

SALT LAKE COUNTY

*2001 So. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

4:00 PM

Council Chambers, N1-100

County Council

Present: Council Chair Laurie Stringham
Council Member Jim Bradley
Council Member Dave Alvord
Council Member Ann Granato
Council Member Sheldon Stewart
Council Member Dea Theodore
Excused: Council Member Aimee Winder Newton
Call In: Council Member Suzanne Harrison
Council Member Arlyn Bradshaw

4. PENDING LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

4.1 Consideration of a Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Expressing Support for the Preservation of Abravanel Hall [24-2172](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Abravanel Hall Resolution Final](#)

Sponsors: Councilman Dave Alvord. Second Councilman Jim Bradley.

Presenters: Members of the Utah Symphony. (Approx. 4:00PM, 20 Min.)
Discussion/Direction

Council Member Alvord stated as someone who was “liberal” for the arts, he was glad to be teaming up with Council Member Bradley, who was “conservative” in preserving Abravanel Hall. He read the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 6244

A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
ABRAVANEL HALL

WHEREAS, Abravanel Hall is a Salt Lake County-owned and operated facility that has served as the permanent home of the Utah Symphony since 1979; and

WHEREAS, Abravanel Hall has long served as an iconic cultural and architectural landmark in Salt Lake County, recognized for its exceptional acoustic design and architectural significance; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council acknowledges the historical and cultural importance of Abravanel Hall to the residents of Salt Lake County, and its vital role as a performance venue for the Utah Symphony and other cultural events; and

WHEREAS, Abravanel Hall is located within the Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention District recently established by the Utah Legislature and Salt Lake City, and plays a crucial role in the eastern part of this District, serving as an anchor for cultural activities; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council supports efforts to revitalize downtown Salt Lake City and recognizes that the integration of Abravanel Hall into any redevelopment plans related to the Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention District must take into account the Hall's cultural significance and the need to maintain its architectural and acoustic integrity; and

WHEREAS, the public has demonstrated strong support for the preservation of Abravanel Hall, with petitions garnering over 50,000 signatures in opposition to any plans that would alter or demolish the hall; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council recognizes that while renovations may be necessary for the long-term maintenance of Abravanel Hall, such renovations must be undertaken with care to ensure the Hall's historical, architectural, and acoustic integrity is preserved;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salt Lake County Council states and affirms a commitment to preserve Abravanel Hall in its present form and on its current site, recognizing it as an essential cultural institution within Salt Lake County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Salt Lake County Council intends that any renovations to Abravanel Hall shall prioritize the preservation of the Hall's unique architectural and acoustic design while creatively integrating it into the broader revitalization of the Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention District.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Salt Lake County Council will work closely with the Smith Entertainment Group, the Utah Symphony, the State of Utah, Salt Lake City, and distinguished philanthropists who have

generously supported the symphonic arts, to ensure that Abravanel Hall continues to serve as a vibrant cultural hub for the next fifty years and beyond.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 8th day of October, 2024.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST (SEAL)

By /s/ LAURIE STRINGHAM

Chair

By /s/ LANNIE CHAPMAN

Salt Lake County Clerk

Council Member Bradley stated it was a delight to work with Council Member Alvord on this resolution. He held a mutual feeling of respect. He recalled going to see the symphony as a boy before the hall was built. Many distinguished philanthropists have supported the hall throughout the years, and he expressed hope that would continue. This resolution would send the message that the members of the Council are all on the same page.

Council Member Stringham recognized Kiersten Thompson and Juan T. Becerra from the Government and Community Relations Department at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She extended gratitude to the Church for its partnership in making Abravanel Hall possible. The Church originally leased the land to Salt Lake County for only \$1 a year. Later, it allowed the County to purchase the land. She noted arts and culture are very important to Utah residents.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Bradley, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Karen Wyatt, Violinist, Utah Symphony, stated she and her colleagues were thrilled that the Smith Entertainment Group, Mayor Jennifer Wilson, the Revitalization Zone Committee, and both the County and City Councils were united in their efforts to keep the hall where it is and as it is, with the expectation that informed and thoughtful renovations will allow it to continue to serve as a beacon of cultural excellence.

Ms. Madeline Adkins, Concert Master; **Mr. Claude Halter**, Principal Second Violin; **Mr. Brant Bayless**, Principal Viola; and **Mr. Matthew Johnson**, Principal Cello performed the last movement from Beethoven's String Quartet Opus 18 Number 2.

ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM until Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL