

SALT LAKE COUNTY

2001 So. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
(385) 468-7500 TTY 711



Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2025

10:30 AM

Council Chambers, Room N1-110

County Council

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Council Member Laurie Stringham
Council Member Suzanne Harrison
Council Member Natalie Pinkney
Council Member Jiro Johnson
Council Member Carlos Moreno
Council Member Aimee Winder Newton
Council Member Ross Romero
Council Member Sheldon Stewart
Council Chair Dea Theodore

1.1 November 10, 2025, Special Meeting Order 25-810

Attachments:

1. November 10 Special Meeting Notice

2. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS

2.1 Continuation of the Council's 2026 Salt Lake County Budget Workshop for the Limited Purpose of Consideration of a Motion to Allocate Funding Through May 31, 2026, for the Continued Operation of Four Licensed Daycare Centers Located at Salt Lake County Recreation Facilities, and Related Matters 25-807

Presenter: Dea Theodore, Salt Lake County Council Chair; Aimee Winder Newton, Salt Lake County Council Member
(Approx. 10:30 AM, 10 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments: None

Council Member Winder Newton stated the Council tried to pass this item at the November 4, 2025, Council meeting during the budget workshop, but it did not have the votes necessary. She still felt it was important to give the families affected by the closure of the four daycare centers additional time to make plans, and it made sense to her to continue the programs until the end of the school year.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to extend Salt Lake County's daycare program until May 31, 2026. Beginning January 1, the tuition rates and other funding recommendations in the Mayor's proposed budget would become effective.

Council Member Harrison stated she was grateful that the result of this vote would likely give families more time, as this decision has been enormously stressful for many of them. That said, she intended to vote “nay” on this item out of protest. There had not been a good process for coming up with viable and fiscally sustainable solutions to keeping this program open longer. She could not, in good conscience, vote “aye” because she felt the County could do better.

Council Member Theodore stated this decision was due to the proposed tax increase and some failures by the administration, who had allowed things to get to this point. She would be voting “aye.”

Council Member Winder Newton stated the current program had no income qualifications and even if the County found ways to continue offering childcare, it would probably be limited to low-income families going forward. She agreed that it would be good to look at alternatives, and she would personally be doing that. However, she did not want to give false hope to the families that would not qualify under the new guidelines.

Council Member Pinkney stated the County was in the business of helping children, families, and mothers. This was the County’s charter and duty. She would be voting “nay.”

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to extend Salt Lake County’s daycare program until May 31, 2026. Beginning on January 1, the tuition rates and other funding recommendations in the Mayor’s proposed budget would become effective. The motion carried by the following rollcall vote. Council Member Johnson was absent for the vote.

Aye: Council Member Moreno, Council Member Stewart, Council Member Stringham, Council Member Winder Newton, Council Member Theodore.

Nay: Council Member Harrison, Council Member Pinkney, Council Member Romero.

Later in the meeting, **Council Member Johnson** stated he had not able to log on to the meeting on time, but he would have voted “nay.” He did not want his constituents to think he was intentionally avoiding voting on this matter. He would be doing everything in his power to get these daycare centers back up and running. He asked legal counsel if his vote could be added to the record.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated it was too late to add Council Member Johnson’s vote to the record.

2.2 Discussion and Direction Regarding Salt Lake County Human Resources Recommendations Related to the Proposed Continued Operation of Four Licensed Daycare Centers Located at Salt Lake County Recreation Facilities for the Period Between November 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026, and Related Matters 25-808

Presenter: Sharon Roux, Human Resources Director
(Approx. 10:40 AM, 10 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments: None

Ms. Sharon Roux, Director, Human Resources Division, stated she had been working with the Parks and Recreation leadership team about the need to keep staff in place during this wind-down period. She felt it was important to consider some sort of incentive to convince the daycare staff to stay on. Certain staffing ratios needed to be maintained for the County to meet the State licensure requirements. Payments would be made by the County at different levels and intervals, and employees who found other employment within the County would not be eligible for these incentives. Ms. Roux asked for direction to create some sort of retention program.

Council Member Harrison stated this would be an important part of helping the affected families and the staff who have gone above and beyond in their jobs.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Theodore, to instruct the Human Resources Division to formulate a retention program. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Council Member Harrison, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Moreno, Council Member Pinkney, Council Member Romero, Council Member Stewart, Council Member Stringham, Council Member Winder Newton, Council Member Theodore.

Council Member Stringham stated many people believe that if the County got rid of this program, it would no longer be helping families. However, she wanted everyone to understand that this was just one of many programs that currently help families in Salt Lake County.

Council Member Moreno stated he had been discussing ways to use the Salt Lake County Foundation to support these daycare centers through private donations with his

colleagues. He would like to explore this more in the future.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated she wanted to be clear that her position was that the County should have taken the time necessary to make these daycare centers viable, which could have included looking at market courses, increasing fees, setting new terms for eligibility, etc. She welcomed the idea of bringing others to the table, but reminded the Council that as an administrator, she had a duty to make these programs work. She wanted to ensure that there was coordination among the divisions working in this space, rather than having Council members lean into an administrative role.

ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 PM until Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL