

The City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah, met in an Annual Retreat/Workshop on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, in an electronic meeting pursuant to Chair's determination.

The following Council Members were present:

Victoria Petro-Eschler, Alejandro Puy, Chris Wharton, Ana Valdemoros, Darin Mano, Daniel Dugan, Amy Fowler

Present Legislative leadership:

Cindy Gust-Jenson, Executive Director; Jennifer Bruno, Deputy Director; Lehua Weaver, Associate Deputy Director

Present Administrative leadership:

Mayor Erin Mendenhall; Lisa Shaffer, Chief Administrative Officer

Present City Staff:

DeeDee Robinson – Minutes & Records Clerk, Cindy Lou Trishman – City Recorder, Taylor Hill – Attendee

Council Member Dugan presided at and conducted the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am.

City Council Retreat

Minutes:

Council Members Dugan and Mano welcomed those present and outlined the Council Retreat details.

Ice Breaker Activity – Council Members engaged in an ice breaker activity.

Interests & Priorities

Council Member Fowler provided Citywide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Modifying/expanding the City's mobile business ordinance to include other businesses (other than food)
- Having an ordinance in place like the the emergency land use ordinance for warming/cooling centers (code blue/code red ordinances)
- Enforcement of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) being used as Airbnb (needing more strict enforcement)
- Net-zero goals for the City
- Criminal justice reform/police reform/reducing recidivism (looking at treatment within the programs, revisit City criminal code – removing non-criminal items)
- Completion of pending ordinances (items/topics not dependent on funding/City budget)
- Policies/Ordinances/Budget research on police reform (continuing the work)

District wide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Working with private partnerships for boys/girls club and restoration of courts (by the S Line)
- Neighborhood branding; tool kits for creating neighborhood identity (preservation of history/identity)
- Transportation/Street improvements and design (900 East) – including expansion of the S Line going east
- Encourage wider use of public transportation and increasing walkability (better pedestrian/ADA access on sidewalks)
- Forest Dale Golf course; receiving historic designation

Last thoughts: Virtual meetings were not impeding the connection of this Council, this discussion allowed for Council Members to find commonalities across the City, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to know that other districts faced similar issues to her own, and thanked Council Staff and Mayor for their support.

Council Member Wharton provided Citywide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Modifying Xeriscaping ordinances/percentage of yard space requiring plants – wanting to encourage more native plants/eco-friendly yards and allowing faux turf/grass
- Expanding the Park Ranger and Non-Police enforcement of traffic/other issues (moving the issue forward)
- Stricter enforcement of noise for hospitals/clinics (lower decibel levels)
- Fairpark Market – making steps forward this year (tearing down wall for entrance, progress with building, etc.)

- Support for a LGBTQ focused housing development for seniors and veterans through the City Housing Authority
- New/additional signage/historic markers in areas of the City noting important areas/structures and associated funding/approval/vendor selection suggestions.
- Amending downtown zoning to allow for wineries and distilleries

District wide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- More oversight/public hearings for Trails Master Plan (needed improvements, corrections, etc.)
- Utilizing CARES funding for cemetery from the State (matching funds with the City – storm drainage for the cemetery)
- Enforcement of traffic calming, exhibition driving/modified exhaust vehicles, large amount of industrial traffic cutting through neighborhoods
- Enforcement on nuisance issues on City trails; human waste, parties, drug paraphernalia, firing of guns, illegal fires, drug/alcohol use, etc.
- Wasatch Plunge Building; finding ways to save the building from deterioration (important City asset)

Last thoughts: Expressed appreciation for the discussion, was excited to be working with all Council Members and the Mayor in accomplishing goals, and appreciation for Council Staff for all their work bringing forth issues that concerned the Council.

Council Member Valdemoros provided Citywide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- City real estate assets; pushing for retention (reuse/improvement), for example the old Public Safety Building could be re-purposed for housing. (Important for the City and the budget)
- Resource Center activity; more awareness/understanding of operations
- Preparing the City for the Olympics (infrastructure, resources, etc.).
- Traffic calming, zoning ordinance progress, funding for City projects (how to create revenue).
- Being accountable for the priorities mentioned today (understanding commonalities, what changes could be made quickly/without funding/with funding/etc.)

District wide topics/priorities, including (summary):

- Crime in the City/public safety, creating a safe/clean/friendly downtown
- Shelters; exploring if the City should allow more, more involvement with mental health issues (assisting vulnerable populations) and providing safety
- Streets/curbing in disrepair; needing paint, employing volunteer groups to help beautify the City
- Assessments on vacant buildings needed (contributing to graffiti, vagrancy, eyesores) – assist with funding to repair properties and enforcement
- City real estate assets; consider leasing, preserving for future generations
- Supporting the Farmers Market in cooperation with the State

Last thoughts: thanked fellow Council Members for sharing their priorities and the Mayor for her involvement – budget was always in mind when considering needs. Wishes for serious investment in bringing order back to the downtown area.

Council Member Mano provided Citywide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Completion of all pending zoning ordinances (needing to be voted on and passed), amending of all Residential Multi-Family (RMF) zones, funding a Citywide re-zoning effort for equity
- Traffic Calming – supportive of 20 mph default speed limit in the City, Streets Master Plan, and low cost street safety options
- Procurement Ordinance; rework for hiring outside contractors (consideration of local, and minority-owned businesses) and utilizing apprenticeship programs in the City
- Focus on historic preservation (Warm Springs Plunge, Leonardo, old Public Safety Building, etc.) and strategies for assisting with preservation
- Air quality/environment goals; high water user fees, trash collection fee changes, zero fare for all public transit, preservation of the Great Salt Lake, fixed rail street car system (getting around the city w/out a car)
- Equity Goals: supporting the Racial Equity in Policing (REP) Commission, specific planning on equity, the City being seen as a leader in adopting Building Code amendments to support gender neutral restrooms for use in existing public buildings and all newly built buildings (currently illegal within the Building Code) – supporting real change to create equity
- Projects of high interest; Japan Town Street, Depot District, Fleet Block, Glendale Water Park, and others

District wide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Ballpark Station Area Plan completion, adopting/rezoning State Street/Ball Park corridors to match the goals within that plan
- Reallocate funding for alleyway maintenance and repaving (along with establishing longer-term priorities), potential for developing housing fronting alleyways, or longer public ways, courts, etc.
- Supporting 900 S. business corridor (consider a Community Redevelopment Area [CRA] for the area), placemaking element for Harvey Milk Blvd, campus move for Public Utilities, redesign State Street and Main Street to be more pedestrian friendly
- Liberty Park; use of the Park Ranger program, finding ways for saving the Seven Canyons Fountain

Last thoughts: Alignment found with other Council Members, hoping to bring forward top priorities found during this session and push forward with them.

Council Member Petro-Eschler provided Citywide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Anti-gentrification efforts were a top priority
- Ordinances to be evaluated: Single Room Occupancy (SRO), parking, and housing mitigation
- Optimize Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funding for family-sized consideration

- Homelessness – long term planning, immediate short term responses, no comprehensive plan inviting investment/partnership, clear interventions: chaos containment, protected camping, no street RV camping, homeless shelter zoning, improve partner relationships
- Public Safety; traffic calming measures, be responsive to REP, supporting seismic preparedness/Fix the Bricks programming
- Food deserts; cautious about food access and price point diversity, ethnic food accessibility
- Evaluation of the distribution of funding for equity (CIP, EDLF)
- Early childhood needs – needing robust conversation about sustainability of the program, ensuring investment went to actual needs
- Maintaining City presence on Inland Port; protecting constituents, economic development, etc.
- Public comments for Council meetings; when its received, how its received and interaction with the public

District wide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Homelessness crisis; unsheltered and housed individuals, promoting homeownership, looking at good landlord ordinance for any revisions
- Economic Development; apprenticeship utilization, offering support for international market, establish voice/presence for Rocky Mountain Power development
- Sound pollution; major highways nearby, advocating for change for more sound mitigation
- Sidewalks; in disrepair and needing attention
- Digital divide issues; incentivize pricepoint with multiple levels of service with providers
- Lighting was needed in Riverside Park
- Investment in golf courses; green space was invaluable, could be rented out for public use to draw income, serving an important social/community function

Last thoughts: Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to elevate priorities, thanked Council and Staff for their collaboration and providing the necessary tools to be successful, and expressed appreciation for working with a Council that helped her be confident.

Council Member Puy provided Citywide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Housing; inclusionary zoning, Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs); removing barriers (pre-approved architectural designs), down payment assistance funding, etc.
- Zoning issues; R-2 zoning having limits on building area, corrections to ordinances needed
- Speeding/traffic and safety issues; support for traffic calming/cameras, deterring violence in the City
- Spring Cleaning for the westside – junk piling on the roads (equity issue), update vegetation ordinance for park strips/front lawns, utilize apprenticeship programs, prioritize and support City/Utah based companies
- Homelessness; find solutions for encampments, use of hotels being problematic, RV lots (instead of City streets)
- More diversity was needed in the Council Chambers; additional historical City figures added to the walls and technology updated for hybrid meetings
- Relationship building with local legislators

District wide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Trains; cameras on train crossings/intersections were needed, vehicles were crossing under train arms
- Sidewalk repair funding; equity issues on the westside, creation of a fund for assistance
- Safety/Crime; high amount of drugs and crime in the North Temple area, looking for solutions (more cameras), and more support for the international market
- Speeding; finding ways to slow down traffic
- City Council Meetings; more meetings located on the westside, bringing government closer to the community, encourage more participation for westside representatives on City boards
- Spring cleaning/illegal dumping; needing better public engagement

Last thoughts: Expressed appreciation for the opportunity; gained an understanding of other issues in the City, shared goals, and alignment with other district's goals. Expressed interest in the Council considering the westside and the issues it faced.

Note: A break was taken at 12:40 pm. The retreat reconvened at 12:55 pm.

Council Member Dugan provided Citywide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- City focus on impact of the Inland Port (air quality, environmental impact study, infrastructure, transportation, etc.)
- Rio Grande Train Box; feasibility study was needed
- Completion of pending zoning ordinances/amendments
- Equity; continuing to move forward on recommendations from REP
- Transportation; alternative modes needed, higher use of Public Transportation
- Water conservation; continuing to press on improving Citywide consumption
- Street repairs needed focus, utilize bond funds, keep it moving forward

District wide topics/priorities, including (in summary):

- Foothill intersections/crosswalks; high traffic area (street calming/traffic a big concern)
- Research Park; increasing traffic, needing a transit hub, ensure environmental impact was mitigated
- Miller Park; completion of CIP process
- Bonneville shoreline bike trail (CIP); continue discussions and push for completion of the trail
- Traffic was a big issue; alternative transportation, street calming, etc.

Last thoughts: Expressed gratitude to Council Members for engaging and taking the time to reflect on Citywide issues as well as their respective district's issues, thanked the Mayor for her participation, and thanked Council Staff.

Mayor Mendenhall thanked the Council for providing their priorities, noting many aligned with her own priorities, and thanked the Council for the combined participation.

Council Member Dugan described the next steps that would include the information provided today and plans to meet again to address the top priorities.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:07 pm.

Minutes Approved: February 15, 2022.

City 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).

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This document along with the digital recording constitutes the official minutes of the City Council Retreat meeting held Tuesday, January 25, 2022.