)

#3. [5:37:37 PM](#) Informational: Updates on Racial Equity and Policing

The Council will hold a discussion about recent efforts on various projects City staff are working on related to racial equity and policing in the City. The conversation may include issues of community concern about race, equity, and justice in relation to law enforcement policies, procedures, budget, and ordinances. Discussion may include:

- *An update or report on the newly-created Commission on Racial Equity in Policing; and*
- *Other project updates or discussion.*

Kira Luke said the Council was provided a draft of a new ordinance for body-worn cameras and Staff was compiling feedback from the draft/Council with plans to return with an update on October 13, 2020.

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#4. [6:03:45 PM](#) Resolution: Salt Lake City Flag Redesign Briefing

The Council will receive a briefing on the proposed redesign of the Salt Lake City Flag. [View Attachments](#)

Erin Mendenhall briefed the Council with attachments. Comments included: a good flag had the ability to unite a City that worked under it and possibly the people that lived in the City it represented, an open call for flag design submissions began May 1, 2020, over 600 entries were received - narrowed down to eight for the public to rate, key principles of flag design used were: keep it simple, use meaningful symbolism, use two-three basic colors, no lettering or seals on the flag, and be distinctive, more than 6,000 people responded to the flag survey, two top designs were chosen after the survey, and the final flag design chosen was designed by two City residents, Arianna Meinking and Ella Kennedy-Yoon.

#5. [5:40:12 PM](#) Ordinance: Early Notification Text Amendment Follow-up

The Council will receive a follow-up briefing about an ordinance that would make various changes to Salt Lake City Code relating to early notification of the public and recognized community organizations for land use projects. The Council initiated this petition to clarify early notification regulations and public outreach. The purpose of the proposed changes is to increase awareness and participation by the public for various types of City projects while still providing a timely review process for applicants. [View Attachments](#)

Nick Tarbet, John Anderson, Nick Norris, and Allison Parks briefed the Council with attachments. Comments included:

- Early notification process had been implemented
- Current code not requiring early notification to next door neighbors, only to recognized community organizations
- No consensus reached during previous engagement with City departments regarding early notification policies
- Public Engagement included notification to Community Councils
- Three options for additional amendments were reviewed beginning on Page 2 of the Staff Report. *Option 1:* Adopting what was previously proposed from the Planning Division, leaving in place the 45-day waiting period - requiring early notification for all City code amendments (including budget amendments). *Option*

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2: Proposal to adopt more changes, narrowing the scope of what required early notification. Option 3: Removing all specific enumerated projects requiring early engagement, leaving it up to the departments to determine policy on how to engage with recognized community organizations.

- Public Hearing was set for October 6, 2020 with the option for the Council to continue discussions and collect public feedback

Councilmember Fowler requested a small group meeting with Nick Tarbet, Nick Norris, and Allison Parks (and any interested Council Members) to further discuss the issue in depth.

STANDING ITEMS

#6. 6:22:20 PM REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

No discussion was held.

#7 6:22:30 PM REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF COUNCIL INFORMATION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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.

See File M 20-5 for announcements.

#8. 6:26:58 PM CONSIDER A MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION, IN KEEPING WITH UTAH CODE §52-4-205 FOR ANY ALLOWED PURPOSE.

Councilmember Johnston moved and Councilmember Dugan seconded to enter into Closed Session to discuss pending or imminent litigation pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-205(1)(c) and Advice of Counsel, Utah Open and Public Meetings Law. A roll call vote was taken. Council Members Johnston, Wharton, Mano, Valdemoros, Dugan, Fowler, and Rogers voted aye. See File M 20-1 for Sworn Statement.

In Attendance: Council Members Johnston, Valdemoros, Wharton, Fowler, Rogers, Dugan, and Mano.

Others in Attendance: Cindy Gust-Jenson, Jennifer Bruno, Erin Mendenhall, Lisa Shaffer, Lehua Weaver, Katherine Lewis, Allison Rowland, Amanda Lau, and Scott Crandall.

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The Work Session and Closed Session meetings adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved: June 1, 2021

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 29, 2020.

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