

SALT LAKE COUNTY

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

3:30 PM

Council Chambers, N1-110

County Council

Attendance

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

1. Tributes to Departing Councilmembers and Other County Elected Officials

Council Member Bradshaw read the following proclamation commending the service of Council Member Jim Bradley:

Whereas, Jim Bradley is a proud and life-long Utah Democrat who got his start in local politics during his time as a student at the University of Utah, working first on the Gunn McKay campaign for Congress and then by organizing the famed 1972 Wayne Owens for Congress walk across Utah; and

Whereas, Jim spent the early years of his career working in Salt Lake County's office of drug and alcohol services, assisting residents facing addiction disorder and gaining a deep understanding of the need for criminal justice system reform. This early experience as a County employee made Jim a never-wavering advocate for County employees and their working conditions; and

Whereas, Jim later served Governor Scott M. Matheson as Director of the Utah Energy Office; and

Whereas, in 1988 Jim ran to represent the residents of Salt Lake County on the County Commission. The Salt Lake Tribune early print edition (they used to print newspapers!) called Jim the winner, but when the canvass was complete, he narrowly lost the election. Undeterred, Jim ran again in 1990, winning a County Commission seat by accusing the incumbent of building a Taj Mahal (aka the County Government Center - the same Center that Jim voted last Friday to help shutter!); and

Whereas, Jim subsequently served as the County Commission chair from 1991-1994. As a County Commissioner, Jim proudly:

- proposed a 1% tax to fund arts that later became the Zoo, Arts, and Parks tax designed to support County arts, cultural, and recreation programs and amenities,
- halted construction of a golf course in Dimple Dell, thereby preserving the Dimple Dell recreation area for all,
- passed the Foothill and Canyons Overlay zone to protect our mountains from unbridled development,
- implemented the fee gate at Millcreek Canyon to provide needed revenue for canyon improvements and protection,
- rebuilt the Salt Palace, making it a world class convention facility,
- developed the Rose Wagner theater as Salt Lake County's first regional performing arts center; and

Whereas, one of Jim's most proud moments as a Salt Lake County Commissioner was the naming of Abravanel Hall for Maestro Maurice Abravanel; and

Whereas, Jim lost his bid for re-election in 1994, being swept out of office with democrats nationwide during the Newt Gingrich Contract with America; and

Whereas, Jim ran as a Democrat for Utah Governor in 1996, filing for office on the last day possible to ensure that Utah Democrats fielded a candidate against Mike Leavitt. Nearly 25% of all Utahns voted for Jim; and

Whereas, in 1999, Jim was one of 10 candidates in a crowded field of mostly Democrats running for Salt Lake City Mayor, narrowly losing in the primary; and

Whereas, in 2000, Jim was recruited to run for the newly formed Salt Lake County Council, winning the At Large C seat where he served the residents of Salt Lake County for 4 terms spanning 24 years; and

Whereas, Jim is the last serving member of the original Salt Lake County Council. He will long be remembered for always speaking his own mind and as a collaborative problem solver who understood that there isn't a liberal or conservative way to govern at the local level, and who worked with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strengthen the community by:

- Rejecting development proposals in Big Cottonwood Canyon, mining in Parley's Canyon, and a gondola in Little Cottonwood Canyon,
- Protecting the natural environment by funding open space acquisitions and serving as a founding member of the Central Wasatch Commission,

- Advocating tirelessly for a larger public return on investment in RDAs, CDAs, and all other forms of tax-payer assisted development,
- Supporting refurbishment of the Capitol Theatre and creation of the Eccles Theater, Mid Valley Performing Arts Centre, and recently laying the groundwork for a regional performing arts center at Daybreak,
- Fostering regional services by creating the Unified Police Department and leading the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Service area,
- Fighting for criminal justice reform and a soon-to-open receiving center,
- Championing urban farming in Salt Lake County,
- Honoring Salt Lake County's agricultural roots by insisting upon funding for the 4H Junior Livestock program and then proudly leading the County contingent each year to buy animals at the County Fair,
- Maintaining Salt Lake County's AAA bond rating,
- Among many other accomplishments; and

Whereas, Jim will be missed during Council meetings where over the years he offered wry statements designed to break tension, on bond rating trips where he helped attendees complete their "did he really say that" bingo cards, at caucus meetings where he was always the first to suggest the meeting should include a glass of wine, and in the Council office where his walls were a mini art gallery; and

Whereas, Jim's public actions embodied his belief that local government should do things that people cannot do for themselves, and should always strive to do the most good for the most people.

Now, therefore be it proclaimed that the Salt Lake County Council, Mayor Jenny Wilson, and their respective staff express deep thanks and appreciation to Council Member Jim Bradley for his many years of service to the residents of Salt Lake County and wish him well in his retirement from public service. Salt Lake County is a better place because Jim Bradley dedicated his life and career to public service.

Council Member Bradley stated he has enjoyed this office for many reasons. Local government is a great place to get things done. It changes people's lives by providing quality of life, recreational opportunities, cultural opportunities, etc. There is also no greater delight than driving around town recognizing something one helped to build. His colleagues have provided Salt Lake County with a positive environment and good sound government, and he was proud to have been part of that. Additionally, he has enjoyed being able to greet employees in the County and know where they work. The reason the County can do what it does for the community is because of its caliber of employees. He

was going to miss his colleagues on the Council and in the Mayor's Office, the Council staff, serving the public, and making things happen. He recognized family members in the audience and thanked his family who had supported him in his career.

Council Member Bradshaw stated Council Member Bradley has been a mentor to him since he was first elected to the Council in 2010. He has sat next to Council Member Bradley in meetings and will miss him not being there anymore. Council Member Bradley became a good friend as well. Council Member Bradshaw expressed his love and appreciation to Council Member Bradley for what he has done for the community.

Council Member Stringham read the following proclamation commending the service of Council Member Ann Granato:

A PROCLAMATION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL HONORING
COUNCILWOMAN ANN GRANATO FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE AND
EXPERTISE TO THE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Ann Granato has represented Salt Lake County Council's District 4 since 2018. She was elected to carry on her late husband's, Councilman Sam Granato, term and was re-elected in 2020.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Ann Granato takes pride in her strong commitment to putting good policy ahead of politics, thereby continuing the legacy of her late husband, Councilman Sam Granato.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Granato has been a resident of District 4 for over 60 years. She is a mother of four, grandmother of nine, and the owner of Granato's Italian Deli, a local small business.

AND WHEREAS, Salt Lake County continues to see rapid growth and change, Councilwoman Granato dedicated her efforts to preserving a high quality of life for residents new and old. She worked to increase access to vital community services including our libraries and recreation centers, support safety measures across the county, and ensure the county acts responsibly with taxpayer dollars.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Granato collaborated with Councilman Richard Snelgrove to create the Salt Lake County Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which addresses construction demand as the county grows while creating good-paying jobs for trade workers.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Granato worked with Councilwoman Laurie Stringham to adjust the recreation area designation in the Wasatch Canyons, thereby consolidating emergency services for residents and visitors to the canyons.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Granato gained a reputation as a thoughtful, direct, and often funny communicator, whether in Saturday meetings with constituents, seeking information from department directors, or speaking from the chamber chambers.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Granato teamed up with Councilwoman Laurie Stringham and Councilwoman Aimee Winder Newton to establish a payroll system incorporating a pay-for-performance approach, incentivizing efficiency while empowering managers with more local control of their offices.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Granato advocates for access to public health and mental health services across the county, serving on the Salt Lake Health Department Board and the Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

AND WHEREAS, Councilwoman Granato did not miss a step in representing her constituents through COVID and teaching all of us a thing or two about incorporating ZOOM meetings into our day-to-day work.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Salt Lake County Council celebrates Councilwoman Ann Granato's 6 years of dedicated service and thank her for her impact in Salt Lake County. She will be missed. Councilwoman Granato, Thank YOU for YOUR service!

Council Member Granato stated it has been an honor to sit in this chair for six years where she wished her late husband, Sam Granato, still sat. She learned from her husband about business and about politics. She learned to listen to every single possible solution and then work with everyone to find a solution that brought the greatest good for everybody. Both she and her husband loved and respected the people they worked with. Council Members and the County valued their constituents and wanted to provide the best possible policy to the people they served.

Council Member Granato concluded by reading a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt: *"The course of history is directed by the choices we make and our choices grow out of the ideas, the beliefs, the values, the dreams of the people. It is not so much the powerful leaders that determine our destiny as the much more powerful influence of the combined voice of the people themselves."*

Council Member Stringham stated Council Member Granato was a wonderful mentor when she first took office, and she would forever be grateful for that. She and Council Member Granato also developed a unique friendship and were able to find a commonality despite not always agreeing.

Council Member Theodore read the following proclamation commending the service of Council Member Dave Alvord:

PROCLAMATION HONORING COUNCIL MEMBER DAVE ALVORD FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO SALT LAKE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Councilman Dave Alvord has faithfully represented District 2 covering Herriman, Riverton, South Jordan, West Jordan, Copperton, West Valley, Kearns, and Magna, since 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dave's passion for "Fighting for the West Side" began during his tenure as Mayor of South Jordan, where he secured a fair share of transportation dollars for the city. He brought this same dedication to the County Council, ensuring the West Side receives the resources and attention it deserves, including doubling the ZAP tax allocated to the area; and

WHEREAS, Dave spearheaded the creation of the valley's first NICA-certified competition mountain biking trails in Butterfield Canyon, providing the West Side with a unique and world-class recreational opportunity;

WHEREAS, Dave championed the restoration of lap lanes at the South Jordan Fitness and Aquatics Center, a long-awaited project that brings much-needed aquatic facilities back to the community; and

WHEREAS, Dave was instrumental in preserving Abravanel Hall, a cultural and architectural landmark, ensuring its continued legacy as the home of the Utah Symphony. His bipartisan collaboration with Councilman Jim Bradley was a bright moment in his service, exemplified by his remark, "On this issue, I'm liberal for the arts, and he's conservative in conserving Abravanel," ; and

WHEREAS, Dave Alvord has been steadfast in his commitment to fiscal responsibility, asking tough budget questions, voting against unnecessary tax increases, advocating for the legislative branch to serve as a check on executive power, and prioritizing funding for public safety. He has also strongly supported the Auditor's Office in promoting transparency and accountability. Through these efforts, Dave has consistently worked to

improve county operations and protect taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, Dave's dedication to patriotism and community spirit shone brightest during Constitution Month celebrations, where he brought people together to reflect on the principles that define our nation. Through his leadership, he reminded us all of the importance of loving our country and cherishing our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, Dave's dedication to his role as a public servant was matched by his integrity and willingness to stand firm on his principles. Whether casting a difficult vote or explaining his position to his constituents, Dave exemplified what it means to lead with courage and conviction; and

WHEREAS, Dave's personal warmth and humor brought a unique energy to the council chambers. Whether it was explaining who Guster is, a clever comment to ease tension, or a thoughtful question that cut quickly to the heart of an issue, his ability to express his viewpoint with clarity and consideration made him a respected and valued colleague; and

WHEREAS, Dave is more than just a councilman; he's a dentist, a CEO, a music lover, an outdoorsman, and a mountain biking enthusiast who probably knows every trail on the West Side by heart. His love for his district is only rivaled by his love for his God and family; Laura, his wife, and their four children. He has balanced his professional and public responsibilities with grace, always keeping the well-being of his family and community at the forefront; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Salt Lake County Council honors Councilman Dave Alvord for his dedicated service, principled leadership, and unwavering commitment to the residents of Salt Lake County. His contributions to recreation, culture, and governance have left a legacy that will benefit the community for generations to come.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2024.

The Salt Lake County Council expresses its deepest gratitude to Dave Alvord for his service, leadership, and, most importantly, his friendship. We'll miss your humor, your courage, and your unwavering dedication to the West Side. Thank you, Dave!

Council Member Alvord stated his four years in office went quickly, and during those four years, his admiration for some public servants from the other political side increased. Salt Lake County is a very diverse County, and that diversity makes for difficult governing. He complimented Council Members who despite those challenges, got things done. He complimented Mayor Jennifer Wilson who was a wonderful stateswoman, and

in crucial moments, brought everyone together. He also complimented members of his caucus. In the end, a lot of people were able to make tough decisions and pass a budget.

Mr. Michael Mower, Senior Advisor for Community and Intergovernmental Relations, Governor's Office, thanked the outgoing Council Members, on behalf of Governor Spencer Cox, for their incredible service to the people of Salt Lake County and the state of Utah. Mr. Mower stated he knew Council Member Granato through her husband, Sam Granato, with whom he had developed a close affiliation with. He campaigned against Council Member Bradley many times, and Council Member Bradley was always a class act who worked incredibly hard for the people of Salt Lake County. The County is better off for Council Member Bradley's service. Mr. Mowser also stated he knew Council Member Alvord when he was the mayor of South Jordan City, and he had been a great mayor. Public service is challenging, but these Council Members provided that service well. He presented the outgoing Council Members with a token from the Governor, and on behalf of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the state of Utah thanked them for being incredible Salt Lake County leaders.

Council Member Winder Newton read the following proclamation commending the service of Reid Demman, County Surveyor:

Whereas, Reid Demman is a lifetime SLCo resident, the youngest of two children raised by parents Fred and Donna Demman, and grew up in Salt Lake City and the Millcreek area. He graduated from Granite High, attended the Utah Technical College, and the University of Utah. He graduated from the HET Engineering Certificate Program in 1984 and passed his Professional Surveying License exams on his first attempt.

Whereas, Reid started his career with Salt Lake County in 1976 working for public works, he was later hired in the County Surveyors Office as a rear chainmen.

Whereas, Reid returned to Public Works for 22 years and managed the Engineering section in the Development Services department.

Whereas, Reid was first elected to office in 2006, during his first term, he focused on collaboration, streamlining and improving services by restructuring the office. He created an interactive management team and improved on the use of modern technology and training to reduce overhead costs within his office.

Whereas, Reid developed and implemented a process allowing private land surveyors to file their Records of Survey electronically. This process was the first nationally and facilitated more efficient use of County resources and allows the public more expedient

access to survey records.

Whereas, under Reid's leadership the Salt Lake County Surveyors Office was the first public office to legally operate a drone in the State of Utah.

Whereas, Reid has represented Salt Lake County on a number of boards and committees including, President of the National Association of County Surveyors 2020-2022, President of the Utah Association of County Surveyors, Chair of Salt Lake County GIS Steering Committee, Vice Chair of National GIS Committee for National Association of County Officials (NACo), Chairman and Board Member of the Salt Lake County Credit Union, Board Member of United Fire Authority and United Fire Service Area.

Whereas, Reid was also recognized by his fellow County Surveyors as "Surveyor of the Year" multiple times throughout his career.

Whereas, Reid has expanded the use of the County Surveyors Office and improved efficiencies through fostering collaborative projects with many of the other County agencies and other elected offices.

Whereas, Reid has been very involved in the legislative sessions and spearheaded the enacting of a new State Law in 2019 which allowed for expanded protection of the survey monuments which are essential to the foundation of the property tax system and all real property boundaries here in Salt Lake County.

Whereas, Reid's desire to always improve and innovate, the public service his office provides, and his knowledge of the County has made him a tremendous leader who will be deeply missed by all after his 48 year career.

Mr. Reid Demman, County Surveyor, stated he started working for the County as a season road crew person, as a 19-year-old college dropout, at which time, he thought he would work for the County temporarily until he found greener pastures. Forty-eight years later, he discovered the pastures at the County had been pretty green. Salt Lake County was a great place to work, advance his career, facilitate his passion for public service, and "meet chicks." Working for the County had provided him with many opportunities from utilizing the tuition reimbursement program to finish his schooling, to working with many great people, including mentors, past County Council Members and Commissioners, past elected officials and current elected officials, and members of the public. It has been gratifying and rewarding. He thanked his family, his staff, all those who supported him along this journey, and staff members from the Mayor's Office and the Council Office. It has been an honor to serve.

Mr. Demman concluded his comments by reciting the following quotes, summing up what it felt like to retire after all these years:

Fred Rogers said, *“Often when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else.”*

Anonymous quote, *“Retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of an open highway.”*

Council Member Harrison read the following proclamation commending the service of Wayne Cushing, County Treasurer:

Whereas, Wayne Cushing is a lifetime SLCo resident and grew up in the Sugarhouse area. He graduated from Highland High and the U of U and passed the CPA on his first attempt (better check with Wayne on this one). He married a local girl and they have 4 successful children. Over the years he worked as an accountant sometimes auditing local municipalities for a couple of different CPA firms and later started his own business with some partners. He was the Chief Financial Officer of their company. His financial background in the private sector would end up serving Wayne well for his public responsibilities.

Whereas, 14 years ago Wayne, as an unknown in politics, was recruited by County personnel to run for public office as the Salt Lake County Treasurer. Remarkably, in a group of three political candidates, Wayne won his primary at the convention with over 60% of the vote on the first ballot.

During Wayne’s tenure SLCo went over the \$1 billion dollar tax collection amount and the Treasurer’s agency smoothly handled the increases each successive year. This was all accomplished without additional personnel and a tightened budget.

Wayne saved SLCo taxpayer funds by automating the process of finding and locating taxpayers throughout the County to timely deliver their notices. His agency worked seamlessly with the Salt Lake County Auditor’s agency to make this happen. Wayne also streamlined the taxpayer care process during the busy season of tax payments to better meet the needs of those walking up to pay taxes. Wayne also initiated the new online tax payment program for taxpayer convenience. Additionally, he spearheaded the early adoption of adding a QR code to the tax notice to streamline the online payment process even further.

Whereas, in making all of these successful enhancements to the SLCo tax system it significantly grew the tax collection rate which meant SLCo taxpayers paid less taxes in subsequent years.

Whereas, Wayne was also recognized by his fellow 29 County Treasurers as “Treasurer of the Year.”

Whereas, Wayne was always active in safely generating the greatest possible interest return on County funds. Wayne has a talent and intelligence for financial details and worked smoothly with the large financial institutions that work with the County.

Whereas, Wayne followed the legislative sessions in detail especially when Treasurer agencies were concerned. He coordinated with the individual legislators and the 29 County Treasurers to ensure good communications to solve potential unseen issues.

Whereas, Wayne’s business acumen, congenial teambuilding personality, and financial intelligence made him an outstanding candidate and respected leader in Salt Lake County. His influence will be missed in SLCo and beyond.

Mr. Wayne Cushing, County Treasurer, stated he has been in this position for 14 years, and during that time, he has had a good relationship with the Council and the Mayor’s Office. The Mayor’s team is the best he has ever seen. He also thanked the Council for working with his office, and not getting too close to “stepping on his piece of grass.” He would miss Council Member Granato’s expertise in business and community service, commended Council Member Alvord for recommending pay increases for employees, and joked about who would call “BS” when Council Member Bradley was gone.

He acknowledged his wife in the audience and thanked her, relaying a humorous story about how she had gotten him elected. He also acknowledged his former Chief Deputy, Randy Wightman, who had expertise, bar none, in customer service. With the help of staff, they made some changes in customer service, and changes to help with the collection rate. He was confident the office would be in good hands with the staff and the Treasurer-elect. It has been a great 14 years, probably the most rewarding in his professional life.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson read the following poem, roasting the outgoing elected officials:

“Every few years, we bid adieu, to friends and colleagues who have served through and through.

This year is no different, and sadly there are a few.

*First, Wayne Cushing, steadfast and true.
Not a stronger public servant could we ever cue.
His tax notice, was sent clearly and on time,
And he sought to save taxpayers every single dime.
His "collection rate" saved the County real cash.
And were it not for his deputy's name on the ballot, he would leave without a gash!*

*And Ann Granato, the master of tort,
Was usually pleasant and a friendly sort.
But with competence and knowledge guiding her way,
If you opposed her plan, it would not make your day.
With her dear husband Sam, providing service before
At the county the Granatos will always have a certain lore.*

*And Reid Demman with dozens of years under his belt,
His absence will certainly be very deeply felt.
He surveyed and surveyed, thousands of plots and land,
And somehow he even made THAT work not seem so bland.
His knowledge so deep, you could never couff,
Just don't call him with no time as he will talk your ear off!*

*And Jim Bradley, standing tall and serving longer than all,
Would often call out a council member to counter their gaul.
From the Commission to the Council, From the dark ages to now, he rarely took his eye
off the ball.
He was known around town each and every day
And in the end, endorsing Republicans became his play!*

*Dave Alvord, what is there to say?
Clearly a lot, but we don't have all day.
His tweeting was sharp, his "nos" outnumbered "yes"
But clearly he did, what he felt was best.
He cares about pools, taxes and trails!
With a commitment to District 2 that never fails.
And just a few days ago, the Mayor said to Dave,
That she thought they had come a long way.
Despite that he rarely has said ok.
So just last week, the Mayor asked Dave: On your way out, can you just not throw a
punch?*

And Dave responded: I just don't want you to miss me too much!

So, there you have it. We work together and sometimes don't bend.

But we're mindful of the County residents we seek to defend.

County electeds - many - have come and gone.

Let's wrap this up before we are all ready to yawn!"

Mayor Wilson stated she would miss working with each of the departing elected officials; she considered each of them to be an incredible professional and a friend and appreciated the opportunity to serve with them.

2. Other Business

Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM until Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL