

# MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020

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The City Council met in Work Session on Tuesday November 17, 2020, in an Electronic Meeting, pursuant to Chair determination 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, and James Rogers.

**Absent:** Councilmember 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; Katherine Lewis, City Attorney; Ben Kolendar, Economic Development Deputy Director; Allison Rowland, Council Public Policy Analyst; Mary Beth Thompson, Chief Financial Officer; Nick Tarbet, Council Senior Public Policy Analyst; Karl Lieb, Fire Chief; Lani Eggertsen-Goff, Housing & Neighborhood Development Director; Lisa Shaffer, Mayor's Chief Administrative Officer; Amanda Lau, Council Public Engagement & Communications Specialist; Debra Alexander, Human Resources Director; Daniel Rip, Housing & Neighborhood Development Policy & Program Manager; Cindy Lou Trishman, City Recorder; Blake Thomas, Community & Neighborhoods Director; Robert Nutzman, Council Administrative Assistant; Benjamin Luedtke, Council Policy Analyst; and DeeDee Robinson, Deputy City Recorder.

**Guests in Attendance:** Jessica Thesing, Urban Affairs Director, Downtown Alliance (Item #4).

Councilmember Wharton presided at and conducted the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. [2:09:04 PM](#)

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

**#1. [2:10:29 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*

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*to the City, the functioning of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), City response and aid, and the status of City buildings.*

**Mayor Mendenhall** briefed the Council regarding:

### COVID-19 Updates:

- As COVID-19 cases were rising, current focus was continuing to ensure employees were safe, getting residents/businesses the needed access to all available resources, and providing information on the pandemic on a continual basis.
- An effective vaccine would soon be available, and City wanted to involve the community well before vaccine availability ensuring questions could be answered as well as an established feedback loop for any community member to find vaccine information therefore increasing vaccine utilization.
- More information would be provided to the Council on State/County plans for distribution once obtained.

### Business support efforts/CARES funding:

- City recognizing restaurants appeared to be the hardest hit during pandemic - with zero federal support on the horizon (for winter) - fears that local establishments might suffer/go out of business.
- Studying the potential for temporary outdoor dining options through the winter months - allowing for expansion of operations with temporary structures for patrons to enjoy outdoor dining - details would be finalized this week and Council would be notified before any new proclamation was issued.

### Digital Equity Update:

- City received 11 pieces of "smart furniture" - ordered in June 2020 and funded through Public Services, Youth & Family Services Division, and Information Management Systems (IMS).
- Two "smart furniture" pieces would be installed at the Sorensen Unity Center this month with additional areas across the City being currently mapped out for installation.
- "Smart furniture" utilized solar power and would provide free public Wi-Fi and device charging once installed. (Planned installation of all furniture was throughout this winter and ready for use in the early spring).
- Internet Backhaul System was installed on the mountain/connected to Plaza 349 last week.
- Teams currently working to map out areas of the City for

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broadcasting free Wi-Fi - first three anticipated pilot areas: Liberty, Pioneer, and Jordan River Parks.

- City Connect Network was now available at Sorensen Unity Center, Youth & Family Administration Offices, and Plaza 349. (Rose Park Connect, Glendale Connect, and Salt Lake City Library computer labs were currently closed.)
- Administration was seeking input from Council regarding City partners to provide additional indoor computer lab locations this winter.
- Popup labs being provided for constituents to sign up for programs like stimulus checks - IMS providing Wi-Fi hotspot, printer, and laptops for the events.
- Digital Navigators (part of Budget Amendment No.4) - IMS partnered with Youth & Family Services for five apprentice positions (trained by IMS/Youth City Staff in computer support skills) to be deployed physically/virtually to assist with digital literacy/popup labs/other activities.
- Efforts were being made for ownership of City technology assets - ensuring used equipment could be donated to needs in the community.

**#2. 2:18:17 PM 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.*

**Rachel Otto** briefed the Council regarding partnership with Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness/County/City partners for winter shelter options (priority/goal being a non-congregate/hotel type setting), Community Commitment Program recently ended third week of daily outreach with service provider partners in the 500 West area (out of 166 persons encountered, 40 were willing to engage in conversation with service providers, and 16 expressed interest in shelter options), COVID-19 proving to be a challenge in the shelter system, outreach team making priority to place couples together in motels until more shelter options became available, not proceeding to remove encampments until assurances were made for enough shelter space, and continuing to evaluate Community Commitment program/ability of service providers to staff the outreach efforts.

**#3. 2:23:53 PM Informational: Updates on Racial Equity and Policing.** *The Council will hold a discussion about recent efforts*

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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.

**Allison Rowland** and **Benjamin Luedtke** briefed the Council regarding Racial Equity in Policing Commission (REP):

- Next meeting was scheduled for November 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. - agenda included reports from the subcommittee and youth subcommittee meetings
- Plans for a listening session in the coming weeks - providing opportunity for community feedback/involvement
- Reminder that meetings were hosted by the Salt Lake City Library and were open to the public (also available on YouTube channel: "SLC REP Commission")
- Agendas for each meeting were available on the Salt Lake City Boards webpage and a phone line for any questions 801 535-7644

Updates on the Police Department Audit, including:

- Selection committee of internal City employees met yesterday with one bid being well received
- Meeting scheduled for next Monday for members of the selection committee to meet with the auditing firm leadership
- Items identified in the audit scope for potential adjustments were draft body-camera ordinance, analysis of police officer turn-over, civil service commission repeal, and the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) at the University of Utah as an alternative model responding to mental health crises
- Staff working on the next round of public engagement for the audit (to run concurrently with the consultant's audit work) - ideas being explored were an anonymous feedback mechanism (for members of the public & City employees), small group meetings facilitated for interested parties, regular updates to the Council website (a dedicated webpage for the audit to be updated as it progressed), and updates to be sent to the REP commission email list (containing over 4,500 email addresses).

**Straw Poll:** Support for moving forward with the audit firm selection process (and engagement letter) before the next Council

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meeting. Council Members Fowler, Mano, Rogers, Wharton, Johnston, and Dugan were in favor. Councilmember Valdemoros was absent for the vote.

Councilmember Johnston requested Staff work with Council leadership to work out a timeframe for the zero-based budgeting process.

**#4. 2:40:55 PM Ordinance: Budget Amendment No. 4 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Follow-up.** *The Council will receive a follow-up briefing about an ordinance that would amend the final budget of Salt Lake City, including the employment staffing document, for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Budget amendments happen several times each year to reflect adjustments to the City's budgets, including proposed project additions and modifications. The proposal includes:*

- *\$1.5 million as part of a proposed expansion to the Accelerator program (\$500 prepaid debit cards in direct aid to residents ineligible for CARES Act stimulus checks);*
- *a new apprentice program pairing high school students and young adults with City employees;*
- *additional funding for the enhanced YouthCity program;*
- *homeless camp clean-up funding;*
- *a downtown ambassadors program expansion into the Rio Grande neighborhood and North Temple area;*
- *authorizing the third round of CARES Act funding the City may receive in the coming weeks to cover payroll expenses in the Fire Department and 911 Department;*
- *and other items. [View Attachments](#)*

**Benjamin Luedtke** and **Jessica Thesing (Downtown Alliance)** briefed the Council and discussion was held regarding Item E-19 Downtown Ambassador expansion: how it overlapped with the Police Bike Squad, metrics for the expansion (determining if the program was successful), the Ambassador Program tracked wellness checks, service provider referrals, and provided citizen/visitor assistance, all calls made to/from the Ambassador program were reported weekly/monthly/quarterly, no specific metrics for the pilot area on North Temple - but could be provided along with any other additional metrics (including crime reports/other items of Council interest) as requested by the Council, The Rio Grande Ambassador expansion having no funding to continue into FY 2022 unless new funding was identified in the next annual budget, information regarding Rio Grande Ambassador expansion alternative options (including necessary funding, levels of service,

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days/hours of operation, how many Ambassadors would be needed for each area), and item E-20 Enhanced Homeless Camp Cleanup: the Portland Loos (installed by the former Road Home shelter) were now operational with an Advantage Services attendant at the gate, and Public Lands having indicated availability of 27 portable restrooms/vault restrooms that were open in City parks/natural lands and would be open throughout the winter.

Councilmember Fowler inquired what the funding (\$760,110 from CARES Act Second round) for E-20 would cover. **Lani Eggertsen-Goff** said this was an extension of existing work being done (existing contract for portable restroom attendance, bio-waste clean-up, trash clean-up, and some power washing) into the remainder of the fiscal year.

Councilmember Fowler said, due to the name/title of E-20, it might be misconstrued by the public as to what services the City was providing with the funding and inquired if the name/title could be changed. **Rachel Otto** agreed that it was mislabeled and said the name/titling should have instead been referred to as the enhanced neighborhood cleaning (Community Commitment Program), and the intent was to provide increased cleaning into neighborhoods where not only people were camping, but to help businesses and residents with cleaning efforts on public/private property. She added the Council was recently provided an additional breakdown of expenses for this item.

**#5. 3:07:17 PM Ordinance: Budget Amendment No. 5 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021.** *The Council will be briefed about an ordinance that would amend the final budget of Salt Lake City, including the employment staffing document, for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Budget amendments happen several times each year to reflect adjustments to the City's budgets, including proposed project additions and modifications. The proposal includes:*

- accepting \$7.1 million in U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CARES Act grants which will be awarded to specific community organizations through a separate, open, and competitive process;
- adding temporary lighting near homeless resource centers;
- repairs to City sidewalks damaged during the September 8 windstorm;
- demolition of the Glendale water park
- \$20.5 million from the next issuance of the \$87 million voter-approved Streets Reconstruction Bond;
- and other items. [View Attachments](#)

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**Benjamin Luedtke, Blake Thomas, Mary Beth Thompson, Ben Kolendar, Rachel Otto, Katherine Lewis, Cindy Lou Trishman, Debra Alexander, and Daniel Rip** briefed the Council and discussed the following:

- If Budget Amendment was approved as proposed by the Administration, Fund Balance would drop to 11.7% (\$4 M below the 13% target but staying above the recommended 10% minimum threshold)
- **A-1** Animal Services County Contract (\$44,192 - General Fund)
- **A-2** Sustainability - Pick Up Truck (\$55,000 - Refuse Fund)
- **A-3** Sustainability - (7) Certified Natural Gas (CNG) Refuse Packers (\$2.6 M - Refuse Fund)
- **A-4** Public Safety - Costs related to the Vice-Presidential Debate (\$315,944 - General Fund)
- **A-5** CARES Act Funding from U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) (\$7,138,203 from HUD) including (3) new temporary/part-time employees for the life of the one-time CARES HUD-CV dollars
- **A-6** Consumer Protection Analyst (Budget Neutral in FY21)
- **A-7** Economic Development Deputy Director Funding (\$34,878 - General Fund)
- **A-10** Temporary Lighting Near Homeless Resource Centers (\$33,000 - General Fund)
- **A-11** Department of Air Quality (DAQ) - Lawnmower, Snowblower, String Trimmer Exchange (\$250,000 - General Fund) allowing residents to exchange gas-powered machines for electric equipment
- **A-12** Attorney's Office New Positions (\$184,075 - General Fund) (1) Senior City Attorney and (1) Administrative Assistant
- **A-14** 50% Renewable Energy for Municipal Operations Project (\$45,000 - Refuse Fund)
- **A-15** Restore Human Resource Department Deputy Director FTE (\$81,317 - General Fund/\$14,350 - Risk Fund)
- **A-16** Restore Contract Specialist Funding (\$20,892 - General Fund)
- **A-17** Right of Way Repairs from September 8 Windstorm (\$662,500 - General Fund) including sidewalks, curb/gutter, driveway approaches, and concrete streets
- **A-18** Glendale Water Park Demolition, Fencing and Security (\$855,000 - General Fund) including community outreach and plans for Parks & Public Lands to conduct a visioning exercise soon to contemplate/analyze potential future uses
- **D-3** General Obligation 2020A Streets Reconstruction Bond (\$20.5

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M - Bond Issuance)

- **D-5** FY 2021 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Landfill Construction and Planning Projects (\$15,000,000 - CIP) budget funds were a pass through and fully reimbursed by the Landfill to the City
- **D-6** HUD Grant Recaptures (\$37,535 from miscellaneous grants and \$1,250,212 from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)).

Councilmember Johnston inquired about any overage of funds above the 10% threshold of Fund Balance being used for the next FY. **Mary Beth Thompson** said the current projections were from last year and final Fund Balance totals would not come until mid to end of December and hoped that residual funds would be available for the next FY. **Mayor Mendenhall** stated this was what Fund Balance was for (when what was planned did not come through); the City's ability to maintain all City services and employees with no furloughs, with focus on maintaining the wellness of the City's corporation through the current uncertainty/unpredictability.

**Unanimous Straw Polls:** (Councilmember Valdemoros absent)

- Support for the allocation of \$2.6 M from the Refuse Fund for (7) CNG Refuse Packers.
- Support for the allocation of \$184,075 from the General Fund for two new Attorney's Office FTEs.
- Support for the allocation of \$15,000,000 for CIP Landfill Construction and Planning Project.
- Support for the allocation of \$55,000 from the Refuse Fund for a pickup truck for Sustainability.

**#6. Tentative Break**

**#7. 4:21:42 PM Ordinances: Creating an Appeal Hearing Officer System by Repealing Civil Service Commission and Employee Appeals Board.** *The Council will be briefed about a proposal to replace both the Civil Service Commission and the Employee Appeals Board with an appeal hearing officer system. The proposal also includes a new chapter in Salt Lake City Code to establish competitive merit-based recruitment and promotion processes for the Fire Department and the Police Department. [View Attachments](#)*

**Benjamin Luedtke** provided a brief introduction to the item, described the ordinances (and possible revisions) involved, and indicated this was the first briefing on the item with a public



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hearing scheduled for December 1, 2020.

Rachel Otto, Katherine Lewis, Debra Alexander, and Karl Lieb provided information regarding drafting the proposed ordinances, origination/purpose of the Civil Service Commission (serving Police and Fire employees only and separate from the Memorandum of Understanding/negotiations between Administration, City Council, and Unions), the proposed Employee Appeals Board would serve civil service positions as well as merit employees, benefits included expediting recruitment/promotion for civil service employees and increasing the City's ability to attract diverse candidates into leadership roles in both the Fire and Police Departments, and current red-lined ordinance drafts reflected discussions with Local 81 Fire Union, addressing their concerns.

**#8. 4:38:55 PM Ordinance: Demolition of Dangerous or Boarded Buildings Follow-up Briefing.** *The Council will receive a follow-up briefing on changes to the City's Demolition ordinance. The proposed changes are intended to streamline the process for demolitions on commercial and residential properties, remove the requirement for a replacement use, landscape plan and bond, and provide clarity to the enforcement process for boarded buildings. Chapters 18.48, 18.64 and 2.21.030 of the Salt Lake City Code will be amended as part of this proposal. The continued public hearing for this item is scheduled during the November 17th formal meeting. The Council may consider taking action after the public hearing.*

*\*Note, a previous agenda occurrence incorrectly listed Chapter 18.84 instead of 18.48. [View Attachments](#)*

Nick Tarbet provided a brief introduction to the item, indicated there was a public hearing this evening with the Council having the option to adopt the ordinance, and reviewed answers from the Administration to previous questions from the Council relating to additional fees for Police/Fire services, persistent nuisance buildings, per building vs. per parcel, etc.

### **STANDING ITEMS**

#### **#9. Report of the Chair and Vice Chair**

Item not held.

**#10. 4:48:24 PM Report and Announcements from the Executive Director.** *Report of the Executive Director, including a review of*

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*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:*

- City Boards and Commissions Vacancies; and*
- Scheduling items*

See [announcements](#).

**#11. Tentative Closed Session.** *The Council will consider a motion to enter into Closed Session for any specific purpose under Section 52-4-205.*

Item not held.

The Work Session meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

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COUNCIL CHAIR

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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 November 17, 2020.

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