

SALT LAKE COUNTY

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

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

10:00 AM

Room N2-800

County Council

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Invocation - Reading or Thought - Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Janice Kimball, Chief Executive Officer, Housing Connect, stated the County provides \$450,000 in General Funds to Housing Connect to give service assistance at two of Housing Connect's housing projects. Housing Connect also provides \$300,000 of these dollars to The Road Home. She urged the County to continue to support these vital programs.

Ms. Alisha Peart Operations Manager, Catholic Community Services, stated the Weigand Resource Center provides critical services to people experiencing homelessness and is currently being remodeled. Once the remodel is complete, it will begin providing mental health services in addition to the other services it provides. The day shelter is the only day shelter in the County. Cutting services will result in people experiencing greater exposure to the elements during the winter months.

Ms. Ashlyn Montague, 4H Extension Program, stated the Utah 4H program has provided her with many opportunities and valuable skills. It has taught her how to write a resume and cover letter from scratch, which has helped her obtain every job and internship she has pursued. The Horse Program helped her obtain an athletic scholarship. 4H has helped her to travel and make lifelong friendships.

Ms. Emma Evans stated the 4H program has taught her leadership and teamwork skills,

public speaking skills, how to care for livestock, healthy living skills, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). It has given her community service and business opportunities.

Mr. Caleb Van Wagoner stated he has been a part of 4H for seven years and has learned about robotics, livestock, STEM, healthy living, and leadership. He is currently part of the Junior Team Council, Drone Team, and Project Invent team. Continued funding will give people like him the opportunity to continue to learn and grow.

Mr. Val Potter, Assistant to the Vice President, Utah State University (USU) Extension, asked the Council to fully support USU Extension in its budget. He shared that when he was a Council member for Cache County in 2014, the Council there was considering cutting funding to 4H due to having a tight budget. After taking a deep dive and learning about all the services to the constituents, the Council concluded that cutting funding to USU Extension would be shortsighted and would not benefit members of the community. He encouraged the Council to leave the budget as it was.

Mr. Shawn Nielson, Associate Director of Family and Community Engagement, Granite School District, stated education is crucial to overcoming intergenerational poverty. The USU Extension program offers support to families through workshops and classes, and this is invaluable to the work Granite School District does. Post research surveys performed by USU Extension indicate a high level of success.

Ms. Thelma Vasquez spoke in favor of continuing to fund the USU Extension program because it is very valuable to Kearns Metro Township and Latin families in general.

3. REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS:

3.1. County Council Members

Council Member Granato stated the Council of Governments met last Thursday for its final meeting of the year. There was a lively discussion about funding for the homeless and Mayor Monica Zoltanski of Sandy City pointed out that a lot of funds are directed toward new construction. She would like to see funding directed toward existing housing.

The Public Works recommendations for the distribution of nearly \$3 million in transportation funding were passed unanimously.

Council Member Theodore reminded everyone that today was Election Day and to turn in their ballots because municipal elections are important.

Council Member Stewart thanked the staff for all the time that had been put into budget this year. The importance of budget is what drives priorities in the County. Times are unique and uncertain. Many seniors in his district reach out to him expressing that tax increases have created a lot of burden for them.

Council Member Stringham stated she attended the Utah Association of Counties conference where she was able to participate in many valuable trainings. She was glad to say next year's conference would not be held during budget season.

Council Member Alvord stated he had circulated a list among his colleagues related to the budget the night before. It included his suggestions of cuts that could be made to reduce the tax burden and stave off a tax increase. His suggested cuts made up about one percent of the total proposed budget.

He shared that CNBC recently reported that consumers in the middle and lower classes are hit the hardest by inflation. Paychecks are being stretched and people are having to take on separate jobs. He stated he felt the Mayor's proposed budget was a step in the right direction, but did not do quite enough.

3.2. County Mayor

3.3. Other Elected County Officials

Mr. Ralph Chamness, Chief Deputy District Attorney, stated the District Attorney's Office recently received two checks from its insurance company for a climate resiliency rebate totaling around \$261,000. Those checks have been forwarded to the General Fund.

4. WORK SESSION

4.1 **Proposed Hire Report / Incentive Plans - \$3,000 and Under / [23-1079](#)
Weekly Reclassification Report**

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Proposed Hire Report 11-15-2023](#)
[Incentive Plans \\$3,000 and Under 11-21-2023](#)
[Weekly Reclassification Report 11-21-2023](#)

Presenter: Hoa Nguyen, Council Budget and Policy Analyst. (Approx. 10:20AM, 5 Min.)
Informational

Ms. Hoa Nguyen, Budget and Policy Analyst, Council Office, reviewed the new hires. There were no incentive plans nor reclassifications.

4.2 Council Discussion and Direction Regarding the Approval of [23-1089](#) a 2024 Tentative Budget:

1. Budget Reduction Strategies:

- a. **Contra Accounts as Recommended by the Mayor**
- b. **Elimination of Funding - Vacant Positions and/or FTE Slots**
- c. **Exemption for Certain Organizations and Categories of County Employees**

2. Transformational Initiatives (TI)

3. Compensation for County Employees

4. Changes in FTEs

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Presenter: David Delquadro, Council Fiscal Manager. (Approx. 10:25AM, 120 Min.)

Discussion/Direction

– Review List

Scrubber

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the \$90,000 for a scrubber that was initially included in the Mayor's Administrative Services budget was no longer necessary. He asked the Council to formally vote to remove this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Alvord, that the scrubber be removed from the Administrative

Services budget. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

2024 Savings Strategies and FTE Changes

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, delivered a recap regarding the attempt to achieve savings on the Mayor's proposal. It would be a "three-legged stool" with a 1 percent cut in vacant positions, a 2 percent contra account to be applied to the operating budget, and a 3 percent contra account to be applied to the personnel appropriation. Additionally, there would be a hiring freeze and the filling of vacant positions would need to be justified. He asked what the Council would like to do to advance those savings.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she has had "heartburn" over the hiring freeze because approving necessary positions would be time consuming and would take a lot of resources. She also felt a hiring freeze might encourage the County to keep under-performing employees. After having conversations with fiscal staff from both the Mayor's Office and the Council Office, she proposed the following legislative intent:

It is the intent of the county council to adopt the 3 percent personnel contra and 2 percent operations contra accounts as proposed in the mayor's budget, but without the hiring freeze. Departments and independent elected officials will have the flexibility to hire positions as they become vacant, but will be held accountable during the mid-year budget for maintaining the contra levels. If they cannot maintain the contra levels, they may be given flexibility if their FTE counts and personnel budgets remain the same as was in effect on Jan. 1, 2024. The council will be evaluating the contras between now and June.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Bradshaw, to adopt the proposed legislative intent.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to 1) eliminate vacant positions identified in the Mayor's proposed budget and additional vacant FTE positions as well as the associated personnel appropriations associated with those positions identified in the Countywide Report of Vacant Positions provided by fiscal staff as of November 2023; and 2) implement an across-the-board reduction of two percent to the Mayor's proposed budget in the operations

appropriation unit for each County department, office, agency in the Council's recommended 2024 budget.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated he liked the original motion because it kept pressure on the individual organizations. He asked for clarification on the current number of vacancies that existed. He added that some of the FTEs being discussed were grant funded.

Council Member Alvord stated there were 67 FTEs being considered. His list identified a few other positions, but his motion aligned with the Mayor's list.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to 1) eliminate vacant positions identified in the Mayor's proposed budget and additional vacant FTE positions as well as the associated personnel appropriations associated with those positions identified in the Countywide Report of Vacant Positions provided by fiscal staff as of November 2023; and 2) implement an across-the-board reduction of two percent to the Mayor's proposed budget in the operations appropriation unit for each County department, office, agency in the Council's recommended 2024 budget. The motion failed by a 6 to 3 vote, with Council Members Stringham, Winder Newton, Bradshaw, Harrison, Granato, and Bradshaw voting "Nay."

Council Member Stringham suggested a friendly amendment to Council Member Winder Newton's motion that would have the Council go through each department's budget to help look for efficiencies.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she liked the idea and would be happy to add a line stating: "The Council will be evaluating the contra accounts from now until June."

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Bradshaw, to adopt the proposed legislative intent, adding that the Council would be evaluating the contra accounts from now until June. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Workforce Inclusion & Successful Employment (WISE) Program

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated she recognized where this was likely going, but she felt the County needed to invest in young people who were not college bound and who needed stabilization. They have deep challenges working against them. This may not be a program that continued, but she asked that, because there is one-time money available, the County continue to work through this challenge.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to eliminate the WISE program from the budget. The motion carried by a 6 to 3 vote, with Council Members Granato, Bradley, and Bradshaw voting “Nay.”

Compensation: Tiered Recognition Payments of 2 percent, 1.5 percent, and 1 percent.

Council Member Winder Newton stated while she does not like the idea of bonuses becoming expected, she is concerned about losing good employees. The County needs to maintain its workforce. She would prefer to cut the bonuses and increase the cost of living adjustment (COLA) to four percent.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Granato, to eliminate the tiered recognition payments and, instead, increase the COLA to four percent. The Legal Defenders Association (LDA) would be included in this.

Council Member Stringham asked what the 1.25 percent being discussed amounted to.

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated it would be reasonable to assume it was around \$4 million if LDA was included.

Council Member Stringham asked for a friendly amendment stating the Council would have to make up for the amount coming from the General Fund in cuts in the next nine months to ensure everything is structurally sound.

Council Member Harrison stated her preference would be not to accept

the friendly amendment.

Council Member Winder Newton asked Mr. Casper for his opinion on the motion.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated it would be manageable and within striking distance. He was comfortable with it.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Granato, to eliminate the tiered recognition payments and, instead, increase the COLA to 4 percent. The Legal Defenders Association (LDA) would be included in this. The motion carried by a 6 to 3 vote, with Council Members Alvord, Stewart, and Theodore voting “Nay.”

Council Member Stewart stated his vote in opposition was due to lack of structural soundness.

\$1.25 Million Equity Fund (Not on the List)

Council Member Alvord asked if this would be a good time to talk about the Equity Fund, which was not on the list. He had been told by an independent elected official that their office was denied a position because the applicant was not a member of a protected class.

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated all members of the committee were present to address this issue.

Council Member Alvord asked why this individual was denied.

Mr. Delquadro stated the first objective was to address protected classes outside the market. He, Sharon Roux, Director, Human Resource Division, and Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, tried to determine where a class of jobs was in relation to the market, knowing there was not enough money to bring everyone up to market rate. Data provided by Human Resources indicated some people were further away than others. The process and priorities were presented to the Council on June 13, 2023.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council

Member Theodore, to eliminate the remaining \$1.2 million from the Equity Fund and restore it to the General Fund.

Council Member Stringham asked Sharon Roux, Director, Human Resource Division, what would need to be done to finish up the survey in 2024.

Ms. Sharon Roux, Director, Human Resource Division, stated Human Resources would have to hire external resources. She did not have a dollar amount, but said she could come up with a quote quickly.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Granato, to direct Human Resources to determine how much it will cost to perform a full salary survey of the remaining 49 percent of the positions within Salt Lake County, and hold on the \$1.25 million until the data is available by end of 2024. The motion carried by an 8 to 1 vote, with Council Member Stewart voting “Nay.”

Council Member Stewart stated he voted “Nay” because the amount of \$250,000 that was mentioned felt like an open ticket.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, asked if the Equity Adjustment Committee should defer decisions already in the queue.

Council Member Stringham stated those decisions should not be deferred.

Disucssion regarding the \$3.1 million contract payment for the Unified Fire Authority

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the current contract with Unified Fire Authority (UFA) is broken into two payments. He asked that the 2 percent contra piece be applied to the second payment, but not the first, as this would affect UFA’s budget. The contract amount is \$3.1 million, which was agreed upon in June. UFA has asked the County not to cut that for this budget year.

Council Member Alvord stated if there were cuts, UFA would have to raise premiums. He did not think this could create a crisis, but other bad things could come of it.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Bradshaw, to keep the full contract amount promised to UFA consistent with the previous commitment. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Contributions made from the General Fund

Council Member Winder Newton stated the Auditor suggested a better process be put in place for the Council giving contributions to nonprofit organizations. She read legislative intent:

It is the legislative intent of the Salt Lake County Council to establish the following requirements for appropriations in the form of contributions made to nonprofit entities in the 2024 budget:

- 1) Contributions that are funded by the Council in the 2024 budget shall be set aside and may only be released to nonprofit entities following the Council's approval of revisions to Countywide Policy 1200: Contributions, In-Kind Assistance, and Fee Waivers, which revisions should clarify and resolve the policy issues identified in a recent countywide audit of contributions.*
- 2) All nonprofit entities receiving contributions from Salt Lake County shall comply with the requirements in Salt Lake Countywide Policy 1200, as may be amended, prior to the disbursement of funds by the County. These requirements may include submitting a written application for the contribution, agreeing to file a disbursement of funds report for contributions in excess of \$2,500, and agreeing to submit to an audit if requested.*
- 3) Consistent with Salt Lake County Ordinance § 3.28.010, for all contributions in excess of \$50,000, the County shall enter into a written agreement with the nonprofit entity in a manner reviewed and advised by the District Attorney prior to the disbursement of funds by the County. Such agreements should protect the County's financial and legal interests and oblige the nonprofit entity to comply with all applicable legal and reporting requirements.*

Council Member Granato asked if there could be a time certain on the revision of the policy.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated in the County's response to the Auditor, it agreed to look at things prior to February 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Granato, to approve the above legislative intent with a line added that the policy would be complete by February 1, 2024. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Council Member Bradshaw asked how this would affect disbursements to Housing Connect.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated the timing would not work for Housing Connect, nor would it work for the Weigand Center. Housing Connect uses its funds largely for rental assistance, and disbursement is determined on a week-to-week basis. Holding funding for the Weigand Center could affect hours of operation for the center and this would be very undesirable during the winter months.

Council Member Bradshaw stated there are existing contracts for Housing Connect and the Weigand Center, so the Auditor's concerns should not apply to those two organizations.

Council Member Stringham asked if these programs were started by the County.

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, stated these partnerships go back almost twenty years. The contracts have been mixed in with contributions because they were not, at the time, competitively bid. As the contributions policy gets rewritten, they may not fall in that category any longer. She agreed that discontinuing this funding in January would create a hardship for homeless.

Council Member Alvord asked if the County would be in a bad position for not doing a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Mr. Park stated the County's legislative body has authority under a specific state statute to make these types of contributions to nonprofit entities. That said, the County can make decisions to have things go through the procurement process.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to hold funding for all offices mentioned on the 2024 Contributions from General Funds spreadsheet with exception of the two Office of Regional Development items.

Council Member Winder Newton asked Ms. Kanter for clarification regarding the Countywide Emergency Management items.

Ms. Kanter stated these could be described as a clerical accounting error. They are contracts with government entities and were classified incorrectly. They will be reclassified as professional fees in the future.

Council Member Alvord stated he would amend his motion.

Council Member Stringham asked for a friendly amendment stating that there be a technical correction moving the items for Emergency Services over to the appropriate account.

Council Member Winder Newton asked if contributions from Council members' individual budgets would also be exempt.

Council Member Alvord stated he would include an exemption in his motion.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated privatization through partnerships is a conservative principle. The County often outsources services, and it works well. Continuing partnerships saves the taxpayers money.

Council Member Winder Newton noted that the total amount set aside would be \$133,124.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to hold funding for all offices mentioned on the 2024 Contributions from General Funds spreadsheet with exception of the two Office of Regional Development HCD Admin items and the two Emergency Services Countywide Emergency Management items. There will be a technical correction moving the items for Emergency Services over to the appropriate account. Council members can continue with contributions from

their personal budgets throughout the end of the year. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Southwest Performing Arts Center (\$6.8 million)

Council Member Stewart stated he added this item to the list because he was waiting for information.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, stated a response had been sent, but she would send it again. If the County did not move forward with this item within five years, it would lose the land donation.

Council Member Alvord asked if this could be placed on an agenda.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated there would be a presentation in the coming weeks.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Alvord, to allocate \$6.4 million for this project with the request for an update before the Council on this specific project, the cultural facilities master plan, and anything else in the queue. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Arts and Culture Appraisal, Purchase of New Artwork

Council Member Theodore asked if an appraisal would be required to insure the pieces the County owned.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, stated an appraisal was required, and one has not been done in 20 years.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to approve the appropriation for an appraisal, but to use the funds for purchase of new artwork for repair and maintenance of existing artwork. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

My County Recreation Pass

Council Member Stringham stated she wanted to understand a bit more

about how the Parks and Recreation Division proposes to manage this undertaking. Unmanaged youth can be rough on facilities.

Mr. Martin Jensen, Director, Parks and Recreation Division, stated patrons can look at the schedule to see when amenities are available. There are detailed policies currently in place regarding unattended minors. Parks and Recreation would see more kids in buildings and though there would be peak times, that is not a bad thing. There would be after school and summer programs at no cost. There will be controlled access and kids will need to have their photo taken after signing up for a pass. He has the utmost faith in the staff and existing policies.

Council Member Winder Newton asked what could be done to help encourage parents to visit the recreation centers with their children.

Ms. Doranne Pittz, Associate Director, Parks and Recreation Division, stated there would be a natural increase in family involvement, but Parks and Recreation would also encourage it through programming and other opportunities.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Granato, that this be a pilot program that would run from June 2024 through June 2025.

Council Member Alvord asked that Parks and Recreation monitor the facilities more thoroughly. He also asked if the suggestion to raise adult admission fees by a dollar was accepted.

Mr. Jensen stated that would require a separate motion. Adult recreation fees have not been raised since 2016.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Granato, that this be a pilot program that would run from June 2024 through June 2025. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

BREAK FOR LUNCH - RECONVENE AT 1:30PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTINUATION OF TODAY'S MEETING WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE 2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET IS COMPLETED

- 4.3 Council Discussion and Direction Regarding the approval of [23-1098](#)
a 2024 Tentative Budget: (Continued)
5. Resolution of Remaining Items on The List
6. Other 2024 Budget Items

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Presenter: David Delquadro, Council Fiscal Manager. (Approx. 1:30PM)
Discussion/Direction

– Review List

Jordan River Regional Park Master Plan

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, reviewed the request for \$250,000, for the Jordan River Regional Park Master Plan.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to fund the Jordan River Regional Park Master Plan.

Council Member Theodore stated she put this on the list because she thought this was being funded with General Fund dollars, but if General Fund dollars were not being used, she was okay with it.

Council Member Alvord stated he contacted Martin Jensen, Parks and Recreation Division, who told him this request was for General Fund dollars.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Alvord to not fund this request, but to bring it back next year with a request to use Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention (TRCC) funding for it.

Council Member Winder Newton suggested using TRCC funding for it now.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated the TRCC Advisory Board could convene knowing the Council recommended paying for a master plan from the TRCC Fund. He thought the board would be fine with it.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she asked if this would qualify

for Transient Room Tax funding. She would rather it came from that fund, as that is more restrictive.

Mr. Martin Jensen, Director, Parks and Recreation Division, stated it could potentially be eligible for TRT funds, but it might be a stretch.

Mr. Casper stated TRT money can go to recreational facilities, but he did not think this would be an appropriate use of TRT funds.

Mr. Ralph Chamness, Deputy District Attorney, stated the District Attorney's Office thought it would be a stretch to use TRT funds for this.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, amended the motion to fund the Jordan River Regional Park Master Plan out of the TRCC Fund as opposed to the General Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Library Fund - Expanded Hours

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, reviewed the request to expand library hours to Sunday at four libraries, and add 4.75 FTEs.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Alvord, to not fund expanding the library hours to Sunday.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she would like the money allocated to expanding libraries put into the Library's digital collection instead. There are not enough digital materials to satisfy the need, and there are long wait times for those.

Council Member Stewart did not accept that as an amendment to the motion, stating there are a lot of different streaming options available.

Council Member Bradshaw stated he was interested in using funds for the digital collection, but he was also sympathetic to the members of the community needing the expanded library hours, so would vote no for the motion.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated the Mayor's Office included the expanded hours in the revenue, so without the expansion, there would be a decrease in revenue. The request to expand hours is minimal to accommodate the varied work schedules and family life schedules for all residents.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Granato, to cut the Sunday hour expansion, and put the \$280,000 into the Library's digital collection instead.

Council Member Bradshaw asked if the intent to fund the digital collection would be ongoing funding.

Council Member Winder Newton stated it would. The digital subscriptions had to be renewed each year.

Council Member Bradshaw stated he would support the motion because he supported increasing digital materials, but his comments regarding the Sunday hours stood.

Council Member Stringham asked to bifurcate the vote for cutting hours from the vote to add digital subscriptions.

Council Member Winder Newton withdrew the substitute motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Alvord, to not fund expanding the library hours to Sunday. The motion failed by a 3-6 vote, with Council Members Bradley, Harrison, and Bradshaw voting "Nay."

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Granato, to put the \$280,000 into the Library's digital collection instead. The motion carried by a 6-3 vote, with Council Members Bradley, Alvord, and Theodore, voting "Nay."

Library Fund - Hotspot Service

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, reviewed the request for \$25,000 for the Hotspot service.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw to approve the funding for the Hotspot service.

Council Member Stringham asked if this was an expansion of service, or if it was for the current service.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated it was part of the base budget, but Council Member Stewart suggested cutting it.

Ms. Robin Chalhoub, Director, Community Services Department, stated the County received a grant during COVID for the hotspot service, but that expired. This request is to continue that program, as it is a popular program. The intent is to improve digital access to community members across the community.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Harrison, to approve the funding for the Hotspot service. The motion carried by a 6-3 vote, with Council Members Alvord, Stewart, and Theodore, voting “Nay.”

Library Fund - Late Fee Waiver

Council Member Stringham stated this service is vital. Getting books back on time can be an issue, and when a book is not turned in on time, fees accumulate. If parents cannot afford those fees and do not pay them, the library charges for the book. She experienced this as a parent, and it prevented her from using the library until she could afford to pay the fees.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to approve the request.

Council Member Harrison stated she has heard from many families asking to eliminate late fees for children and youth materials to remove barriers to reading. There are struggles with literacy in the community, so it was important to support families reading however possible. If an item is lost or damaged, the card holder would still be responsible for that.

Council Member Alvord stated it would set a precedent that if an item was late, nothing would be done about it.

Council Member Stewart stated these late fees taught him responsibility and accountability in his youth. Society has shifted away from accountability and responsibility, and this program would be one more step in that direction. Also, since there is automatic renewal for checked out items, there would be no incentive to return an item on the wait list with the elimination of late fees.

Council Member Alvord stated these freebies are not helping the County's Library system stay fiscally solvent. He would not do this if he was running the Library as a business, so he would vote no for the motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to approve the late fee waiver request. The motion carried by an 8-2 vote, with Council Members Alvord and Stewart voting "Nay."

General Fund - Watershed Planning and Restoration Program

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, reviewed the request for a two-and-a-half to one match for a grant, which would help the County avoid Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fines and other issues. Originally, the request was for \$200,000, but the Mayor's Office cut it to \$100,000. As a result of that cut, it has been targeted to address E. coli in the southwest part of the valley. If that issue is not addressed, the County will have problems satisfying EPA's requirements.

Council Member Theodore asked if there was a deadline to clean that up.

Mr. Scott Baird, Director, Public Works and Municipal Services Department, stated there is a deadline of February 2024, for the County to get something in place.

Council Member Stewart stated he put this on the list because he wanted to understand what the County would be doing using these funds. He has since done some research to understand this and was now okay with it.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Granato, to fund the Watershed Planning and Restoration Program grant match, as recommended by the Mayor. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Office of Regional Development - Action Steps for Sustainability Goals

Council Member Winder Newton stated she put this on the list. She was not sold on the County spending dollars for this.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to not fund this request.

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, stated she met with almost every department head under the Mayor's administration and found out there were a lot of shared goals happening in a decentralized manner. This funding request is to collect information and use it as baseline research to figure out how best to invest funds while ensuring all County organizations were in line with policy objectives of both the Mayor and the Council.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated the \$100,000 request was a minimal amount to see what funding the County could capture, especially federal money that might be expiring. This funding would allow the County to be in a position for 2025 to apply for some of the opportunities.

Council Member Granato asked what specifically this \$100,000 would be used for.

Ms. Blaes stated it would probably be used to fund some consulting support to help the County work through some of the policy objectives, and possibly to do some research. The County does not have a system for capturing the data now.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to not fund this request. The motion carried by a 5-4 vote, with Council Members Bradley, Harrison, Bradshaw, and Granato, voting "Nay."

Office of Regional Development - Regional Economic Development Plan

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, reviewed the request for \$67,000 to provide help and a consultant for a regional

economic development plan.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to cut this \$67,000 from the budget.

Council Member Alvord stated he was not convinced this was required. The Council approved some funding for this last year, but it did not see the deliverables.

Council Member Bradshaw stated right now, municipalities compete for retail centers, so having a regional strategy could go a long way. He asked if the Office of Regional Development could help the Council understand how the money would be utilized and what the deliverables would be for this \$67,000.

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, stated the money requested last year was for research to look at transit-oriented development and the impediments to transit-oriented development within Salt Lake County. Recently, research was completed on the economic competitiveness of the County in relation to other regions. That research has not yet been released. The research will set up the County to be able to compete with places that are seen as economic powerhouses, but the County can only do that if it has a regional understanding. This funding would help the County understand the assets in the County from a regional point of view, i.e., how much was being generated, what diversity opportunities were available, and whether the County could compete with some of the big digital areas in terms of bringing in higher paying jobs. It would also help the County understand the economy and property valuation in the County to be able to counter mandatory tax increment funding participation.

Council Member Alvord asked if this request was for General Fund money.

Ms. Blaes stated it is part of the Regional Project Fund, which is General Fund money.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated the County needed to look at the connection between land use, transportation, and economic development in places where there is still potential for growth and development; look at where the County

has the greatest economic advantage to bring in companies that bring jobs; and determine how it all fits together.

Council Member Alvord withdrew his motion in response to comments he just heard.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to fund the Regional Economic Development Strategy. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Office of Regional Development - Elimination of an FTE

Council Member Stringham stated she put this on the list, as she wanted to eliminate a current position that was being paid for by the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD). That issue has been resolved; the position is now being covered by the Redevelopment Agency.

Office of Regional Development - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Council Member Alvord asked to reconsider two Office of Regional Development requests that were not put on the list - the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for \$50,000, and the Transportation and Land Use Connection for \$300,000. He wanted to understand the VITA program, and he did not think the \$300,000 being granted to cities to help them with their planning was the best use of taxpayer money in a tight economic budget year.

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, explained the VITA program request was for \$50,000, but the Mayor reduced it to \$25,000. It would be used for additional service providers for the clinic held every year at the Government Center's north building lobby location.

Ms. Robin Chalhoub, Director, Community Services Department, stated the County partners with Westminster College and Salt Lake Community College to provide this program. Volunteers conduct the clinic, and they help thousands of residents every year.

Office of Regional Development - Transportation and Land Use Connection

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, stated the Transportation and Land Use Connection program is for things like curb, gutter, and sidewalks, which are critical to the ability of a city to be successful, and in her opinion, successful cities made a successful county. The County does not dictate anything to the cities. A committee reviews the cities' applications and provides funding based on what they tell it their needs are. Some cities are not large enough to have the resources they need, such as a housing or a transportation planner, so these resources help them do what they need to do.

Council Member Winder Newton stated helping ensure cities have what they need to plan is critical. This is a great program.

Council Member Alvord stated he would wonder if a third party offering to help his city, was to influence the outcome. What some outside groups want are at odds with what the constituents who live in the cities want.

A motion was made by Council Member Granato, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to continue the funding for the Transportation and Land Use Connection. The motion carried by a 7-2 vote, with Council Members Alvord and Stewart voting "Nay."

Utah State University (USU) Extension

Council Member Stewart put this on the list because the \$29,000, was an increase in funding.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated this was not a program expansion; it was an increase in staff pay. It was similar to the County increasing the Legal Defender's budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to fund the USU Extension Program, as recommended by the Mayor. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Opioid Settlement Funds

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated

there is \$500,000 in Opioid Settlement funds, and it was split evenly for public awareness and the distribution of in-home disposal kits.

Council Member Harrison stated she put this on the list because there were already more than 35 drug disposal locations throughout the County. Since unused medication could be mixed with dirt and thrown into any trash can, she did not think it was best practice or an efficacious use of funding.

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison to cut funding for the in-home disposal kits.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Alvord, to maintain the funding for the in-home disposal kits.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, stated the State had in-home kits, but it distributed all of them. It may be purchasing more, but she did not know when they would be, so the County might need to purchase some kits if it moved forward with this.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated she would have preferred a better use of the funds given there were other options for using the funds.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Stewart, seconded by Council Member Alvord, to maintain the funding for the in-home disposal kits. The motion failed by a 4-5 vote, with Council Members Bradley, Harrison, Bradshaw, Granato, and Winder Newton voting “Nay.”

A motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Granato, to cut funding for the in-home disposal kits. The motion carried by a 5-4 vote, with Council Members Alvord, Stewart, and Theodore voting “Nay.”

Behavioral Health Division

Council Member Stewart requested this item be pulled from the list because he would be meeting with Tim Whalen, Director, Behavioral Health Division, the first of the year to discuss the Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT).

Time-limited Grant Writer Position

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated a request was made to move the time-limited grant writer position to a merit position. He suggested adding a merit position to do grant writing, and then if the individual in the time-limited position were selected for that position, the time-limited position would go away.

Council Member Bradshaw stated he put this item on the list. The Mayor had recommended funding this, but the time-limited position is only through the end of 2024. The grant writer has been effective in getting millions of dollars for the County. He wanted to send the signal that the County was dedicated to seeking outside funds and it wanted to make this position permanent.

Council Member Winder Newton asked if that would affect the structural balance of the budget.

Mr. Delquadro stated it would be budget neutral.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to add a grant-writer merit position. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Council Member Stringham stated the Council is considering cutting this office, but the Mayor would like to discuss an idea she has.

Mayor Jennifer Wilson stated if the Council eliminated this office, there would be an impact on the County's bottom line because this office does quite a bit of work to raise incomes in certain areas and make sure that everyone has a pathway. The Mayor's Office does not have the bandwidth to do that without this office. She would like to rework this office and change the name to the Office of Opportunity and Access, and then come back to the Council with a new organization chart around it.

Council Member Alvord stated it was his understanding this office also lost the employee who was the primary contact for this office. He would like to

eliminate this office and accept the Mayor's offer to bring forward a proposal to fulfill some of the roles, but with different messaging that is more palatable to the public.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Theodore, to eliminate the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Ms. Michelle Hicks, Executive Office Administrator, Mayor's Office, stated there is one FTE in this budget, funding for temporary employees, and a small operating budget. Currently, there are two temporary interns in this office, and they have through spring to finish their employment.

Council Member Winder Newton asked if Council Member Alvord wanted to cut the full budget or just the FTE.

Council Member Alvord stated he wanted to cut the full office budget of \$148,000.

Council Member Bradshaw stated this office is somewhat critical to connecting the underserved communities in the County, and that should continue to be the County's goal. He did not want the work to be discontinued because of the departure of the County employee who worked in this office. The County could find another capable person to fill this role, so he would be voting no to the motion.

Council Member Stringham stated she was concerned about cutting the two interns who needed to finish their internships for school.

Council Member Alvord amended the motion to cut the full-time position in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and have the Mayor's Office find another office for the interns.

Council Member Bradley stated the interns are serving a purpose and need direction that would be provided by the FTE. Eliminating the office would send the message that the County did not care about inclusion and diversity. The amount of money for this office is not a high cost to keep things in order and protect the County's image.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by

Council Member Granato, to continue funding the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The motion failed by a 4-5 vote, with Council Members Stringham, Alvord, Stewart, Theodore, and Winder Newton voting “Nay.”

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Theodore, to only cut the full-time position, along with its budget, and review the budget for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion again once it is restructured. The motion passed by a 5-4 vote, with Council Members Bradley, Harrison, Bradshaw, and Granato voting “Nay.”

Justice Court - Additional Time-Limited FTE

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated adding this FTE would require additional monies of \$73,000+, which would have to come from the Municipal Services Fund.

A motion was made by Council Member Granato, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to fund the time-limited position for 2024, and reconsider it next year. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Council Member Stringham was absent for the vote.

[Later in the Meeting]

Council Member Stringham stated the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD) will probably not pay to fund this position. The MSD did not see a reason for an extra position since the court’s workload has decreased with Millcreek leaving, and costs are going up because Millcreek is not paying for anything.

Mr. Delquadro stated the funding would have to come from fund balance then because the only funds that can be used to pay for this are MSD funds.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, to reconsider not funding this FTE. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Council Member Winder Newton asked if someone who voted in favor of the motion would need to bring this back for reconsideration.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated that would

normally be the case; however, with the budget, everything was fair game until the Council put a recommended budget out.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Stringham, to remove the FTE for the Justice Court. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Enterprise Approach to Esri Licenses for Geographic Information System Mapping (GIS)

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated he asked the Council to consider adding \$11,167 to the budget in order to do an enterprise approach to Esri licenses for GIS. The GIS Steering Committee was concerned the County would have to negotiate annual contracts with Esri, and that the enterprise approach would save the County as much as \$200,000.

A motion was made by Council Member Granato, seconded by Council Member Harrison, to move forward with the enterprise approach for Esri licenses. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Council Member Theodore was absent for the vote.

FTES in the Recorder's Office

Council Member Stringham stated in 2021, the Council funded eight positions in the Recorder's Office because of an impressive increase in caseloads, but the caseloads and the amount of money going into the Recorder's Office have decreased.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham to remove one position that is vacant now, a Land Record Specialist 2, and the \$90,000 in the temporary staff budget; and if another Land Record Specialist position became vacant during 2024, it would be slated for permanent elimination and directly deducted from the Recorder's contra account without requiring it make up the difference.

Council Member Winder Newton stated it made sense to cut the position, but she had a hard time making an exception to the contra account policy for the Recorder's Office. Other offices voluntarily gave up FTEs during the budget process, but they were still being held to the contra account policy.

She did not want to give exceptions to that.

Council Member Bradshaw stated the only way a smaller office could make their contra was by a self-imposed hiring freeze on the positions that had been allocated to them. By eliminating FTEs, the Council would be setting up offices to not meet their contra accounts. The percentage for their contra was based off their current personnel budget.

Council Member Stringham stated in order to right-size all offices, and bring them up to market, the Council needed to find cuts. The Council cannot ask for the contra account back, so it was her intent to find permanent cuts. If this was not the right time to do this, she would bring it back in January, along with the District Attorney's Office.

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated he was concerned not applying the rules even-handedly would create animosity. The Council would have the opportunity next year, prior to the June budget, to review that. Then, every office could make its case as to what should count toward its contra

Mr. Will Kocher, Chief Deputy Recorder, stated everyone in the Recorder's Office is busy working and has a lot of work to do, despite its rates dropping.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Alvord, to consider this as something that would count against the Recorder's contra account if down the road it could not meet its contra account. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

District Attorney

Mr. Sim Gill, District Attorney, reviewed the structure of his office, which consisted of a major crimes unit; misdemeanors; homicide in the gang unit combined with the special victims unit; family protection unit; juvenile unit; screening unit; and a unit that monitors the therapeutic justice programs. Then, there are sub teams, which handle major crashes, arson, white collar, and environmental crimes, and those are done on an ad hoc, voluntary basis.

Mr. Ralph Chamness, Deputy District Attorney, stated there is also the

Civil Division, which mainly does litigation and counsel for the County agencies.

Council Member Stringham stated she had a printout of vacant positions, dated November 20, 2023, and asked which positions on that list were still open.

Mr. Chamness stated the District Attorney's Office will have eleven merit vacancies on January 1, 2024, and eight positions funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The District Attorney's Office recently filled two ARPA-funded paralegal positions, but it is not planning to fill the remaining ARPA positions due to the time constraint for receiving those funds and the time it would take to bring people in and get them trained.

Ms. Bridget Romano, Deputy District Attorney, stated the District Attorney's Office is onboarding merit employees now, which will bring the number of merit vacancies on the list down to 11.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to remove the eight ARPA-funded positions from the District Attorney's Office and put that money back into the General Fund. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Council Member Stringham stated she wanted to get an updated list of vacant positions for the District Attorney's Office, and then come back later today to discuss that.

Ms. Sharon Roux, Director, Human Resources Division, stated she would consult with the District Attorney's Office, to understand the vacancies.

Community Council Budgets

Social Security Tax Maximum

Overhead for Public Safety Officers

Mayor's Recommended Budget as the Default Budget, including Exemptions to Contra Accounts

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, reviewed the following requests:

- The recommended amounts for the Community Council's budgets are \$6,339 for Sandy Hills, which is what its request was, and \$10,624 for Granite, which is a reduction of \$4,100 from what it requested because it had under expend.
- Every year, there is an increase in the social security tax maximum. The County estimated the maximum was going to be about \$168,600, but it turned out to be \$167,700, so there is an additional cost to the County of \$2,700.
- According to policy, the Council was required to ensure overhead for public safety officers was accurate. However, the County does not know what the overhead is until June, and that is based on the prior year. It is now at 15 percent. He thought the Council could justify a 5 percent increase based on the most recent information, so as of July 1, 2024, it would go from 15 percent to 20 percent.
- The budget includes a 4 percent salary increase for elected officials and the Judge. That is the same amount being provided to rank and file employees and sworn officers.
- The Mayor's recommended budget will be the default for any item that was not addressed during the budget discussions. The Mayor's recommendation includes exemptions from having contra accounts for some organizations.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, asked the Council to do a separate motion on the Mayor's recommended budget being the default, and vote on that after it has wrapped up everything else. He would like that to be the final piece so there were no ambiguities.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to approve the amounts for the community councils, the social security tax maximum, the overhead charges for public safety, and the salaries for elected officials. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ARPA Fund - Flip the Strip

Council Member Alvord stated he wanted to add some cuts to the list for the Council's consideration, the first of which was the Flip the Strip program to be funded with ARPA funds. When the Council passed programs for ARPA funding, it was under the assumption the funds were "use or lose," but it has learned they can be used for transitional funding. This program was a great sentiment, but public safety concerns are more of a priority and more in line with the County's statutory duties.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to cut the Flip the Strip program, and return the \$1,953,440 to the General Fund.

Council Member Stringham stated some work for this had already been done, so the full amount could not be cut. She asked where this was in the process.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated the County has already invested money in this program, so if the Council did not finish the project, which is planting, it would have essentially wasted that money that was already invested.

Ms. Lisa Hartman, Associate Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated the grass is being replaced with plantings and drought resistant trees, and although there was a great amount of water in 2022, it is likely water will continue to be an issue. Long term, these strips will account for over 5,000,000 in reduced water usage for the County. If water became more scarce, the County would have to make decisions about whether to water its investments, such as parks. This program is to reduce water in areas that are not used by the public. Last year, her team looked at the County's facilities and hired a landscape designer to design what to put in at those facilities, but they were waiting for spring to plant because plantings were not available in the fall.

Council Member Alvord asked how much of the \$1.9 million was spoken for.

Ms. Hartman stated about \$1.4 million.

Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, amended the motion to cut \$500,000 from the Flip the Strip program and return it to the General Fund, and that the rest of the \$1.9 million stay in the budget.

Council Member Granato stated that left no wiggle room. If costs went up, the sunk costs would be lost.

Council Member Winder Newton suggested letting the Mayor's Office finish the

program as outlined, and if there were any remaining funds, they would go back into the General Fund.

Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, amended the motion to authorize the completion of the projects identified, and then return unused funds to the General Fund. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TRT Fund - Sports Commission

Council Member Alvord stated three contributions funded from the TRT Fund caught his eye as possible cuts - the Sports Commission, the restaurant associations, and the Sundance Film Festival. Council Member Winder Newton offered to cut \$50,000 from the Sports Commission in consideration that he left the restaurant associations' contribution alone.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, clarified there are two separate restaurant associations - the Utah Restaurant Association and the Salt Lake Valley Restaurant Association, each to receive \$25,000.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to retain the contributions to the restaurant associations, but reduce the contribution to the Sports Commission from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

Council Member Winder Newton stated it made sense to reduce that contribution because the Sports Commission used to sponsor the Professional Golfers' Association of America's (PGA) golf tournament in Salt Lake County, but it moved that to another county.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, to retain the contributions to the restaurant associations, but reduce the contribution to the Sports Commission from \$100,000 to \$50,000. The motion carried 8 to 1, with Council Member Bradshaw voting "Nay."

TRT Fund - Sundance Film Festival

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord to cut the \$150,000 contribution to Sundance Film Festival this year.

Council Member Alvord stated these TRT funds are coveted by different organizations, and there is a perception in the public that Sundance serves more of the high-income

audience.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, stated the contribution that would be provided to Sundance allows it to provide additional expanded programming within Salt Lake County. It offers free programming to youth within Salt Lake County to reduce barriers to access the Film Festival. Sundance also utilizes County facilities for these events and it has broadened its programming into Salt Lake County.

Ms. Trista Schroeder, General Counsel, Sundance Institute, stated Salt Lake County's contribution for the Sundance Film Festival goes toward funding year-round programming for residents, especially youth and student residents. Sundance provides free access to over 2,000 residents every year during the festival, and free programming to community screenings outside of the festival, which reaches over 3,000 youth residents within the community. The Eccles Foundation also offers student screenings throughout the year, and Sundance provides free tickets to students to attend programs, screenings, and other cultural opportunities within Salt Lake County. Furthermore, Sundance offers year-round free programming through its Local Lens Program to residents regardless of age. The County's support has been critical in enabling Sundance to provide this enriching programming.

Council Member Granato stated initially she was willing to cut this, but has since learned of this community outreach, which makes it possible for school children to attend activities and benefits the community in many ways.

Council Member Bradley stated the film festival provides a significant economic boost to the community, as it brings people in from out of town who spend money in the County. Sundance's very presence in Utah impacts the economy, as it is the number one film festival in the United States. What it provides to the community comes back in acres.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she supported this contribution to Sundance. Sundance brings tourism dollars into Utah, and the TRT Fund is funded by tourists, so the film festival is a good use of those funds.

Council Member Stringham stated she was interested in continuing this contribution, which allows youth and families to experience independent film makers here locally.

Council Member Alvord stated it can be argued that everything in the budget provides value to the taxpayers. However, he would prefer to put TRT funds toward public safety, where possible.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to cut the \$150,000 contribution to Sundance Film Festival.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Bradley, seconded by Council Member Granato, to approve the allocation of \$150,000 to the Sundance Institute. The motion carried 7 to 2, with Council Members Alvord and Stewart voting “Nay.”

ARPA Fund - Salt Lake County Center of Opportunity Partnership (CO-OP) Program

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Theodore, to cut the \$2.9 million for the Co-op Program and return the funds to the General Fund.

Council Member Alvord stated he would make the same argument that these funds were transitional and could be used for public safety.

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, stated this program is intended to help opportunity businesses, which are businesses owned by women and individuals of color, so they can be contributing businesses within the community. The County acts as a matchmaker, helping these businesses connect to service providers, such as bookkeepers, and others who help them understand their needs. This program using ARPA funds has helped the capacity of some of those organizations to grow.

Council Member Stringham stated this program has been effective in helping businesses become self-sufficient, which is what government should be doing, especially when ARPA money was intended for that purpose. The ARPA money has an end date, at which time it will have at least helped this program run its course.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she did not feel good about pulling the rug out from this program when it was working.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Theodore, to cut the \$2.9 million for the Co-op Program and restore the money to the General Fund. The motion failed 3 to 6, with Council Members Stringham, Bradley, Harrison, Bradshaw, Granato, and Winder Newton voting “Nay.”

County Lobbyists

Council Member Alvord proposed moving the County’s lobbyists from the Mayor’s

Administration to the Council Office as either employees or contracted lobbyists. That would entail cutting the Mayor's contract budget by \$280,000. A couple of years ago, he asked to meet with the lobbyists, but that request was never honored. The lobbyists should be available to the Council, as policy makers of the County, and the Council should know who they were. Not being given that privilege made him think the lobbyists did not work for the Council. The Council should have more influence over the lobbying, and the only way he saw to achieve that was to move them into the Council Office.

Ms. Kara Trevino, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Council Office, apologized the meeting was never achieved, but she could try to arrange that. The lobbyists are valuable to the County, and their contracts have been flat since former Mayor Ben McAdams was in office.

Council Member Bradshaw stated 99 percent of the time, the Council aligned with the Mayor's administration when it went to the Capitol on legislation, and the lobbyists knew what the County wanted to accomplish there. He got nervous bringing more employees into the Council Office, because that had not always gone well in the past.

Council Member Bradley stated it would be a mistake for the Council to have that direct relationship with the lobbyists. The Council gives direction to the administration and the County lobbyists now by voting on the annual weekly updates from Ms. Trevino and giving her direction.

Council Member Stewart stated lobbying is a legislative function; not an administrative function. The lobbyist contracts should be moved under the legislative office within the County.

Council Member Stringham stated if the lobbyists were under contract for 2024, the Council could not move them this year.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated the Mayor's Office has contracts with each of the lobbyists and their terms are different. There is a non-funding clause in the contracts, so the Council could exercise that if it chose not to fund them. What she was hearing today was not a question of representation or whether or not the lobbyists were effective, which they absolutely were, but that relationships needed to be built between the Council Members and the lobbyists. Rather than creating a whole new system, she suggested fixing that relationship. Also, the executive administers the government and that includes administering contracts, so moving the lobbyists into the Council Office would not be a completely clean move, so she would

want to talk to legal counsel about that.

Council Member Alvord stated since the Mayor's Office is involved in hiring the lobbyists, it would have an inordinate influence over the lobbyists' behavior that could undermine the Council 's opinion if it was in opposition to what the Mayor wanted.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to move the County's lobbyists from the Mayor's Administration to the Council Office as either employees or contracted lobbyists. The motion failed 2 to 7, with Council Members Stringham, Bradley, Harrison, Bradshaw, Granato, and Winder Newton, voting "Nay."

Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

Council Member Alvord stated he wanted to cut the Kem Gardner Policy Institute contribution under the spirit of a constrained budget. His office received an email from Rod Kitchens, Director of Budget and Planning, Mayor Finance, informing him the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute does a state analysis that is publicly available, and that the County would still be able to make its projections on growth and the budgets without the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to cut the \$50,000 contribution to the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute for the membership, and the \$50,000 contribution for the research collaboration.

Council Member Stewart stated the County could go out to a request-for-proposal (RFP) to explore potential other solutions. The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute is not the only organization that provides this information, so by putting it out for an RFP, the County could get a different perspective.

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, stated the County has an interlocal agreement with Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, but Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute does not respond to RFPs. The membership has been incredibly valuable in terms of getting access to information, including dozens of subscriptions. Then, the research collaboration has been critical to her office in the past by providing research.

Council Member Stringham asked if the County could still use the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute if it went out to RFP for the research collaboration piece.

Ms. Blaes stated she would put it out for a request-for-information (RFI), rather than an RFP. With an RFP, there is an expectation it would result in a contract. With an RFI, respondents would let the County know what they could provide and the pricing to do that. That way, the County could compare responses with what the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute provides.

Council Member Stewart amended the motion to cut the \$50,000 to the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute for research collaboration and go out for an RFI or RFP for that service, but hold the funds to see what response the County got.

Council Member Winder Newton asked to reword the amendment to say the Council would allocate the funds towards data that the County needed, and then have it go out for an RFI.

Council Member Alvord accepted the amendment.

The motion was restated by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to fund the \$50,000 membership to the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, but cut the \$50,000 for the research collaboration and put it out to bid. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

District Attorney's Office Vacant FTEs

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to cut six positions in the District Attorney's Office that are currently vacant and count them towards the District Attorney's contra account: 339 Prosecuting Attorney 3, 496 Prosecuting Attorney 3, 503 Senior Attorney Justice, 505 and 506 Prosecuting Attorney 3, and 509 Senior Attorney Justice.

Council Member Stringham stated these are six vacant positions the District Attorney's Office would use toward its contra, and the Council will reevaluate them in June. If things improve by then, the Council can look at restoring them then. She will also be looking at doing this with other offices January through March, with the intent of finding long-term savings.

Ms. Bridget Romano, Deputy District Attorney, stated if the Council operationalized this the way Council Member Stringham was proposing, it would be controlling how the District Attorney's Office met its contra account; whereas, all the other agencies were able to control how they met their contra accounts by managing their under expend with the vacant FTEs they had now or that might come up throughout the year. Not allowing the

District Attorney's Office that same flexibility was of great concern.

Mr. Ralph Chamness, Deputy District Attorney, stated these positions would have been filled had it not been for the Mayor's hiring freeze proposal. When the Mayor proposed that at the end of October, the District Attorney's Office stopped proceeding forward with hiring these positions. Cutting these positions and having that cut count toward the District Attorney's contra account would mean the District Attorney's Office could not fill attorney positions. The District Attorney's Office is understaffed because it was not able to hire attorneys until the Council approved compensation increases. If the Council approved this, he worried what it would do to morale as well as public safety. The current attorneys' caseloads are overwhelming now. The District Attorney's Office intends to meet its contra, so he asked that the Council not approve the motion.

Council Member Winder Newton stated this puts the District Attorney's Office in the position of having to do some sort of hiring freeze so it can meet its contra. Right now, the County is getting tremendous pressure to solve a lot of the issues related to homelessness and behavioral health, and cutting prosecutors could become a bottleneck for some of those issues. She was not willing to cut the positions for that reason and because the contra account would effectively prevent it from hiring anyway. She would be voting no on the motion.

Council Member Theodore stated she supported the law enforcement aspect of County government and would hate to do anything to prohibit the Sheriff and District Attorney from doing what they needed to do.

Council Member Bradshaw stated the contra account is going to be a significant burden on all the elected offices, so he would like to ensure they have the flexibility to choose which vacancies they want to use throughout the year to meet their obligation.

A motion was made by Council Member Stringham, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to cut six positions in the District Attorney's Office that are currently vacant and count them towards the District Attorney's contra account: 339 Prosecuting Attorney 3, 496 Prosecuting Attorney 3, 503 Senior Attorney Justice, 505 and 506 Prosecuting Attorney 3, and 509 Senior Attorney Justice. The motion failed 4 to 5, with Council Members Bradley, Harrison, Bradshaw, Theodore, and Winder Newton voting "Nay."

National Association of Counties (NACo) Membership

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Stewart, to cut the County's \$20,000 NACo membership.

Council Member Stringham asked if any independent elected officials relied on this membership.

Ms. Dina Blaes, Director, Office of Regional Development, stated her office relies a lot on NACo to help it understand if its policies are following best practices within the nation and learning from other urban counties.

Council Member Bradshaw stated he was appointed to the NACo Board of Directors by the Utah Association of Counties and could lose his seat if the County was not a member. NACo allows the County collaboration with counties similar to Salt Lake County, and it provides a number of services besides just the conference. For example, it was invaluable in helping the County navigate the American Rescue Plan Act, to understand what was available to apply for and what was allowable. The County gets more than \$20,000 value out of this membership.

Mr. Darrin Casper, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated NACo was extremely valuable in helping the County navigate the ARPA requirements. He met with NACo on several occasions to try to understand the procedures to spend the money.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated that was particularly helpful because the U.S. Department of the Treasury had not expressly stated direction, so everyone was in the dark. The information the County gleaned from NACo by just going to one of the workshops at the NACo conference helped it navigate that.

Ms. Erin Litvack, Deputy Mayor of County Services, stated NACo worked on behalf of all counties to try to make the process better in order to access the funds.

Council Member Alvord withdrew his motion.

Council Member Alvord stated the NACo conference may not be as important as belonging to NACo, but Council Members might as well attend the conference if the Council is going to spend money on dues. He suggested restoring the travel budget for one year, and asked if the Council's budget was already set in stone.

Mr. David Delquadro, Chief Financial Manager, Council Office, stated the Council budget is subject to the same transportation reduction, and operating and personnel reductions as everyone else, and it has a contra account just like all other offices.

Council Member Winder Newton stated she was not in favor of increasing the Council's travel budget, especially when it cut everyone else's in half. If Council Members want to attend the conference, they should control their office budget.

Council Member Harrison stated she was opposed to adding funding for travel to the Council's central budget. The Council should have the same spirit of being frugal and careful with funds as it was asking of all the other offices. Not doing that seemed out of touch to her.

Council Member Stewart stated he attended a NACo conference and did not get much out of it.

A motion was made by Council Member Stewart to add \$10,000 to the Council budget to explore alternate organizations. The motion died for lack of a second.

Final Budget

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, that the Mayor's recommended budget be the default for anything the Council did not fully address or make clear during the budget process; and that the Council's fiscal staff be empowered to make technical corrections to the budget up until its publication on December 5, 2023. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC NOTICES

5.1 Notice of the Following Public Hearings to be Held on [23-1093](#) December 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM:

2024 Salt Lake County Budget and Adjustments to 2023 Salt Lake County Budget:

- Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding the 2024 Salt Lake County Final Budget and Adjustments to the 2023 Salt Lake County Budget.**

Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake County

- Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding the 2024 Budget of the Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake County.**

Salt Lake County Municipal Building Authority

- Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding the 2024**

Budget of the Salt Lake County Municipal Building Authority.

NMTC, Inc. Board

- Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding 2024 Budget of the NMTC, Inc. Board.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[2024 Recommended Budget Resolution - Public Hearing](#)
[BGTHEARNOTICEwURLnPhoneFinal](#)

(Approx. 5 Min.)

6. PENDING LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

6.1 Consideration of Amendments to Salt Lake Countywide Policy No. 1050 [23-1088](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Countywide Policy 1050 \(11-16-23\)\(RAFL\)](#)
[Countywide Policy 1050 \(11-14-23\) Clean](#)

Presenter: Councilwoman Laurie Stringham. Second by Councilwoman Ann Granato. (Approx. 15 Min.)

Discussion/Direction

This agenda item was not discussed.

6.2 A Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Publishing a Recommended Final 2024 Budget for Public Display and Setting a Public Hearing for Consideration of the Final 2024 Budget on December 5, 2023 [23-1092](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[2024 Recommended Budget Resolution - Public Hearing](#)

(Approx. 5 Min.)

Discussion/Direction

RESOLUTION NO. 6152

A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLISHING A RECOMMENDED FINAL 2024 BUDGET FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR

CONSIDERATION OF THE FINAL 2024 BUDGET ON DECEMBER 5, 2023

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council, as required by the Uniform Fiscal Procedures Act for Counties, Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-1, et seq., 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 2024 on or before December 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the required process for adopting the 2024 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 5, 2023, as the appropriate date to hold a public hearing on the 2024 budget; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the required process for adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2024 budget, and pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-11 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;

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 2024, 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 2024 on December 5, 2023, at the hour of 6:00 pm, in the County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State St., N1-100, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114. Council staff shall publish applicable public notice regarding the public hearing as required by Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-12.

3) The County Council hereby designates that copies of the recommended final budget for fiscal year 2024, 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 5, 2023. Copies of the recommended final budget shall also be posted on Salt Lake County's website.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 21st day of November, 2023.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST (SEAL)

By /s/ AIMEE WINDER NEWTON
Chair

By /s/ LANNIE CHAPMAN
County Clerk

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

7. CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7.1 Consideration of a Fee Waiver for Chabad Lubavitch of Utah for Menorah Lightings in Abravanel Hall Plaza from December 7th to 14th, 2023 [23-1083](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Fee Waiver Request - Chabad Lubavitch of Utah 11-6-2023](#)

The vote on this consent item was approved.

7.2 Consideration of a Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Authorizing Execution of Venue Agreement for Use of the Clark Planetarium IMAX Theater [23-1080](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Moodswings-Mesmerica 2023 Memo](#)
[2023 Salt Lake City DEC \(11.07.23\)](#)
[Resolution Authorizing Execution of Venue Agreement](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 6153

A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF VENUE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF
THE CLARK PLANETARIUM IMAX THEATER

RECITALS

A. Salt Lake County (the “County”) on behalf of its Clark Planetarium (“Planetarium”) wishes to enter into the attached “Venue Agreement” (“Venue Agreement”) with Moodswings, LLC (“Moodswings”).

B. The County and Moodswings desire to activate the County’s Northrop Grumman IMAX theater during the 2023 holiday season.

C. For every ticket purchased for the Moodswings event, Moodswings will pay the County \$5.00, with a minimum of \$1,250 per event day, as stated in the Agreement.

D. The Salt Lake County Council has the sole authority to set fees. Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances, 2001 3.42.040(5)(a).

E. County has determined that it is in the public interest to enter into the attached Venue Agreement for the consideration agreed upon and under the terms set forth in the attached Agreement.

F. The Venue Agreement has been prepared for approval and execution by County, which sets forth the purpose of the Agreement, the extent of the

participation of the parties, and the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the parties. Said Agreement is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit “A”.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Salt Lake County Council; the Mayor is hereby authorized to and directed to execute the Venue Agreement attached as Exhibit “A” and by this reference made a part of this Resolution.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to agree to additional dates, in writing, under the same terms and conditions, if the Mayor determines it is in the County’s best interest to do so.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 21st day of November, 2023.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST (SEAL)

By /s/ AIMEE WINDER NEWTON
Chair

By /s/ LANNIE CHAPMAN
County Clerk

The vote on this consent item was approved.

- 7.3 **Appointment of Caitlin Bright (hire date October 30, 2023) as Bail Commissioner Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated Section 17-32-1** [23-1078](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Caitlin Bright - Resume](#)
[Bail Commissioner Appointment Form](#)

The vote on this consent item was approved.

8. APPROVAL OF TAX LETTERS

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Harrison, that the tax letters be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- 8.1 **Tax Administration's Tax Relief Letters** [23-1075](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[7.1 2023 Timely Tax Relief](#)
[7.3 2023 Veteran Exemptions](#)

Presenter: Brad Neff, Tax Administrator, Council-Tax Administration.

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

8.2 Tax Administration's Letters for Hardship Settlements [23-1076](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[7.5 Settlement Adamson, Mechelle, Parcel # 21-15-103-047](#)
[7.5 Settlement Harman, Susan T, Parcel # 27-14-276-004](#)

Presenter: Brad Neff, Tax Administrator, Council-Tax Administration.

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

8.3 Tax Administration's Letters for Deferrals [23-1077](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[7.7 Deferral Oaks, Steven, Parcel # 32-12-432-003 Redacted](#)
[7.7 Deferral Skougard, Timothy Alan, Parcel # 15-30-176-012 Redacted](#)

Presenter: Brad Neff, Tax Administrator, Council-Tax Administration.

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

8.4 Request for Refund of Overpaid 2023 Personal Property Taxes [23-1087](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[23-9016 Personal Property Tax Refund \\$31,890.53 11.15.23](#)

Presenter: Chris Stavros, Assessor, Assessor's Office.

The vote on this tax letter was approved.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF ETHICS DISCLOSURES

10. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

10.1 Approval of November 7, 2023 County Council Minutes

[23-1090](#)

Attachments: [110723 Council Minutes](#)

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

11. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL

12. PROCLAMATIONS, MEMORIALS, AND OTHER CEREMONIAL OR COMMEMORATIVE MATTERS

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Notice of Cancellation of November 28, 2023, County Council Meeting in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday.

[23-1091](#)

ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM until Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 12:30 PM.

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL