

SALT LAKE COUNTY

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

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, N1-110

County Council

1. CALL TO ORDER - WELCOME - Council Chair Aimee Winder Newton

Present: Council Member Suzanne Harrison
Council Member Laurie Stringham
Council Member Arlyn Bradshaw
Council Member Dave Alvord
Council Chair Aimee Winder Newton
Council Member Ann Granato
Council Member Dea Theodore

Call In: Council Member Jim Bradley
Council Member Sheldon Stewart

2. Mayor's Budget Comments

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated the budget this year was tough and took a lot of work. The budget is structurally balanced, and the structural balance will be helped by the fact that short-term interest rates have risen.

The theme of the budget has been trying to do more for County employees through health insurance benefits, pay increases, etc. This was accomplished through the denial of new requests and through budget cuts. Going forward, the bar for new requests will likely be quite high. The revenue committee will carefully monitor revenues.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated this was not an easy budget year. She appreciated the engagement from the Council and staff, particularly on compensation issues. Contra accounts on personnel and operations are not the norm and will create challenges, but she thought the budget was good and she hoped for an affirmative vote tonight.

3. Open Public Hearing - Public Comment

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to open the public hearing. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Council Comments

Mr. Steve Van Maren stated he was concerned that the My County Recreation Pass would not be implemented until summer. He questioned this since Tourism, Recreation, Culture, and Convention (TRCC) funds would be used. He also expressed concern over the movement to micromanage hiring and suggested everyone let the budget run for six months and see how things go.

Council Member Winder Newton stated the Parks and Recreation Division requested

time to prepare for implementation of the My County Recreation Pass program.

5. Close Public Hearing

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to close the public hearing. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Discussion and Approval of Salt Lake County Budget Resolution, 2024 Budget, and 2023 Budget Adjustments

- 6.1 CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 FOR SALT LAKE COUNTY OFFICES, DEPARTMENTS, AND AGENCIES, INCLUDING PROPOSED TAX REVENUES, BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS, AND PERSONNEL ALLOCATIONS; ADOPTING COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES; ADOPTING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET; CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF UTAH STATUTE AND SALT LAKE COUNTY ORDINANCE; AND RELATED MATTERS** [23-1142](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Final 2024 Budget Resolution](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to make a correction, at the request of the Human Resources Division, indicating that the Grant Writer position for the Mayor's Office be classified as an appointed position instead of a merit position. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Council Member Bradshaw stated in 2019, the Council provided \$2 million in Tourism, Recreation, Culture, and Convention (TRCC) funding to West Valley City, with the requirement that a portion be used for a veteran memorial. A lot has happened since then, and West Valley City has changed the scope of the project. The City has requested that the Council reduce the amount from \$2 million to \$900,000 and recognize that the conditions for receiving the funding have been met.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, that the Council reduce the amount of TRCC funding to

West Valley City from \$2 million to \$900,000, and recognize that the conditions of this funding have been met. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Council Member Alvord read a prepared statement:

As a fiscal hawk, our office created a list of cuts from which I proposed and made many motions. Had those motions been supported by the majority, they would have trimmed over \$32,000,000.00 in permanent cuts from the mayor's proposed budget. These cuts included a permanent 2% operations cut, eliminating dozens of vacant positions, cutting "equity" pay which was meant to give raises to those in protected classes - eroding morale among other county employees. The cut list also included the Salt Lake County Co-op (a social program), a large contribution to Sundance Films, The Kem Gardner Policy Institute, a WFRC grant, as well as expensive county lobbyist contracts. I believe these cuts would not have resulted in any change to the level of service for residents.

Sadly, all those cuts were not supported by the majority. However, I am grateful to Councilman Sheldon Stewart, and Councilwoman Dea Theodore for supporting most of my motions. On the bright side, the Republican Caucus was united in cutting \$9,500,000 - included in these cuts was the WISE program (social engineering) and the office of diversity and inclusion. I also applaud the one-million dollar cut to travel which was an item my office had help to identify. It's worth noting the Councilwoman Laurie Stringham had some cuts of her own, which I supported, which sadly, did not receive a majority vote.

Since not all of my motions passed, I believe that this budget did not cut deep enough - and unless we see growth projections improve significantly, I fear next year's budget will be in the red.

This budget is not as lean as I would have preferred. With that said, I will vote to support it as it does an adequate job in being balanced thanks to our cuts, did not increase taxes, and represents many of the priorities my constituents value.

Council Member Winder Newton asked if next year's budget would be

structurally sound.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated there are many assumptions built into this year's budget and time will tell if they come into fruition. He promised that he and fiscal staff would have a keen eye toward structural balance as they always did. There are always pressures against structural balance because revenues and property taxes are not allowed to grow. The State Tax Commission sets a rate that ignores new growth. In inflationary times, that pressure can come to bear on the structural balance.

Council Member Harrison stated compared to the budget passed in 2023, there was a savings of over \$25 million in General Fund dollars and related tax funds. She was glad to be able to improve employee compensation and prioritize needed services for Salt Lake County residents.

Council Member Stewart stated he was disappointed in the decision to keep contra accounts intact, but he would still be voting in favor of the budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 6155

A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 FOR SALT LAKE COUNTY OFFICES, DEPARTMENTS, AND AGENCIES, INCLUDING PROPOSED TAX REVENUES, BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS, AND PERSONNEL ALLOCATIONS; ADOPTING COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES; ADOPTING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET; CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF UTAH STATUTE AND SALT LAKE COUNTY ORDINANCE; AND RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council, as required by Salt Lake County's Budget Process Ordinance, Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances Chapter 2.95, is required to adopt by resolution a final budget for Salt Lake County on or before December 10 of each year for the following calendar fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County, as required by the Uniform Fiscal

Procedures Act for Counties, Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-15, shall adopt by resolution the final budget for fiscal year 2024 on or before December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Mayor and the County Council have caused to be prepared the Mayor's proposed 2024 budget and the Council's recommended final 2024 budget, each of which have been reviewed and discussed in public meetings, and which have met all legal requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council provided timely public notices for a public hearing on the adoption of Salt Lake County's final budget for fiscal year 2024 on December 5, 2023, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., as required by Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-12; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2023, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., the Salt Lake County Council held a public hearing on Salt Lake County's final budget for fiscal year 2024 that conformed with all necessary requirements of Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-13; and

WHEREAS, at the December 5, 2023, public hearing the Salt Lake County Council received public comment on the recommended budget, and all interested persons had an opportunity to be heard for or against the estimates of revenue and expenditures and performance data or any item in any fund; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council has reviewed the recommended budget, has considered any adjustments or revisions to that recommended budget, and now desires to adopt Salt Lake County's final budget for fiscal year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council has reviewed a financial plan for the expenditure of bond proceeds and funds for capital improvements projects and related matters, which plan includes reimbursement to the County from bond proceeds for expenditures made or incurred on those projects prior to the issuance of their related bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council also now finds it expedient to adopt a salary plan which will provide for compensation adjustments to County employees and which will fix salary and compensation for County elected officials for the 2024 fiscal year, and which plan is and has been a

part of the budget discussion and public hearings and notice; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council finds it expedient to adopt certain temporary procedures for the 2024 fiscal year intended to achieve budgetary reductions realized from contra accounts imposing offsets in the amounts of 3% for the personnel appropriation unit and 2% for the operating appropriation unit of certain county offices, departments, and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council now also finds it expedient to appropriate certain Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received from the federal government of the United States under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2 (“ARPA”), which funds and appropriations have been a part of the budget discussions; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council desires to make contributions to certain nonprofit entities to assist those entities in providing services to Salt Lake County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council desires to adopt and ratify certain adjustments to the 2023 fiscal year budget;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Salt Lake County Council, acting as the County Legislative Body for Salt Lake County, that:

- 1) The Salt Lake County Council hereby adopts an overall final budget for fiscal year 2024 for Salt Lake County offices, departments, and agencies, as more specifically described in Attachment A to this Resolution, including specific budgets for fiscal year 2024 for Salt Lake County’s particular funds and accounts, and also adopts proposed tax revenues for fiscal year 2024 for the funds and accounts indicated above. Attachment A is hereby incorporated into this Resolution by reference.
- 2) The Salt Lake County Council hereby adopts personnel allocations for County offices, departments, and agencies, effective for fiscal year 2024 as more specifically provided in Attachment A.
- 3) The Salt Lake County Council hereby adopts salary compensation adjustments for County employees and fixes salaries for Salt Lake County elected officials, effective for fiscal year 2024, as more

specifically provided in Attachment A.

- 4) The Salt Lake County Council hereby approves and adopts fee changes presented and approved during its budget meetings and hearings, and as reflected in the revenue totals set forth in Attachment A.
- 5) The 2024 budget adopted as provided in paragraph 1, above, shall be in effect for the next fiscal year, 2024, subject to further amendments as provided by law, and the County Mayor is directed to file, with the State Auditor not later than thirty (30) days hence, certified copies of these final budgets and amendments. Copies of these budgets shall be available at the offices of the County Council, County Mayor, and County Clerk for inspection by the public during business hours and shall also be posted on the Salt Lake County website.
- 6) The Salt Lake County Council hereby adopts certain temporary procedures, effective for the 2024 fiscal year, intended to achieve budgetary reductions realized from contra accounts imposing offsets in the amounts of 3% for the personnel appropriation unit and 2% for the operating appropriation unit of certain county offices, departments, and agencies, as more specifically provided in Attachment A, and with more particular deviations and exclusions noted therein. The Council does not intend that contra accounts be imposed with respect to the following funds and initiatives: the County Library fund; enterprise funds; internal services funds; the ZAP fund; the TRCC fund; contracts for required indigent legal services; organizations and initiatives that have been specifically designated as deriving from one-time revenue sources such as ARPA projects, transformational initiatives, and grants or contracts; and capital projects.
- 7) The Salt Lake County Council appropriates certain Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received from the federal government of the United States under the American Rescue Plan Act, as discussed and approved in its budget meetings, for uses currently deemed eligible and as more specifically reflected in Attachment A. Consistent with the final rule issued by the United States Department of Treasury on January 6, 2022, ARPA funds have been appropriated to support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, replace lost public sector revenue, provide premium pay for essential workers, and to invest in certain

public infrastructure. The Salt Lake County Mayor is instructed to comply with all applicable reporting and other legal requirements related to ARPA funds expended by Salt Lake County.

- 8) The Salt Lake County Council has provided for monetary assistance to certain nonprofit entities in the community in exchange for which the County will receive fair and adequate consideration in that the assistance, individually and collectively, will contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the community at large through the preservation of its cultural heritage, the encouragement of economic development and tourism, the encouragement of the arts, the increase in capacity for services to the disabled, the disadvantaged, the needy, and those receiving social and human services from county supported agencies, and the development of resources to assist and mentor youth. All such assistance has been approved in a manner consistent with Utah Code Ann. § 17-50-303(3) and shall be administered in a manner consistent with Salt Lake County Ordinance, Policy, and the Council's legislative intent.
- 9) The Salt Lake County Council hereby adopts final year-end adjustments to the 2023 fiscal year budget, as more specifically described in Attachment B, which attachment is hereby incorporated into this Resolution by reference. The final year-end adjustments to the 2023 fiscal year budget shall be effective for fiscal year 2023.
- 10) The Salt Lake County Council certifies that it has, to the best of its knowledge, exercised due diligence in complying with all public notice and hearing requirements established by the Uniform Fiscal Procedures Act for Counties, Utah Code Ann. § 17- 36-1, et seq. and Salt Lake County's County Budget Process Ordinance, Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.95.
- 11) The tables of revenues and expenditures and other budgetary data contained in Attachments A and B are hereby approved in substantially final form, subject to any revisions that may be necessary to correct purely technical inaccuracies, or to update and memorialize the votes of the Salt Lake County Council, including any votes taken at the public hearing concerning the 2024 budget held on December 5, 2023. County budget staff are hereby authorized to make any such necessary revisions prior to the final publication of the budget as described in paragraph 5, above.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 5th day of December, 2023.

ATTEST

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

By /s/ AIMEE WINDER NEWTON
Chair

By /s/ LANNIE CHAPMAN
County Clerk

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

ADJOURN FOR RDA

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM until Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL