SALT LAKE COUNTY

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

10:00 AM

Council Chambers, Room N1-110

County Council

1. CALL TO ORDER

Invocation - Reading or Thought - Pledge of Allegiance

1.1 Quorum Call—Roll Call Vote

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

Council Member Romero led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment will be limited to one hour

Mr. David Oman spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. He stated this attack on senior citizens has happened twice this year. On August 22, 2025, the County permanently closed the Sunday Anderson Senior Center, after promising to reopen it after reconstruction took place. Keeping the Tenth East Senior Center open for the 600 senior attendees would cost the County less than $50 a month. Senior centers are an investment in senior citizens' health and well-being, and help keep them from becoming homeless, a problem that the County has proposed spending $44 million on.

Mr. Kent Singleton spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. He stated thousands of senior citizens in Salt Lake County are being quietly cut out of services that they paid taxes on for decades to build. He wanted every senior citizen in this room to know that they could have free and legal access to every government meeting in the county at citizenportal.ai to learn about what is happening. Mr. Singleton was concerned about the quiet closures and the bait and switch action.

Ms. Cathy Ostler Beardon spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated senior citizens have spent their lives taking care of children, aging parents, and failing spouses, as well as volunteering at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, hospitals, schools, churches, and neighborhoods. Senior citizens need to be strong, healthy, and happy to continue serving, and they need social connection. She asked the Council to keep senior centers as well as the Day Care program open. Ms. Beardon gave a demonstration of what she had learned at the Tenth East Senior Center in a ballet class, a program done in connection with Ballet West.

Ms. Keiko Jones spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated she heard Council Member Winder Newton say there did not need to be two senior centers that were less than two miles apart from each other, yet the County already closed the Sunday Anderson Senior Center in Salt Lake City, so closing the Tenth East Senior Center would be the second closure this year. The Council has not thought about the supply and demand, and what these closures would do to the capacity of the remaining facilities open in Salt Lake City. The Rivers Bend Senior Center is already impacted by the closure of the Sunday Anderson Senior Center. Taking money and benefits away from the most vulnerable populations – seniors and children is unkind, cruel, and outrageous.

Ms. Janna Lauer, former Director, Heart and Soul, spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated Heart and Soul has been a recipient of Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP) funding for thirty years, and in that time, it has taken music to seniors in care communities, hospitals, prisons, and senior centers. These senior centers are living rooms where people can get together, keep their minds active, dance, play bridge and bingo, see neighbors, and keep their minds alert. Keeping these senior centers open will help senior citizens live independently.

Ms. Cindy Cromer spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated the history of the site of the Tenth East Senior Center goes back 100 years. Wallace Stegner, author and tennis player, played tennis there, and Burtch Beall, architect, designed the building. It was the first building dedicated to the needs of senior citizens in Utah. The center is also in a national registered district. There have been many challenges over the last 13 years for the center, including closures and program cancellations. While she had not wanted the latest expensive remodel of the Tenth East Senior Center, she thought it was a way to keep the center open. Now, remodeling the center seemed like a Trojan horse – running up the cost and then using the cost as the rationale to close this beloved center.

Mr. Neil Rickard, representative, Utahns Against Hunger, spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. He stated the continuation of services at senior centers is vitally important. There is no substitute for these services and the congregate meals provided at senior centers. Senior hunger will likely increase over the next few years, and the tools available to help fight this hunger should not be abandoned. In addition to meals, senior centers provide a sense of community and dignity that cannot be easily replaced.

Mr. Matt Russell spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. He stated he had children enrolled in the Millcreek Activity Center (MAC). To children, parents were heroes, but parents had to work, and they had to pass along some of their heroism to the daycare providers to watch over their kids while they worked. Parents were doing the best they could, but they were struggling. They needed the Council to be their heroes and keep these centers open.

Ms. Yvonne Jenkin spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated she heard Council Member Stringham say she was concerned about the lack of facilities on the west side of Salt Lake County, yet the County closed the Sunday Anderson Senior Center and recommended the closure of three west side daycares. Council Member Theodore said she was concerned about the amount of deferred maintenance on County facilities, but if the Tenth East Senior Center was renovated, it would have no deferred maintenance, and it could be used to receive members from other senior centers that needed maintenance. She urged the Council to up the Mayor's tax increase proposal to 20 percent to allow for all the needed repairs and continuation of services. The voters of Salt Lake County want the County to provide resources throughout the County.

Mr. Norm Farrer spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. He stated that when he became aware of the proposed closure, he called and left several messages for Council Member Romero, his Council representative, but Council Member Romero never responded. Government is not for the people anymore. Many of the senior citizens attending the senior centers have nowhere else to go, and for some, the meal they get at the senior center is their only meal that day. Mr. Farrer was a retiree from West Jordan City, and he knew there was a lot of fat in cities and government, but before cutting programs from the budget, elected officials needed to understand the programs they were cutting. Government is supposed to take care of the needs of the people, but it is not doing that, and in fact, it is not even approachable.

Ms. Tana Winkler spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program and the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated she did a lot of research and spoke with people about what they wanted, and the majority of them wanted to keep the daycare centers open. Some people even wanted the subsidy to be increased. Council Member Winder Newton has stood by the fact she wanted to protect the poor and elderly, but this is not what the poor and the elderly want. In fact, some of the elderly people were horrified that they were named as the reason for the daycare 9+program closure. Council Member Theodore said the centers did not serve her district, but according to reports, every district is represented by this daycare program. Council Member Moreno said the daycare centers should be shut down due to corruption, but if every department was shut down because someone within it was involved in corruption, there would be no government left. She asked the Council who it was representing.

Ms. Esther Hunter, Chair, East Central Community Council, spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated there is an 18-24 percent population of senior citizens in the East Central Community Council area. The Liberty Senior Center and the Tenth East Senior Center will not meet capacity needs in just a short time. The East Central Community Council is committed to helping keep the Tenth East Senior Center. At one time, Head Start was in the basement of the Tenth East Senior Center, and if given the time, other partners could be found to make this property work within the budget.

Ms. Vickie Brunstetter spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program and the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated that finding creative ways to fund programs like the Child Care program and the Tenth East Senior Center is fiscally responsible. She asked the Council to find a way to keep them open, such as increasing the tax increase by a small number, or an annual fee for use of the senior center based on a sliding scale, or increasing the donation for lunch. The Tenth East Senior Center was so important three years ago that the Council allocated $10 million for a remodel. Now, it wants to close the center, regardless of the fact the aging population in this area will continue to grow.

Ms. Stefanie Wright spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. She stated she is the parent of two school-aged children who attend the Millcreek Activity Center. Her family is dependent on affordable childcare to be able to work to make ends meet, but private affordable childcare does not exist. After the 20 percent increase to the County's Child Care program, she would be paying $696 per month for the Millcreek Activity Center during the school year and $940 during the summer. Private daycare would cost $1,270 a month during the school year and $3,440 a month during the summer break. The total cost for private daycare in the summer is more than four times the cost of her mortgage. There is simply no way her family could absorb private daycare and remain stable. She asked the Council to keep the Child Care program open.

Ms. Hillary Hewitt spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. She stated funding childcare was exactly how she wanted her tax dollars spent. She did not use the Child Care program, but childcare strengthened the entire community. Research showed that every $1 spent on early childhood care returned between $7 and $13 to the economy through higher earnings, lower crime, better graduation rates, and improved long-term health. Cutting childcare might save money in the short term, but it would end up costing taxpayers more and put a strain on communities down the line. Funding these childcare centers was no different than funding libraries, roads, parks, and public safety. When elected officials are running for re-election, the community will remember who put it first.

Ms. Karen Schroyer spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. She stated she is a 63-year-old retiree who never had children, but she supported her tax dollars being used to maintain and expand the Child Care program. Some Council Members said it was unfair that most County citizens paid for this program, but they did not access it. Ms. Schroyer argued that was exactly how government was supposed to work. That same system applied to countless national, state, and local government programs. It is government's responsibility to provide services for those who are underserved. The cost to operate the Child Care program was $2 million in 2025. That was only 0.1 percent of the budget. Childcare and senior centers are essential services, and investing in them is for the greatest public good.

Ms. Christina Llama spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. She stated during the past few weeks, she felt stressed, sadness, and rage. She felt rage after talking with Council Member Stewart on the phone because he told her she could ask her neighbors to help with her children. She felt sad when she picked her child up from daycare. Parents and seniors came together to ask the public servers to help them, but all she felt from the public servers was silence.

Ms. Michelle Kimball Curtis spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. When residents can no longer access these services, they will have difficulties paying for housing, food, or other services. The biggest problem is how the Council approached its decision. The Council should have had an impact study done and gathered information from the people who used the program before making its decision. What she heard from some Council Members was a lack of understanding, empathy, or ability to see beyond their own limited life experiences. She asked the Council Members to do better, and to listen to the community and open their eyes to possibilities.

Mr. Andrew Bowser spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program and the Tenth East Senior Center. He stated Council Member Moreno stated the budget was hard to read through, but it only took Mr. Bowser an hour to read through it and figure out the Council would go after the Tenth East Senior Center because it was a high-cost center and the low hanging fruit, which was easy to attack. Closing the childcare facilities and senior centers will hurt people. Council Member Theodore stated she was concerned about her constituents, but they were not showing up to the meetings. Mr. Bowser suggested Council Member Theodore listen to the people who were showing up to the meetings asking to keep the childcare centers and senior centers open.

Ms. Monica Hilding spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. She stated she purchased a home 35 years ago in a walkable community, a block from the Tenth East Senior Center. She started a petition protesting the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. This center has served the community for half a century, and it would be impossible to replace. Taking this asset away because neighborhoods on the west side did not have a senior center was an invalid reason. She hoped the Council would reconsider its decision.

Ms. Pat Jones spoke in opposition to the tax increase. She stated she and her husband were on a fixed income, but the costs of their household basics were ballooning. The Mayor's proposed tax increase will raise their burden. On November 4th, the Mayor said the tax increase was only $7 a month for a property, but that is only for one entity. The County tax bill has 12 taxing entities on it, and while they do not increase their taxes at one time, each will increase at some time. Senior citizens are being taxed into impoverishment and being depleted of their strength and vitality. Soon, there will need to be more senior centers because senior citizens will not be able to retire or downsize with the real estate situation. She asked the Council to look through the budget and focus on only funding the core services that are needed.

Ms. Jessica Earl spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. She stated she and 73 other parents have been working hard to fight this closure, but no matter what they say, they are not getting through to the five Council Members who voted to close it. A lot of parents do not qualify for the State's childcare assistance program. Her income was just over the income limit to qualify. The fact the Council is increasing the cost of the Child Care program per month for the last five months the program is open is rude and cruel. She hoped the Council would reconsider its decision.

Ms. Tana Winkler read a statement on behalf of **Jessica Golden** in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. Ms. Golden thanked Mayor Jennifer Wilson for going to the Millcreek Activity Center and the Council for extending the date of the closure. However, this extension is only a bandaid. On June 1st, Ms. Golden will still need to work full-time, and her daughter will still need a summer program, an after-school program, and transportation from her school. The only solution the Council came up with was to increase rates by 20 percent through May. If a 20 percent rate increase can buy time, she asked why it could not buy a long-term plan. She asked the Council not to let this bandaid be the end of the story for children using these daycare centers.

Mr. Wesley Sawyer spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. He stated he sent emails to Council Member Winder Newton's office asking her to address her claim to be fighting to break the cycle of poverty, and to demonstrate how she was going to affect positive change. Council Member Winder Newton responded that a program was effective when it achieved its intended results. She also said that the Child Care program had no clear policy objective. Telling people who desperately need childcare that the purpose of the Child Care program was unclear was audacious. While he did not have children, he supported keeping the Child Care program open.

Ms. Susan Sandack stated in a previous meeting, Council Member Winder Newton proposed staff, departments, and divisions provide the Council with dashboard information, so its decisions were informed. She would like to see each Council Member provide a dashboard of how many constituents from their district contacted them and whether they supported a position or opposed it. Like others who spoke today, she could see that there was more opposition to the closure of programs than the Council was showing in terms of support. She also asked that when the Council do a roll call vote from now into the future on any subject, that Council Members provide an idea of how their constituents had asked them to vote, so they were representing their constituents, and not just voting from their personal gut.

Mr. Luke Maynes spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program and the Tenth East Senior Center. He met with Council Member Winder Newton who told him it was not fair to people in her district to have to pay for services they did not use. It surprised him because government is entirely about paying for services that not everyone used. He did not have children, but he was glad that his tax dollars went to fund daycares and senior centers. These programs provide essential services for members of the community. Every dollar spent on these services saves money in other ways. The County needs to find a permanent solution, not just a temporary solution. If the Council will not support essential services in the community, voters are going to elect someone who will.

Mr. Jonathan Ramras spoke in opposition to the closure of the Tenth East Senior Center. He stated this is about investment in the future. He hoped the Council would reconsider its decision and save the senior center. There could be creative ways to do that.

Mr. Courtney Curtis spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program and the Tenth East Senior Center. He was a lifelong Republican, but he was finding it harder to be a Republican. Government should be representing families and espousing values. Childcare is a government service that gets a $7 return on every dollar spent, and many of the participants in the senior centers contributed to taxes for years. Council Member Winder Newton works with Governor Spencer Cox to represent families, but it did not feel like she represented families. He called on the Republicans to do what was right and keep these centers open. He spent time knocking on doors and speaking to 30 fiscally conservative Republicans, and not one of them wanted to cut these programs.

Ms. Dena Long stated she could not support the County continuing to spend so much money for so many programs. The County needed to make cuts. The people who are attacking Council Members should be discussing their concerns with the Mayor's Office. Her office is the largest in the County; she is the one carrying most of the staff, and she has more deputies than any other office. Ms. Long suggested the Council have the Mayor do some shrinkage and tighten her belt. If she did that, the Child Care program and Tenth East Senior Center could possibly squeeze through. She also suggested the option of having Salt Lake City manage the Tenth East Senior Center building, while the County ran the program. She asked why some of the municipalities were not helping.

Ms. Allison Sabo spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program and the Tenth East Senior Center. She was 42 years old, single, had no dependents, owned property, paid taxes, voted, and was a veteran, and she was okay with taxes going up. She urged the Council to keep all services open that serve the people who funded them.

Ms. Lacy Walker spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. She stated she had children, ages 5, 8, and 11 who have been using the Millcreek Activity Center for five years. Council Members Stringham and Winder Newton have been trying to close these centers for two years, and at no point during that time, did they offer an open dialog to the parents, inquire whether the parents would be willing to pay more, or conduct an impact study. Instead of prioritizing the vital role these daycare centers play in the lives of families, parents have been treated like they were cheating the system or getting a handout. Parents have sent emails with suggestions and questions and have gotten only form responses back. A non-profit organization offered to help fund the centers and it was rejected. Parents are just asking the County to continue providing a safe place for their children while they work. Her best option moving forward is to leave her children home alone, before and after school. She asked if Council Members wanted their legacy to be that of closing childcare centers and senior centers.

Mr. MacKenzie Miller spoke in opposition to the closure of the Parks and Recreation Division's Child Care program. Government should take care of its children and senior citizens. The Council's short-term solution to the budget was to cut \$2 to \$3 million, but the long-term problem is that population is going to keep growing. People are going to have more children, and government will feel the ramification of failing its infrastructure. Research shows that people are working as hard as they can, but their income has not gone up. They are not making enough money to have children nor to have the American dream. Parents have tried to talk to Council Members about potential solutions, but they cannot even get that conversation from the Council.

3. REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

3.1 County Council Members

Council Member Winder Newton stated she did some research on what it would cost to provide childcare to all children in Salt Lake County under the age of 12. Currently, the County provides this service for 271 kids, which is a $2 million a year subsidy for taxpayers. If the County were to provide daycare for the 190,000 children in Salt Lake County under the age of 12, it would be a $1.4 billion subsidy for taxpayers. That would entail increasing property taxes by 583 percent, which would be a $4,000 increase to taxpayers per month. The County is required to provide core government services, i.e., the criminal justice system, and aging and adult services. A vote was never taken to be in the business of running daycares. The State would be better suited than the County to provide this service, as it operates the Office of Child Care provides child tax credits and other resources to support young families. The County's $2 billion budget includes the General Fund, which is the fund property taxes go into, sales taxes of about $500 million, and tourism taxes. Funds from tourism taxes cannot be used for things like daycares or senior centers. They can only be used for specific purposes that were dictated in state statute.

Council Member Harrison stated the Democrats on the Council voted to find a solution to the Child Care program that was fiscally viable, with public private partnerships and philanthropic donors, and to keep the Tenth East Senior Center open. She would continue to work on finding solutions to support working families and build community.

Council Member Harrison reported that she helped serve Thanksgiving meals at the Liberty Senior Center and the Midvale Senior Center last week, which were provided by the County's Aging and Adult Services Division. While there, she met staff and residents who were inspiring. She relayed a story of meeting one man who would have become homeless had the senior center program not helped him secure housing. That is what government is about.

Council Member Stewart stated he represented the southwest of this community, and he has had more phone calls from constituents about this tax increase than anything else. Someone said that the Child Care program subsidy was $4 per household for 271 kids, which is the cost of a cup of coffee. The Jordan School District charges 40 cents for reduced lunch, and there are about 30,000 kids there who are below the poverty line and get reduced lunch. That $4 subsidy for the Child Care program amounts to taking ten meals out of the mouths of these students who get reduced lunch. He had to think about all children, not just the few.

Council Member Johnson stated the problem he had with his Republican colleagues was they just decided to close the Child Care program, without trying to save it. The County could try increasing membership costs or find a way to double the capacity to bring the subsidy to taxpayers down. Instead, the County is going to increase rates by 20 percent through May, and then, close the program. He represented District 1, and all the residents there would be in favor of raising taxes to provide a vital service. It was hard for him not to be able to save this vital service for the community and do what was right for these families.

Council Member Theodore stated the Council does listen to the public, but it has a lot of hard decisions to make to find ways to reduce the tax increase. The County does a lot of good things too, like the My County Rec Pass, and it has a lot of nice senior centers, but they cost money to maintain. The situation with the Child Care program was unfortunate, but the report ordered by the Parks and Recreation Division showed that closing the program was the best business model. Some of the facilities are old and have a lot of deferred maintenance. The Council had to make a hard decision whether to invest in that program, and she stood by her decision to close it.

3.2 County Mayor

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated the County had always backed up services for people in need, and that includes daycare and children. She did not agree with Council Members who thought the County should not be in the business of daycare. She believed the County could find a way to retool the program, such as finding more participants. The County would probably need to find a different location for one of the centers, due to an aging facility, but that could possibly be done with a private partner and other philanthropic partners. She planned to continue looking at options, but she did not have the power to extend the date of the closure. The Mayor’s Office needed a year to look at this holistically. Mayor Wilson would also be happy to join in conversations with Salt Lake City on finding a way to keep the Tenth East Senior Center open.

Shifting to the budget, Mayor Wilson thought it was necessary to increase property taxes this year because of inflationary pressures. Just like the public, the County had to pay more for expenses every year. Construction rates have gone up and employees running programs need to make more money. Some people said that the County should not be giving its staff pay increases, but if the County did not increase salaries, it would lose staff. The County had to be competitive with other counties and cities. County employees work very hard and they deserve a pay increase every year. The County has not increased property taxes since 2019. If the County did not keep up with inflation, it could lose its Triple A bond rating, and it would have to slash services beyond what was recommended this year.

The County is at a pivotal time in the community. There are 1.2 million residents in the County now, cartels are getting more aggressive, and there are more homicides than before. The County must stay on top of crime, and the District Attorney needs additional attorneys to prosecute that crime. The County also must provide more defense attorneys, as it is mandated to pay for the defense of people who cannot afford an attorney. Mayor Wilson also recommended investing in the Jail, jail management, and the criminal justice system, as well as information technology to prevent the County"s system from being hacked.

Today, the County will close the budget process and put the budget on display for the public, as recommended by the Council. On December 9, 2025, the Council will be taking public comment, and a final vote on the budget.

3.3 Other Elected County Officials

Mr. Chris Harding, County Auditor, stated about a year-and-a-half ago, the County passed legislation requiring all its audits be done in accordance with the U.S. Government Accountability Office’s Yellow Book: Government Auditing Standards. On December 15, 2025, the national accounting standards will take effect, and every office throughout the country that does audits in accordance with Yellow Book will have to meet those standards. The Auditor’s Office would have to build a proactive, risk-focused quality management system that would evaluate how well it was performing and require improvement where needed. While the Auditor’s Office would continue applying the same critical and analytical approach to other organizations in the County, it would also be required to show and justify that its audits were done in a quality manner, and that written and agreed to procedures were followed. In 2027, when the Auditor’s Office had its next peer review, outside auditors would focus on these new and updated standards, and the Auditor’s Office would be held accountable to them. These standards would provide an added layer of protection for the County and its residents.

Sheriff Rosie Rivera relayed a scenario on November 18th, whereby Sandy City received a call that shots were fired, Murray City received a call of a strong-armed robbery, and South Jordan received a call of a stolen vehicle, all involving the same descriptions of suspects. The Metro Gang Unit and Salt Lake City Police Department apprehended these individuals, who were identified as the 700 Block Associates. This is one example of law enforcement working

Sheriff Rivera stated the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area (SLVLESA) has started its budget process. Last week, SLVLESA voted to cut the Sheriff's Office budget from $4 4 million to $3.1 million. That is a significant cut and will require a reduction in force (RIF). The Sheriff's Office suggested many alternatives, including going to a flat budget, and it presented a budget where the Sheriff's Office would give up vacancies, knowing unincorporated areas were going away in 2027. However, the Unified Police Department was not willing to go into a flat budget or give up its vacancies. Sheriff Rivera also offered to look at a model that would serve White City at no additional cost to the Sheriff's Office. Since the Sheriff's Office split with the UPD, White City's budget doubled, the City of Kearn's budget increased by $1 million, and Magna City's budget increased by over $1 million. The split was very costly for both agencies. If the UPD chose a different provider over the Sheriff's Office, it would put the Sheriff's Office in a dire situation of having to RIF 17 Deputies. Sheriff Rivera thought if the Sheriff's Office continued to work with the UPD, they could come up with a better solution that would not harm either agency. SLVLESA will provide a final budget next week.

Council Member Theodore stated she was on the SLVLESA Board of Trustees and knew the Sheriff had tried to collaborate and negotiate within the SLVLESA budget. The board has a budget meeting on December 4th, and she hoped to make some progress in that meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF TAX LETTERS

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Johnson, that the Tax Letters be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4.1 Refund of Overpaid Personal Property Taxes 25-833

Attachments:

1. 25-9027 25-833 Refund overpayment of personal property taxes $3,304.08

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

4.2 Personal Property Tax Reduction Request 25-838

Attachments:

1. 25-9028 25-838 PP Tax reduction $2,932.12

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

4.3 BOE Stipulation for Personal Property Tax Refund 25-857

Attachments:
1. 25-9029 25- PP BOE Stipulation $4,681.23

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

5. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

5.1 Approval of November 4, 2025, County Council Minutes 25-862

Attachments:
1. 11-04-25 Council Minutes

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

5.2 Approval of November 10, 2025, County Council Minutes 25-863

Attachments:
1. 11-10-25 Council Minutes

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

6. WORK SESSION

The Council will break for lunch at approximately 12:00 PM and reconvene at approximately 1:00 PM

6.1 Informational Update on the Proposed Hire Report / Incentive Plans - $3000 and Under / Weekly Reclassification Report 25-859

Presenter: Hoa Nguyen, Council Budget and Policy Analyst
(Less than 5 minutes)

Informational

Attachments:
1. Proposed Hire Report - 11-19-2025
2. Incentive Plans - $3,000 and Under 11-19-2025
3. Weekly Reclassification Report 11-19-2025

Ms. Hoa Nguyen, Budget & Policy Analyst, Council Office, reviewed the new hires and reclassifications. There were no incentive plans this week.

6.2 Consideration of Approval of The Zoo, Arts & Parks (ZAP) Tier I Advisory Board 2025 Funding Recommendations 25-849

Presenter: Samantha Mary Thermos, ZAP Program Director; Matt Castillo, Arts & Culture Division Director; Robin Chalhoub, Community Services Director
(10 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments:
1. ZAP Tier I + Zoological Funding Recommendations Pkt 2026
2. ZAP TI+Z Funding Recommendations Council Presentation 2026

Ms. Robin Chalhoub, Director, Community Services Department, delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled 2026 Tier I + Zoological Advisory Board Funding Recommendations. She reviewed the Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP) mission fulfillment; the ZAP team; ZAP funding; the annual grant cycle; expenses ZAP funds; expenses ZAP does not fund; Tier I eligibility; the Tier I and Zoological Advisory Board; reviewing scoring criteria; metrics and highlights; the Tier I funding recommendations; zoological funding recommendations; promotion; capacity building; and applicant testimonials. Ms. Chalhoub stated ZAP's open house will be held February 12, 2026.

Ms. Samantha Mary Thermos, Director, Zoo, Arts and Parks Division, stated the open house is for the whole ZAP Division, and all the grantees will be there. She invited the Council to join the event.

Council Member Romero asked why two of the applicants were not funded.

Ms. Chalhoub stated the County can only fund 22 Tier I organizations. When more than 22 organizations apply, it becomes a competitive process. The Tier I and Zoological Advisory Board questioned the eligibility of one of the organizations, and the other organization's vibrancy and financial health test was not competitive enough to push another Tier 1 organization out.

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

6.3 Consideration and Discussion of Council Appointments to the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service Area Board of Trustees 25-864

Presenter: Dea Theodore, Salt Lake County Council Chair
(5 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments: None

This agenda item was not discussed.

6.4 2026 Budget Workshop Under the Direction of David Delquadro, Council Fiscal Manager: 25-854

- **The 2026 REVIEW LIST**
- **Compensation for Non-Sworn Employees**
- **Compensation for Elected Officials**
- **Mayor Administration and Council's Office**
- **Contributions**
- **Other 2026 Budget-Related Items**

Presenter: David Delquadro, Salt Lake County Council Fiscal Manager
(240 minutes total)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments:
1. Proposed Legislative Intent
2. THE REVIEW LIST - 2026

Legislative Intent

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Council Office discovered legislative intent from December 2017, which provided that in the event an organization had net savings from reclassifications, it could apply that savings toward its contra account. Instead of legislative intent, it would be more appropriate to have a policy related to reclassifications. He reviewed new legislative intent that rescinds the outdated legislative intent, with the intent policy that will be developed related to reclassifications.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to approve the legislative intent. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Jail Contra Account

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Council voted to reduce the $3 million Jail Personnel contra account by $3 million. The Council reached out to Mayor Finance to see where that savings went and was told that the estimated under expend was included in the budget's structural balance projection, and that about half of that contra account had been considered in the structural balance. The structural balance includes about a $10 million buffer.

The Council could allocate as much or as little of that $3 million towards reducing the size of the 19.63 percent projected tax increase. If the Council applied $1.5 million of the reduced jail appropriation toward the reduction of the potential tax increase, it would have no impact on the $10 million cushion.

Council Member Harrison asked if applying more than the $1.5 million would put the structural balance of the budget at risk.

Mr. Delquadro stated doing that could impact the $10 million cushion. It would reduce the cushion by whatever amount the Council applied to the tax increase reduction.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to approve putting $1.5 million of the $3 million towards the reduction of the potential tax increase. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Compensation

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Mayor's proposed budget includes a 1.25 percent structural adjustment for merit and related employees, and a 2 percent career advancement increase for current employees, for a total of about 3.25.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham to freeze elected official salaries with no increase, with the exception of the judge who will receive the same increase as merit employees; approve a 1 percent structural adjustment only for Chief Deputies and Deputy Mayors; and approve a 1 percent structural increase for all other employees, and a career advancement of 2 percent for current employees, unless they are at the top of their grade, and then they will receive a 1 percent lump sum.

Council Member Harrison asked to bifurcate the motion.

Council Member Stringham amended the motion, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to freeze elected official salaries with no increase, with the exception of the judge who will receive the same increase as merit employees. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to approve a 1 percent structural adjustment only for Chief Deputies and Deputy Mayors. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham to approve a 1 percent structural increase for all other employees, and a career advancement of 2 percent for current employees, unless they are at the top of their grade, and then they will receive a 1 percent lump sum.

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, suggested giving new employees hired in 2025 a 1 percent career advancement, instead of a 2 percent career advancement. All of them were given salaries that were presumably market based. He did not think it was equitable to give someone already at market-based pay. The estimated savings for doing that would be about $123,000.

Ms. Sharon Roux, Director, Human Resources Division, stated the new employees were hired at market rates. Typically, the County does not give anyone on probation an increase until they come off probation. When a new employee comes off probation, they get a prorated amount of the increase, a lesser amount, which is dependent on when they came off probation in the year. If the County gave those employees 1 percent, that might create the need for a small pay equity increase next year.

Council Member Stringham stated she would let her motion stand.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to approve a 1 percent structural increase for all other employees, and a career advancement of 2 percent for current employees, unless they are at the top of their grade, and then they will receive a 1 percent lump sum. The motion carried 8 to 1, with Council Member Johnson voting "Nay."

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Romero, to give all employees who were hired in 2025 a 1 percent career advancement instead of 2 percent. The motion carried 8 to 1, with Council Member Johnson voting "Nay."

<u>Tenth East Senior Center</u>

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to remove the $4 million from the cuts to the budget, and to explore partnerships before making a final decision on the Tenth East Senior Center.

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, asked if the motion included applying the savings to the reduction of the proposed tax increase. The ongoing savings totals $2.38 million, but there will be a cost of $817,000 to increase the structural adjustment for sworn officers, bringing the net ongoing savings down to $2.238 million.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she would do that as a separate motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to remove the $4 million from the cuts to the budget, and to explore partnerships before making a final decision on the Tenth East Senior Center. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that the $2.238 million identified as savings be a structural cut to the budget for the purpose of reducing the property tax increase. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

<u>Opioid Fund</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated items 9 and 10 on the list are technical changes in the Mayor's portfolio related to the Opioid Fund. Essentially, this is to recognize revenue in the amount of $5.4 million, and about $25,900 for projects that will be rebudgeted next year.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to recognize revenue in the amount of $5.4 million; and to rebudget 2025 projects next year for a reduction of about $25,900. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

<u>District Attorney's Budget</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the District Attorney presented two options - one at $3.75 million and the other at $4.25 million, with a modification related to FTEs that was subsequently clarified by the District Attorney.

Council Member Winder Newton stated the District Attorney gave the Council two options with the $3.75 million - one with 20 new FTE requests, and the other with 25 new FTE requests. The District Attorney would use his contra account to get the 25 FTEs. She would be willing to approve the $3.75 million with 25 FTEs, recognizing the District Attorney would have a problem next year. The new FTEs would include 17 attorneys, 4 merit case managers, 1 data specialist, 1 time-limited case manager, and converting 2 time-limited paralegals to merit employees.

Mr. Ralph Chamness, Chief Deputy District Attorney, stated entirety of the first proposal had the contra account associated with it, and it included revenue.

Council Member Theodore asked if that included habitual offender attorneys.

Mr. Sim Gill, District Attorney, stated it does not. The habitual juvenile offender prosecutors were included in the $4.25 million.

Council Member Johnson stated he thought the Council should give the District Attorney $4.25 million. The $4.25 million is a cut from what the Mayor presented, and the Mayor had cut from what the District Attorney requested. This budget is for public safety, and the County needs to invest in its criminal justice programs to deal with the growing population, and growing homeless, substance abuse, and mental health individuals. The District Attorney's Office also needs attorneys who can handle more serious cases, such as the increased juvenile homicides and sexually violent crimes.

Mr. Gill stated his original request was for 63 new FTEs, and the Mayor cut that down to 31 new FTEs. The $4.25 would allow him to get two full-time attorneys to work with the Salt Lake City Police Department's habitual offender team, which was a priority of the Legislature. The rest of the attorneys would work in the courts. Currently, the attorneys for the 16 courtrooms are buried, with substantive workloads.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Johnson, to approve a $4.25 million budget for the District Attorney, with a request that the District Attorney come before the Council by April 1, 2026, with a plan to better assess workload, not caseload.

Council Member Stringham stated she had been asking for metrics for four years to understand how people were performing to determine whether the District Attorney's Office was efficient and whether the funding being provided was the correct amount.

Council Member Theodore stated the District Attorney needed to focus on the habitual offenders.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Johnson, to approve a $4.25 million budget for the District Attorney, with a request that the District Attorney come before the Council by April 1, 2026, with a plan to better assess workload, not caseload. The motion carried 7 to 2, with Council Members Stringham and Stewart voting "Nay." Council Member Moreno was absent for the vote.

Threat Management Unit

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Public Safety Bureau currently provides executive services. This proposal would move two FTEs and two vehicles from the Public Safety Bureau to the Law Enforcement Bureau to provide executive services. One of those positions is currently vacant. This request would entail reclassifying one FTE to a sergeant. If the Council approved this, he suggested eliminating one position in the Public Safety Bureau and creating a new position in the Law Enforcement Bureau. It would be problematic to reclassify an encumbered position into a position that required a different skill set.

Additionally, there is a request to hire an additional new FTE – a Threat Assessment Deputy, at about $228,000, and to purchase a Threat Management Unit vehicle that could be used in an emergency situation requiring rapid response.

Council Member Stewart stated he could understand moving one FTE. The Law Enforcement Bureau is having a rough time with its budget. He did not think the County should fill vacancies.

Council Member Winder Newton stated this would be duplicative of what the State and some cities were already doing. She could not justify creating this new service using General Fund dollars. People wanted the Sheriff's Office to focus on the Jail and corrections.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to not fund these requests in this year's budget.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to reclassify the vacant FTE in the Public Safety Bureau to a Deputy within the Law Enforcement Bureau, and to provide an additional FTE to the Law Enforcement Bureau at a Deputy level for the purpose of providing threat assessment services.

Council Member Harrison stated the motion would create two FTE positions in the Law Enforcement Bureau at the Deputy level and eliminate the vacant FTE position in the Public Safety Bureau.

Council Member Stringham asked to bifurcate the motion.

Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Johnson, amended the substitute motion to transfer the vacant FTE position and a vehicle associated with that position from the Public Safety Bureau to the Law Enforcement Bureau, and to reclassify the position to a Deputy. The motion passed 7 to 2, with Council Members Winder Newton and Stewart voting "Nay."

Mr. Delquadro stated the Sheriff told him this FTE would be working in the Threat Assessment Unit. He asked what this person would be doing when they were not helping to address a threat.

Sheriff Rivera stated that FTE would be doing threat assessments. Currently, there are multiple people doing threat assessments as a secondary assignment. This person would not be driving anyone around. If someone needed executive protection, her office could find a way to free that person up, but it would be on a case-by-case basis, depending on what the threat was.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated she thought the position that was just approved would provide executive protection service for an elected official who needed personal protection.

Sheriff Rivera stated if an elected official needed executive protection due to a threat, the Sheriff's Office would provide it, but it would not provide that service everyday if there was no threat.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham to transfer an encumbered position in the Public Safety Bureau to the Law Enforcement Bureau, provided the person in that position met all the requirements. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Mr. Delquadro stated the qualifications to be a patrol officer are different than those to be a public safety officer. He did not think the incumbent was qualified to be a patrol officer in the Law Enforcement Bureau.

Council Member Johnson stated if the encumbered position was transferred, the individual currently in the position would no longer have a job because they would not qualify for the Law Enforcement Bureau position. He asked if there were vacant positions in the Public Safety Bureau that the employee could be moved into

Sheriff Rivera stated yes, there are vacant positions in the Public Safety Bureau.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, asked if there was a car associated with the position.

Mr. Delquadro stated there is a car associated with the encumbered position.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to transfer a vacant position and a vehicle from the Public Safety Bureau to the Law Enforcement Bureau. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stewart, not to approve the request for a Threat Assessment Deputy, nor reclassifications of encumbered positions for the Threat Management Unit in the Law Enforcement Bureau. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Delquadro stated there was also a request for a new car that could be rapidly deployed in case there was an emergency. That would cost $60,000 and come out of the General Fund.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Stringham, moved to cut the vehicle. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

<u>Capital Projects for the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and the Oxbow Jail</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Sheriff has identified a number of capital projects for the ADC and the Oxbow Jail. During the last Fund 450 Committee meeting, it was suggested the County finance as many of those projects as possible now because prices will continue to go up. This year, there will be at least $3 million in under expend in the Jail Personnel account. He suggested the Council consider making a transfer from the Jail Personnel under expend to Fund 450, with the express purpose of addressing deferred maintenance, specifically at the ADC.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham to transfer Jail Personnel under expend to Fund 450. The motion died due to a second.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, asked if the motion was to transfer under expend from the Sheriff's Office into Fund 450, but not to make an appropriation regarding a specific capital project at this time. Currently, Fund 450 has $100 million in it.

Council Member Stringham stated that is correct.

Council Member Stewart stated he had concerns with funding deferred maintenance at the Oxbow Jail. The County needed to keep it limping, but he believed a bond proposition would pass if the County did the cost vetting and was deliberate in the way it worded the proposition. The last bond proposition crept beyond the expansion of just one pod.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated a decision does need to be made about what the highest priorities are, as a lot has happened since last year as it relates to opening another pod. The Mayor's Office and the Sheriff's Office should start convening on a regular basis to strategize for the future.

Council Member Winder Newton stated the faster the County can get going on something, the cheaper it will be. She suggested getting a budget adjustment on a Council agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to move $3 million from under expend in Jail Personnel into Fund 450; and to specifically look at what improvements need to be made in deferred maintenance for the Metro Jail. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Independent Elected Official – Victim Advocate Vehicle

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Sheriff's Office looked into renting a vehicle instead of purchasing one for the Victim Advocate, and it was determined that Fleet Management had a rental available that could be used for the Victim Advocate. The estimated cost was about $30,000, and the ongoing costs for maintenance and gas would be about $10,381.

Ms. Hoa Nguyen, Budget & Policy Analyst, Council Office, stated the one-time cost of $30,000 was not necessary, but the ongoing cost would be $10,381 for maintenance and gas.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to approve the rental vehicle. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Parks Open Space and Natural Lands Manager

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Mayor's Office is requesting a new FTE – a Parks Open Space and Natural Lands Manager, at a cost of $146,060. This would be financed from the $500,000 in the Tourism, Recreation, Cultural and Convention (TRCC) Fund that is intended to support open space initiatives.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she was supportive of this position and thought it would be appropriate to use the Greenbelt rollback funds for that. The County was planning to ease the Clark Planetarium off the property tax levy and into the TRCC Fund over the next three years, and some of the one-time funding to do that was going to come from the $500,000 in the TRCC Fund intended for open space. That funding would be needed in 2026, 2027, and 2028. She asked how that would impact this request.

Ms. Robin Chalhoub, Director, Community Services Department, stated the Greenbelt rollback taxes cannot be used for FTEs or administrative costs.

Mr. Delquadro suggested taking the $150,000 out of the TRCC Fund for this position and putting the remaining $350,000 toward the Planetarium.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, suggested looking into whether there is enough fund balance in the Open Space Fund to temporarily fund the position.

Ms. Chalhoub stated her office can segregate the Greenbelt rollback funds from the old TRCC funds in the TRCC Fund and use the old TRCC funds to fund this position short-term.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to approve the position and fund it from the Open Space Fund for this year. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

<u>Clark Planetarium</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the TRCC Board voted to use $583,000 for the Planetarium. There is also $500,000 for open space that could be repurposed to the Planetarium.

Council Member Winder Newton stated transitioning the Planetarium off the property tax rolls and into the TRCC Fund will cost $6 million in one-time funds out of fund balance. This year, $1 million would come from the TRCC Fund (the $583,000 already approved and $500,000 from open space funds) and $2.9 million from the General Fund. In the 2027 budget, $2 million would come from the TRCC Fund and $2 million from the General Fund, and in 2028, $3 million would come from the TRCC Fund and $1 million from the General Fund.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated the best way to do this would be to leave the tax rate in the Planetarium Fund, and shift $1 million at a time over the next three years to the TRCC Fund.

Council Member Harrison stated she was supportive of this, but she would also like to explore legislative changes to allow the Planetarium to be eligible for Zoo, Arts and Parks (ZAP) funding.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to enact the $500,000 transfer from the TRCC Fund to the Planetarium today, and the $583,000, both as approved by the TRCC Advisory Board; and to leave the $2.9 million in tax rate in the Planetarium, with the intent to phase it out over the succeeding years. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated the investments in this area will help with the viability of the Planetarium in the future. There were some creative ideas that could help with maintaining exhibits, continuing with free access to the Planetarium, allowing school kids to come, and pulling in entertainment revenue. There may even be an opportunity to decrease some of the TRCC funding over time.

Mr. Delquadro asked if the Council wanted to apply the $3.9 million toward reducing the proposed tax rate.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to apply the $3.9 million toward reducing the proposed tax rate. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Finance

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated Mayor Finance is asking for two new FTEs – a Director of Operational Excellence ($250,438) and a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Consulting ($128,000).

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart to cut both positions. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton to cut the Director of Operational Excellence and to fund the CFO Consulting as a one-year contract at $128,000 and assess it at the end of the year to see what it produced and whether it was worthwhile.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated the intent is to help Mayor Finance find efficiencies and savings. The Director of Operational Excellence would have budgeting skills to help with the budget and organizational management skills to help the County with modernization and change to create a more uniform framework. They would look at best practices, budget standards, and operational opportunities, and benchmark the County against others, as well as work with a consultant to come up with a robust plan for next year.

Council Member Johnson stated if the purpose of the positions is to save the County greater dollars, he did not know why the Council would not approve both positions. It seemed a Director of Operational Excellence with budgeting experience could lead the County through the woods on multiple fronts.

Council Member Winder Newton stated the Council gave the Office of Data and Innovation three new FTEs, and it approved legislative intent to have the Office of Data and Innovation look at performance metrics to make sure the data was clear. The Office of Data and Innovation will be working with the Council's fiscal staff on that. She wanted to see how that played out, and she wanted to have the Auditor do some performance audits before providing another new FTE.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated Mayor Finance does not have time to do an operational analysis; it just has enough time to run the budget process before presenting it to the Council. He had spoken with Mayor Wilson about hiring a consultant to do that, but consultants are very expensive.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Pinkney, to cut the Director of Operational Excellence; and to fund the CFO Consulting as a one-year contract at $128,000, and assess it at the end of the year to see what it produced and whether it was worthwhile. The motion carried 7 to 2, with Council Members Stewart and Theodore voting "Nay."

Crisis Response Coordinator

Council Member Harrison stated the County is dealing with a lot of challenges in the community with housing, homelessness, and criminal justice reform, but none of the work is being done in a coordinated way. Last year, the County put forward a roadmap to be more coordinated in its crisis response, and this position would help the County to implement that. It is a small investment that would save the County money in the long run, and it would help better serve people who need mental health support.

Council Member Stewart stated the State is already doing something like this. He did not want to duplicate services or jump into a lane that was not the County's. The County also already has an employee dedicated to issues related to homelessness. He could not support this position.

Ms. Anndrea Wild, Director, Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform, stated the State is working on this issue, but the County is the most populous county in

Utah, and it has unique local issues. The County held its first Crisis Response Coordinating Task Force meeting, and it was clear coordination was not happening. Well-intended people are doing their best, but they do not understand how other players operate.

Council Member Johnson stated he recognized the need for this and supported funding it from the General Fund. The County is the entity that should be doing this because it is the entity that has connections with local organizations and the people who have substance use disorders, mental health issues, or are homeless. There are numerous organizations participating in the Criminal Justice Advisory Council who all have a role in responding to crises, but they need a person to help coordinate.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she wanted to hold off on adding this position to see how things played out with the Leifman Group, and to see if this could qualify for Opioid Settlement funds.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, stated the Leifman Group will be making its recommendations in December. Then, in January, the County will be revisiting utilization of those funds, so that might be a good time to discuss this. This position would be in helping reduce some of the backlog of people cycling un and out of criminal justice system who are costing the County an exorbitant amount of resources and time.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to continue discussing this request next year. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Criminal Justice Services

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Criminal Justice Services is asking for 13 FTEs, at a total cost of about $1.4 million.

Council Member Harrison stated these positions would identify people who could best be served outside of the Jail, at a cost of about $5 a day instead of $140 a day in the Jail. The Criminal Justice Services Division’s caseloads have increased dramatically in the past couple of years to the point they are not sustainable.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to approve this request. The motion carried 6 to 3, with Council Members Stringham, Moreno, and Stewart voting “Nay.”

Utah State University (USU) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the USU SNAP education program was previously funded by Federal dollars, but the Federal Government cut that funding. Previously, there were four FTEs devoted to this. The request is for the County to fund the equivalent of one quarter of that.

Council Member Theodore stated the Council discussed eliminating funding for anything that the Federal Government had funded and cut.

A motion was made by Council Member Theodore, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to cut this item from the budget. The motion carried 6 to 3, with Council Members, Pinkney, Johnson, and Romero voting "Nay."

Health Fund – Return Shifted Tax Rate for the Health Fund

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated under the current proposed tax increase, the fund balance for the Health Fund will decline from over $14 million at the beginning of 2026 to just over $8 million.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated it is necessary to maintain a fund balance in the Health Fund. The Health Fund is a subset of the tax increase. In the past, the County has borrowed tax rates from the Health Fund to solve General Fund problems, and part of this is repaying that.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to approve the request. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Contribution to the Housing Trust Fund – Office of Regional Development

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated this if for a contribution of $711,000 to the Housing Trust Fund. It is an ongoing contribution from General Fund dollars.

Council Member Pinkney stated this could be used for housing purposes to help tackle the housing crisis.

A motion was made by Council Member Pinkney, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to appropriate the $711,000 to the Housing Trust Fund; and to create a stakeholder committee , and the Council, with advisement from the Mayor's Office, will recommend who will sit on that committee; and that it be a one-time contribution this year, and be evaluated again next year.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, asked if the committee would be a formal committee, subject to the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act defines a public body, and that included any ad hoc committee organized for the purpose of making advisory recommendations about spending public funds. The Council would like this committee to look at how best to use this allocation of funds, so it would likely need to meet the basic requirements of the Open and Public Meetings Act, i.e., have an agenda, do written minutes, and provide the opportunity for the public to engage with the process. He suggested talking about membership and procedures for the first part of next year.

Ms. Kanter stated the County has a Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board, created by ordinance, which makes recommendations to the Council regarding deployments of funds.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she envisioned this more as a task force to talk about policy recommendations the County should look at, not necessarily deciding on the funding. She would like Council Members to be represented on the committee before any recommendations on how to spend the money come before the Council.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated in the interest of streamlining government, she did not want to create more infrastructure if this committee could be handled in a less bureaucratic way.

Council Member Stewart stated he had concerns with this type of this program. It has been proven that minimal dollars make it into the pockets of homebuyers; most of the funding goes to developers.

A motion was made by Council Member Pinkney, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to appropriate the $711,000 to the Housing Trust Fund; and to create a stakeholder committee , and the Council, with advisement from the Mayor’s Office, will recommend who will sit on that committee; and that it be a one-time contribution this year, and be evaluated again next year. The motion carried 7 to 2, with Council Members Moreno and Stewart voting “Nay.”

<u>Contributions to Housing Connect, Weigand Homeless Resource Center, Rape Recovery Center, and YWCA Family Justice</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Council made changes to Policy 1200 Contributions last year, based on an audit finding. Under that policy, contributions must be made annually; they cannot be part of the ongoing structural budget. Contributions also need to be reviewed on ad hoc basis by the Council. To that extent, five requests from the General Fund and two requests from the Visitor Promotion Fund for 2026 were zeroed out. The question is what to provide in 2026 for the following organizations: Housing Connect ($450,000), the Weigand Homeless Resource Center ($100,000), the Rape Recovery Center, and the YWCA Family Justice. The Junior Livestock Program was also impacted by the policy, but that had already been addressed.

Council Member Winder Newton suggested cutting these contributions in half and providing a one-time contribution for a half-year to each of these organizations. Some of these organizations have gotten reliant on this funding, so she wanted to give them time to ramp down.

Council Member Pinkney stated $300,000 of the contribution to the Housing Connect goes to permanent housing.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated that funding goes to Palmer Court, Kelly Benson, and Grace Mary Manor.

Council Member Johnson stated Palmer Court is one of the few places that will house people with serious and persistent mental illness who are frequently homeless, use drugs, and commit crimes. Taking that assistance away would affect these individuals because they will never be able to get a job and pay rent on their own.

Council Member Winder Newton asked if behavioral health funds could be used to fund some of these things instead.

Mr. Tim Whalen, Director, Behavioral Health Division, stated housing is the most critical resource this population is lacking. There is good treatment available for them, but when they get out of treatment, they shelter on the street. There are group homes that house seriously mentally ill people, such as Sunstone, Jasper, Switchpoint, and Featherstone, but as soon as a home opens, it is full. The Behavioral Health Division is not supposed to be doing housing, but it would look to see what it could support.

Council Member Theodore asked why the County only contributed to one group home.

Ms. Kanter stated the County could open this up to a competitive process instead of providing the same group with funding each year.

Ms. Janice Kimball, Chief Executive Officer, Housing Connect, stated Housing Connect provided the first permanent supportive housing in Salt Lake County, and they do serve a slightly different population than the models Mr. Whalen described.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to cut these contributions in half, and to make them a one-time contribution for a half-year.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Harrison to fund Housing Connect and the Weigand Homeless Resource Center, but to evaluate the contributions each year.

Council Member Harrison stated this would still allow the County to prevent a significant number of people from ending up on the streets.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated this is an area where there is a very deep need, and when the County is not a partner at the table, more people are on the street. That not only impacts their lives, but it also increases expenses for the Health Department. She suggested the Council approve these requests, but require full reporting on where this money was going and what other donors were at the table before releasing the funds

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated Policy 1200 requires the approval of a contribution to be based on an application that included items like performance metrics, deliverables, and outcomes. The District Attorney's Office was required to negotiate a contract with the entity about the terms of the proposed contribution. In addition, the entity is subject to auditing requirements.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, stated these have always been direct appropriations, but the County could switch over to Policy 1200 for these contributions, as that did provide guidelines.

Council Member Harrison amended the motion to include the Mayor's recommendation that there be a reporting aspect to the contributions for Housing Connect and the Weigand Homeless Resource Center.

Council Member Johnson stated he was in support of the motion. It was important to get a clear idea of what the County was funding and how best it was serving its community.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to fund Housing Connect and the Weigand Homeless Resource Center, but to evaluate the contributions each year. Council Member Harrison amended the motion to include the Mayor's recommendation that there be a reporting aspect to the contributions for Housing Connect and the Weigand Homeless Resource Center. The motion carried 5 to 4, with Council Members Stringham, Moreno, Stewart, and Theodore, voting "Nay."

Council Member Theodore stated she did not vote against the motion because she did not support these programs, but she had wanted to reduce the funding.

<u>Contribution to 47G</u>

A motion was made by Council Member Romero to continue supporting 47G at a membership level of $15,000.

Council Member Romero stated a survey was conducted, indicating this was an area the County should invest in. The $15,000 membership is a modest investment, but well worth it.

Council Member Pinkney spoke in favor of this annual membership. This a a growing field that works with colleges and students. It is good for economic development and a great way to attract employers and people to Utah.

Council Member Stringham asked for a friendly amendment to the motion to pay for this from the Council budget.

Council Member Romero stated this could also be housed in the Office of Regional Development.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated it could be. She did not think that would change the relationship the County had with 47G.

Council Member Stewart stated the Council budget paid for this last year. Moving it there is a good solution. This is an opportunity to support an industry that has a large presence in the County.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated this might already be built into the Council budget.

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated there are sufficient funds to absorb it in the Council's operating budget this year, but if it stays there, he would be asking for an increase in the budget next year.

Council Member Harrison stated there are a lot of other organizations in this trade doing good stuff, but the County does not fund all of them. She saw this as picking winners and losers in trade organizations.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she would be voting against the motion. She agreed with Council Member Harrison. This organization would survive without the County's $15,000. It gets a lot of money from the private sector. Taxpayers do not need to be paying for this.

Council Member Johnson stated he would be voting no on this request. He recognized the economic importance of this industry, but he could not support using public funds for industries that support war efforts. These industries are an explicit part of the Department of Defense contracts, which worried him.

A motion was made by Council Member Romero, seconded by Council Member Pinkney to continue supporting 47G at a membership level of $15,000. Council Member Stringham asked for an amendment to pay for this from the Council budget. Council Member Romero accepted the amendment. The motion carried 6 to 3, with Council Members Harrison, Johnson, and Winder Newton voting "Nay."

<u>Pre-Apprenticeship Program</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the request of $878,653 is for one year, and there is an FTE associated with it.

Council Member Stewart stated this program was started using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which were one-time funds. He thought another organization could step in and do this.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to cut the funding for this program.

Council Member Winder Newton stated last year, the Council was told the program would run for just one more year. She suggested maybe the Department of Workforce Services could provide this.

Council Member Johnson asked how cutting the program would impact individuals in the program.

Ms. Lauren Littlefield, Senior Policy Advisor/Special Projects Director, Office of Regional Development, stated there are two cohorts in the program who will graduate in December, so cutting the program would not impact current students. However, it would impact Utah Women in Trades' ability to continue with the program and students who were hoping to start at the beginning of 2026.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated this was originally funded with ARPA dollars. Last year, the request was to fund it for two years from the General Fund, with the hope that the County could secure federal dollars to continue the program. The Office of Regional Development is asking that the program be extended through June 2026 at a cost of $450,000.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated this program is changing people's lives, and it was anticipated it would continue through at least half of 2026. Had she known the Council was going to cut it, she would have been doing more to find a way to keep it going.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Romero, to approve using under expend to continue this program for one year.

Council Member Romero stated this would help keep the program intact while the Mayor looked for a community partner to keep the program going.

Council Member Johnson stated this is the kind of program the County should be investing in; it is helping mothers. Using under expend was budget neutral.

Mr. Delquadro stated there is $500,000 in under expend, but that could go be redirected for other purposes.

Council Member Theodore stated she wanted to find ways to reduce the tax increase.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Romero, to approve using under expend to continue this program for one year. The motion failed 4 to 5, with Council Members Stringham, Moreno, Winder Newton, Stewart, and Theodore voting "Nay."

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to cut the funding for this program. The motion carried 5 to 4, with Council Members Harrison, Pinkney, Johnson, and Romero voting "Nay."

[Later in the meeting, following the public hearing.]

<u>Reducing the Tax Increase</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the one-time payments come to over $1.3 million, which includes $711,000 to the Housing Trust Fund. He asked if the Council wanted to direct 100 percent of that to reducing the size of the tax increase, or moderate that amount in anticipation that some of these one-time requests would need to continue.

Council Member Winder Newton recommended pulling the $711,000 out of that $1.3 million and directing the rest of it to reducing the tax increase.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated the Council voted in favor of the contributions. If it did not take that amount out, the Council would stymie its ability to do the same thing next year.

Council Member Winder Newton asked if the Council should build in a buffer, so it had flexibility in future years.

Mr. Casper stated yes.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to apply the entire $1.3 million against the $48.98 million revenue included in the Mayor's proposed budget. The motion carried 7 to 2, with Council Members Harrison and Romero voting "Nay."

Council Member Harrison stated she was concerned the Council would not be able to fund these essential mental health services for people if it applied those contribution amounts to the tax increase.

Mr. Delquadro stated there would be options to address that in the future.

Council Budget

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, there is $162,000 in personnel under expend in the Council's budget. The proposed budget for next year includes an operation budget increase of $45,000 to cover additional travel expenses.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Theodore, to approve the Council budget. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated that motion is for the internal Council Office budget, not the Council's budget for the County.

Emergency Services

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the request to implement Situation Operations Center (SOC) / Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) at $200,000 would come from under expend in the Emergency Management's budget that is with the Unified Fire Authority (UFA).

Council Member Winder Newton stated she would be a no on this request. Fund balance is still taxpayer dollars. She would like that fund balance to be moved into the General Fund.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated he was okay with the funding being left where it is. If the UFA or the Emergency Communications Center had a capital project, the County could tap that source of fund balance to participate in that capital project.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated stated best practice would be to have a modest fund balance put aside, so when a catastrophic incident occurred, that bucket of money could be used. Emergency Management is recommending setting the Emergency Management fund balance at $600,000 and drawing down the existing $1.4 million in the fund balance to get to that $600,00. The $200,000 earmark would come from that existing $1.4 million.

Council Member Stewart stated he liked the idea of having dedicated funds for emergencies, but he was not supportive of the request to earmark funding. He wanted to wait until an analysis was done.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to remove the $200,000 request from the budget, pending the study. The motion carried 8 to 1, with Council Member Moreno voting "Nay."

Ms. Kanter presented a slide on the Emergency Management Fund Balance, reviewing the current balance and what had already been approved, which took the fund balance down to about $1 million. She also reviewed a request of Mayor Finance to transfer funding to a capital project fund, explaining that Emergency Management occupies half of the Emergency Communications Center and the UFA occupies half. The County has a lease with the UFA, which says the UFA must pay into a capital project fund. This request would replicate that. The suggestion is to take $150,000 out of the fund balance and have it stay with the UFA, tagged as a restricted fund for one year; and to earmark another $150,000 for 2027. If the Council did that, it would bring the fund balance down to $790,000. Had the Council approved the $200,000, it would have taken the fund balance down to $590,000.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to transfer $150,000 to the capital fund for 2026, earmark another $150,000 for 2027, and that $190,000 be moved from fund balance into the General Fund. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

<u>Mayor Administration Budget</u>

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated she could present her budget to the Council or just speak to the motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Pinkney, to approve the Mayor's Administration Budget.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to cut two positions out of the Mayor's Administration budget, totaling $143,000; and to put a contra account on the the Mayor's Administration budget for $230,000 and allow her to figure out where she would like to make cuts next year; and to revisit that mid-year to see if it was possible and where it was at.

Council Member Stringham stated the two positions she is recommending be cut are currently vacant. They are senior advisor positions. The contra account is one-time. The Council made a $400,000 cut to its budget last year, which forced the Council Office to become more efficient. A lot of people believe the Mayor's Administration is top-heavy, and Council Members have asked Mayor Wilson to see where she could slim that down. It made sense to get to about the same cut the Council Office did last year. Council Member Stringham stated she wanted to reduce the size of the tax increase. A lot of people were hurting now, and it was not the time to be doing a huge tax increase.

Council Member Harrison stated making equivalencies between the Council Office and the Mayor's Office was a false comparison. The Mayor's Office manages over 6,000 of the 8,000 County employees; the Council manages eight people. She has seen how hard the Mayor's employees work, so the allegation that they were in their office playing Sudoku was ridiculous.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated she Mayors Administration is incredibly lean. She did not understand how some people thought it was top-heavy. She reviewed her $1.7 million budget, the 17 positions in Mayor's Administration, and the two vacant positions that were both half-time positions. This year, she cut a Community Support position at $112,000 from the Mayor Administration budget. If the Council puts a contra account on her budget, she would not be able to fulfill basic duties is one of the employees left. The contra account would put her in a box, forcing her to make tough decisions moving forward.

What really bothered her was that when a Council Member had asked her to consider something, she had always said she would consider it. She has never evaluated other elected offices' staffing. She trusted each elected official to put forward administrative requests that made sense for their operations. She valued cooperative relationships, but she would not stand for direction given to her that was not thoughtfully evaluated. She objected to the Council telling her how to run her office because of a push from the public saying she was top-heavy. She urged the Council to reject the substitute and accept the original motion.

Council Member Stringham amended the substitute motion, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to cut two positions out of the Mayor's Administration budget, totaling $143,000; but not do a contra account.

Council Member Moreno stated it may be easy for the County to ask for a 20 percent tax increase, but people on the west side cannot afford it. These people could not go to their employer and get a raise every time their taxes increased, nor could they go to their church for a handout. Their church leader would instead try to help them reduce their expenses or suggest they get another job. Communities are sacrificing a lot right now. People are struggling to put food on the table. This tax increase would add to the problem. Government should not pay for everything people wanted, but it should improve the way it worked and invest more in people.

Council Member Winder Newton stated the Mayor's Office has great employees who work hard, but Council Members have been getting emails from the public asking about the Mayor's budget.

Mayor Wilson stated she did not like the tax increase either, but the County had to pay for public safety needs, and its property tax was not capturing inflation every year. The County is doing good things and the work it does is valuable. It could either cut those services back or pay for cost-of-living increases.

Council Member Stewart stated he struggled with the reference that the tax increase would be $79 per average household. In the Southwest, property values are increasing due to growth and development, and that increases taxes. He relayed that one constituent contacted him every week and said his property taxes had increased almost 50 percent over the last four years. It is never easy to make a cut, but this is a difficult year, and he would like to have cut a lot deeper.

Council Member Johnson stated he was not okay with how this conversation began. Rather than accusing the Mayor of bloat in her Administration, the Council should have asked for a presentation and had a respectful dialog. From top to bottom, the Mayor's Administration is working hard, and he knew that because he interacted with them. Managing 6,000 employees with only 17 people was amazing. Many corporations do a lot less with a lot more financial capital.

Council Member Johnson stated he did not understand the policy basis for the cut. One argument was made that the west side needed more, but the County could not get more by cutting. The fact some members of the public had complained about the Mayor's Administration was also not a basis for cutting the budget. For the most part, the public does not understand what County governance is. He recommended reaching out to those constituents and informing them. He would vote no on this motion.

Council Member Theodore stated the Mayor proposed a tax increase, and with that on the table, every department should look for ways to cut back, including Mayor Administration. That is what people do with their personal budgets. A lot of people will be affected by the tax increase, and many of them will have a hard time paying it. Council Member Theodore stated she had not meant to be punitive; she was just looking for any way to reduce that tax increase.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated there is a motion on the table to reduce the Mayor's Administration budget by two half-time FTEs, and the associated funding with them.

Council Member Stringham amended the substitute motion, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to cut two positions out of the Mayor's Administration budget, totaling $143,000; but not do a contra account. The motion carried by a 5 to 4 vote, with Council Members Harrison, Pinkney, Johnson, and Romero voting, "Nay."

<u>Community Councils</u>

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the policy change that was made to contributions says the Council will review contributions after all other budget items are reviewed and voted on. To be consistent with that policy, the last two contributions are for the community councils. The Granite Community Council's appropriation would be up to $12,150, offset by ending under expend that occurred this year. The Sandy Hills Community Council's appropriation would be $7,207, offset by any under expend. Mr. Delquadro asked that the Council ratify the contributions discussed today, including the contributions for the two community councils.

Council Member Stringham stated contributions to the community councils come from the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District and administrative budgets, not from the General Fund. These community councils will only be part of the unincorporated County for another year-and-a-half.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Theodore, to approve the community council budgets as presented, and ratify the contributions discussed today. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Delquadro stated because of the Council's actions today, the total calculated reductions are $15.1 million, and the ongoing savings are about $11.66 million. He asked that Council staff be allowed to modify and fine tune those numbers, based on a review, and that the entire amount of ongoing savings, or a portion thereof, be directed towards reducing the size of the tax increase.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that the estimated amount of $11.66 million, or the amount that Council staff determined after modifying and fine-tuning the numbers, be applied against the $48.9 million tax increase proposed in the Mayor's budget.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated the Council would need to consider what that actual amount would be if it chose to raise the property tax amount in dollars. That would come in the form of a budget resolution, which the Council would discuss and vote on in two weeks at the end of the public hearing. That would also be included in the truth in taxation hearing, which would be held in conjunction with the normal budget hearing.

There will be heightened scrutiny from the Utah State Tax Commission this year regarding procedural requirements on truth in taxation and a new substantive requirement that the Legislature imposed. The Council would need to make a declaration in the notice for the meeting and the meeting itself, similar to the Mayor's public statement at the beginning of the budget process about the intent to raise taxes. Mr. Park recommended that the advertising continue to say the same amounts, purposes, and other relevant details that the Mayor previously proposed. That would give the Council the maximum flexibility to consider all options at the hearing. It would also prevent any misunderstanding on the part of the State Tax Commission, the Auditor, or the public about what had been advertised and what the public was informed of. Having consistent advertising was recommendable and it would still allow the Council to levy whatever rate it thought was appropriate.

Council Member Stringham asked if the Council was allowed to state in the advertisement that the amount could be adjusted.

Mr. Park stated the Council could do that, but he would not recommend doing it. Per statute, the Council cannot go above any amount previously noticed, but the statute allows the Council to announce and ultimately vote on a lower amount at the end of the meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Stewart, that the estimated amount of $11.66, or the amount that Council staff determined after modifying and fine-tuning the numbers, be applied against the $48.9 million tax increase proposed in the Mayor's budget. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Delquadro stated the items the Council addressed would be reflected in the budget, but for the items that the Council did not address, the Mayor's proposed budget would be the default.

A motion was made by Council Member Romero, seconded by Council Member Harrison, that the Mayor's proposed budget be the default for the items the Council did not address. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC NOTICES

7.1 TIME CERTAIN 4:00 PM 25-856
Hold a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Receiving Public Comment About any Potential Compensation Increases in the 2026 Salt Lake County Final Budget for Designated "Executive County Officers" as Required by Utah Code Ann. 17-66-401(2)

Attachments: None

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

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, presented the Salt Lake County Executive Officers, 2026 Council recommended funding allocation. He stated these are a particular subset of appointed employees, all of whom are in the Mayor's portfolio. Utah Code requires these compensation increases to be discussed separately and prior to the Council's consideration of the final budget.

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

8. PENDING LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

8.1 Consideration of a Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Publishing a Recommended Final 2026 Budget 25-855

for Public Display and Setting a Public Hearing for Consideration of the Final 2026 Budget on December 9, 2025

Presenter: Mitchell F. Park, Salt Lake County Council Legal Counsel (5 minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments:
1. 2026 Recommended Budget Resolution(final)

RESOLUTION NO. 6341

A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLISHING A RECOMMENDED FINAL 2026 BUDGET FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL 2026 BUDGET ON DECEMBER 9, 2025

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council, as required by Utah Code Title 17, Chapter 63, "Fiscal Authority and Process," and by Salt Lake County's Budget Process Ordinance, Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances, 2001, Chapter 2.95, is required to adopt by resolution a final budget for fiscal year 2026 on or before December 10, 2025; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the required process for adopting the 2026 budget, the County Council must hold a public hearing on the budget, where all interested persons shall have 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 County Mayor has previously recommended, and the County Council has previously approved, the date of December 9, 2025, as the appropriate date to hold a public hearing on the 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the required process for adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2026, and pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 17-63-304 and -305 and Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances § 2.95.060, the County Council must publish a recommended final budget including all supportive schedules and data, and shall make said recommended final budget available as a public record available for inspection during business hours at the offices the County Mayor for at least 10 days prior to the public hearing on the adoption of the final budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Council is required by Utah law to publish and post certain public notice concerning the date of the public hearing on the adoption of the final budget, and now finds it expedient and necessary to do so. 2

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

1) The County Council hereby publishes a recommended final budget for fiscal year 2026, as more specifically described in Attachment A and any applicable schedules.

2) The County Council hereby sets the time and place of the public hearing on the final budget for fiscal year 2026 on December 9, 2025, at the hour of 6:00 pm, in the County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State St., N1-100, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84190. Council staff shall publish applicable public notice regarding the public hearing as required by Utah Code Ann. § 17-63-304.

3) The County Council hereby designates that copies of the recommended final budget for fiscal year 2026, as more specifically described in Attachment A and any applicable schedules, shall be a public record made available for inspection during business hours at the offices of the County Council, County Mayor, and County Clerk for at least 10 days prior to the public hearing on December 9, 2025. Copies of the recommended final budget shall also be posted on Salt Lake County's website.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 25th day of November, 2025.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST (SEAL)

By /s/ DEA THEODORE
Chair

By /s/ LANNIE CHAPMAN
Salt Lake County Clerk

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Pinkney, to approve the resolution, Resolution No. 6341. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10. 1 Cancellation of the December 2, 2025, County Council Meeting in Observation of the Thanksgiving Holiday

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

ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM until Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By______________________________
DEPUTY CLERK

By_______________________________
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL