

# **SALT LAKE COUNTY**

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Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
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## **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 3, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, N1-110**

**County Council**

**1. WELCOME - INTRODUCTION****COUNCIL CHAIR RICHARD SNELGROVE**

**Present:** Council Member Shireen Ghorbani  
Council Chair Richard Snelgrove  
Council Member Jim Bradley  
Council Member Arlyn Bradshaw  
Council Member Michael Jensen  
Council Member Ann Granato  
Council Member Steve DeBry  
Council Member Max Burdick  
Council Member Aimee Winder Newton

THIS BEING THE TIME heretofore set for a public hearing to consider the 2020 recommended budget for Salt Lake County.

Copies of the recommended budget and other budget documents were available to the public.

**2. Mayor's Budget Comments**

**Mayor Jennifer Wilson** stated the budget process started in the summer with presentations from elected officials and their teams. It has been a long journey to get here, and she looked forward to the process tonight.

**3. Open Public Hearing - Citizen Input**

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

The following citizens spoke against the tax increase due to the amount of increases over the years, Salt Lake County being the highest tax burden of all the urban counties; the number of tax entities on the tax bill that are increasing taxes, and the need to consolidate those public hearings; and because people were on fixed incomes, were already burdened with their own needs, did not understand why taxes were going up considering the number of apartments and homes being built, and were concerned that property values were not justifiable. Suggestions were made to be more accountable with taxpayer money and live within the County's means like the citizens and other businesses have to do; look for cuts in all the departments; reduce programs funded by the General Fund; do away with unnecessary programs, such as trails, cultural arts, while sustaining the programs necessary for basic food, shelter, and criminal justice needs; be more creative in funding

programs, such as using tourism dollars for certain things or putting a cap on the percentage tax could be increased each year; and stop expanding government:

**Ken Parr**

**Eugene Sorensen**

**Steve Roper**

**Rusty Cannon, Utah Taxpayers Association**

**Jesse Vanway**

**Christine Hansen**

**Eugene Hardy**

**Douglas Peterson**

**Linda Carroll**

**Corrie Southworth**

**Benan Zahawi**

**Ilene Colby**

**Bill Hoggan**

**Ted Wiggins**

**Tyler Dustin, Fortress Group**

**Oliver Iotcovici**

**Sean Beglarian**

**Vickie Panek**

**John Petersen**

**Keri? Goff? (unable to understand)**

**Tom Clark**

**Dan Demuri**

**Leslie Haarup**

**Earl Miller**

**Joyce Riley**

**Theron Pollard**

**Sheila Dixon**

**Beverly Crangle**

**Bob Clark**

**Alyson Johnson**

**Mike Laws**

**Stacy Norton**

**Ms. Erin Kennely** stated thousands of women across this valley are sexually assaulted every year. On July 30, 2016, she was sexually assaulted. In 2018, she met with Sim Gill,

District Attorney, to see what his plans were to handle the rape kit backlog. His proposal was to ask for an increase in prosecutors, but now, the Council intends to decimate that proposal. This is an area that needs desperate attention. Out of every 100 women, only 12 report being raped because of the system. It has been three-and-a-half years since she was raped, yet the rapist has just been bound over for trial. She deserved justice.

**Ms. Rosalba Dominguez**, elected Council Member, Murray City, spoke in support of the tax increase because she had children in school and met with families her age who supported a tax increase. However, she was concerned with the lack of knowledge about resources that the County provides.

**Mr. Steve Van Maren** stated his concern was the need for more open space without bonding for it. He asked the Council to consider using proceeds from land sales for open space.

#### 4. Close of Public Hearing

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

**Mayor Wilson** spoke in response to a couple comments stating the County has not raised taxes since 2013. and a lot of what people are seeing on their tax bill are taxes from other entities. The County tax increase is \$11 for \$100,000 in valuation. That increase is because the Clerk's Office is administering a presidential election this year, which is more costly; the State expanded the courts to keep up with prosecution; the District Attorney's Office needs to be able to prosecute the sexual and domestic violence cases; pay was increased for people working in the jail because the jail was losing employees due to low pay and harsh conditions; and a pay adjustment was made for County employees in order to retain them.

The budget is not unethical or dishonest. Cuts were made, but a decision was made not to cut significant services. The Council votes on the budget right before the holidays because it is on a calendar budget cycle and has to have a budget in place in 2020. As to valuation increases, homeowners cannot capture that value until a later date. If she was reelected, she would work with the Council to find additional efficiencies in the future and solutions for people on fixed incomes.

#### 5. Council Comments

**Council Member Snelgrove** stated the Council has examined the budget looking for additional efficiencies and debated the issues. Each Council Member looks at things from a different perspective, and will do what they think is in the best interest of the people they serve.

**Council Member Newton** stated the County's logo is on top of the property tax notice; however, it collects taxes for 72 different government entities, the largest tax of which is probably the school district. Some other taxing entities besides the County are cities, water districts, mosquito abatement districts, and other taxing entities. The County does have a tax increase on the table this year, but other entities are adjusting their tax rates too. Then, the County cannot collect taxes on new growth. It cannot collect more than it budgeted for due to the truth in taxation laws in the state.

**Council Member Ghorbani** suggested taxpayers visit the Treasurer's website to see what programs were available to help with taxes. The County's Aging and Adult Services Division also provides assistance to people helping them stay in their homes and providing meals.

**Council Member DeBry** stated the Council did cut the Mayor's proposed budget by \$6.5 million, a 10 percent decrease. He could not go below that threshold because he could not shutter the jail. Deputies were quitting and those who stayed were already working overtime. He did not want to shut down senior centers, the Meals on Wheels program, recreation centers, or libraries either. There were also unfunded mandates passed down by the State, and the County needed to pay its employees a fair market wage to retain them.

**Council Member Granato** stated departments and divisions did make the most of every dollar. The Sheriff offered to find \$200,000 within her budget to compensate employees, and the Information Technology (IT) Division found a creative solution for staying on top of IT needs.

**Council Member DeBry** stated he had some additional changes to the budget.

A motion was made by Council Member DeBry, seconded by Council Member Jensen, to add a contra account to each new FTE in the budget of 25 percent of value of that FTE, excluding grant positions, prorated positions, and transfer positions.

**Council Member DeBry** stated that will provide 75 percent of the funding at the beginning of the year and give each office and department the opportunity to provide an

update in June. Then, changes could be made to each offices' budget before the end of the year if circumstances required it.

**Council Member Bradley** asked what that would do to the structural balance.

**Mr. Darrin Casper**, Deputy Mayor of Finance and Administration, stated he did not believe that would impact the structural balance. It would be a one-time savings in the budget of approximately 25 percent for new FTEs, so would probably accrue in fund balance. At the end of the day, it would enable a capital project or something.

**Council Member Bradshaw** asked if the funding would be made whole for new FTE positions filled in the first quarter of the year.

**Council Member DeBry** stated yes, that was his intent.

A motion was made by Council Member DeBry, seconded by Council Member Jensen, to add a contra account to each new FTE in the budget of 25 percent of value of that FTE, excluding grant positions, prorated positions, and transfer positions. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Council Member Jensen** stated he wanted to support the Special Victims Unit in the budget to address domestic and sexual violence and the backlog of rape kits. That is a top priority of the Council, Mayor's Office, and District Attorney's Office. However, once the Council funds allocations, it has no control that the money will be used for the intended purpose.

A motion was made by Council Member Jensen, seconded by Council Member DeBry, to fund six FTEs for the District Attorney's Office, but only give him four of the FTEs at this time and hold funding for the other two; and to ask the District Attorney to give the Council updates on a regular basis on how the Family Protected Unit and Special Victims Unit were blending and getting up to speed, and updates on how the hiring was going and where people were being moved over from because the Council felt this area was a top priority and wanted to make sure those attorneys were dedicated to those two units; and then at a future date, the Council would make a determination whether to approve the other two attorneys.

**Council Member Ghorbani** stated she was very uncomfortable with this proposal because it says to victims they have to wait for justice. She asked if the intent was for all six positions to be available this year.

**Council Member Jensen** stated all six will be funded, but he wanted to make sure the money went to the priorities the Council intended it to go to. He did not want the funding

to go somewhere else in the District Attorney's Office.

**Council Member Bradley** stated it seemed burdensome to second guess or micro-manage the District Attorney. He was freely elected, and he has done an excellent job.

**Mr. Sim Gill**, District Attorney, stated he could fill those six positions before the year was over. He has had to cannibalize experienced attorneys from his Homicide Unit to cover for the caseload changes for the Special Victims Unit. He would come before the Council to report on the progress because he was mindful of the Council's oversight, but he needed flexibility to address other issues as well

**Council Member Bradley** stated he would be making a substitute motion.

**Council Member DeBry** asked for a recess so he could review this.

**Mr. Mitchell Park**, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated in order to recess, the Council will have to vote on a substitute motion first, and then make a motion to recess.

**Council Member Bradley** withdrew from making a substitute motion.

A motion was made by Council Member DeBry, seconded by Council Member Bradley, to recess the meeting for five minutes. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting went into recess.

The meeting reconvened.

**Council Member Snelgrove** asked Council Member Jensen to restate his motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Jensen, seconded by Council Member DeBry, to fund six FTEs for the District Attorney's Office, but only give him four of the FTEs at this time and hold funding for the other two; and to ask the District Attorney to give the Council updates on a regular basis on how the Family Protected Unit and Special Victims Unit were blending and getting up to speed, and updates on how the hiring was going and where people were being moved over from because the Council felt this area was a top priority and wanted to make sure those attorneys were dedicated to those two units; and then at a future date, the Council would make a determination whether to approve the other two attorneys. The motion passed 5 to 4, with Council Members Ghorbani, Bradley, Bradshaw, and Granato voting in opposition.

A motion was made by Council Member DeBry, seconded by Council Member Bradshaw, to amend the 2020 budget to provide a .75 FTE to the Mayor so she can hire a community outreach specialist to provide administrative services for the unincorporated County. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Council Member Bradshaw** explained the Council did not have the full budget for the Municipal Services District before. This is not General Fund money; this is just unincorporated residents' taxes.

**Council Member Jensen** stated Criminal Justice Services currently has a 60/40 contra account for new employees.

A motion was made by Council Member Jensen, seconded by Council Member Debry, to change Criminal Justice Services' contra account for new FTEs to 75/25 to reflect the previous motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**6. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF SALT LAKE COUNTY BUDGET RESOLUTION AND 2020 BUDGET, 2019 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS, AND PROPOSED TAX INCREASE**

- 6.1 A Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Levying an Ad Valorem Tax Rate That Exceeds Salt Lake County's Certified Tax Rate; Adopting a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 for Salt Lake County Offices, Departments, and Agencies, Including Proposed Tax Revenues, Budget Appropriations, and Personnel Allocations; Adopting Compensation Adjustments for County Officials and Employees; Adopting Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget; Certifying Compliance With Certain Requirements of Utah Statute and Salt Lake County Ordinance; and Related Matters** [19-1398](#)

**Salt Lake County 2020 Final Budget**

**Salt Lake County 2019 Final Budget Adjustments**

**Attachments:** [Staff Report](#)  
[Final 2020 Budget Resolution \(004\)](#)  
[Attachment A - 2020 Budget](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 5674



A RESOLUTION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX RATE THAT EXCEEDS SALT LAKE COUNTY'S CERTIFIED TAX RATE; ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 FOR SALT LAKE COUNTY OFFICES, DEPARTMENTS, AND AGENCIES, INCLUDING PROPOSED TAX REVENUES, BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS, AND PERSONNEL ALLOCATIONS; ADOPTING COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES; ADOPTING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET; CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF UTAH STATUTE AND SALT LAKE COUNTY ORDINANCE; AND RELATED MATTERS

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

WHEREAS, Salt Lake County, as required by the Uniform Fiscal Procedures Act for Counties, Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-15, shall adopt by resolution the final budget for fiscal year 2020 on or before December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Mayor and the County Council have caused to be prepared three variants of the 2020 budget, respectively: the tentative, the Mayor's proposed, and the Council's recommended budget, each of which have been reviewed and discussed in public meetings, and which have met all legal requirements; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the budget process and consistent with Utah Code Ann. § 59-2-919(3)(a), the Salt Lake County Mayor stated at a properly noticed public meeting held on October 22, 2019 - which meeting occurred 14 or more days before the 2019 general municipal election - intent to levy a tax rate that exceeds Salt Lake County's certified tax rate, including the dollar amount of and purpose for additional ad valorem tax revenue, and the approximate percentage increase in additional ad valorem tax revenue (a proposed 8.74% increase); and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Mayor and Council provided timely

public notice for a public hearing concerning Salt Lake County's intent to levy a tax rate that exceeds Salt Lake County's certified rate on December 3, 2019, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., and also provided all necessary additional public notices and legal advertisements concerning the public hearing, as required by Utah Code Ann. § 59-2-919; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council provided timely public notices for a public hearing on the adoption of Salt Lake County's final budget for fiscal year 2020 on December 3, 2019, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., as required by Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-12; and

WHEREAS, the required public hearing concerning Salt Lake County's intent to levy a tax rate that exceeds Salt Lake County's certified tax rate may be held in conjunction with the required public hearing on the adoption of Salt Lake County's final budget for fiscal year 2020, pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 59-2-919(3)(a)(v)(B); and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2019, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., the Salt Lake County Council held a public hearing on Salt Lake County's final budget for fiscal year 2020 that conformed with all necessary requirements of Utah Code Ann. §§ 17-36-13 and 59-2-919(8); and

WHEREAS, at the December 3, 2019, public hearing the Salt Lake County Council received public comment on the recommended budget, and all interested persons had an opportunity to be heard for or against the estimates of revenue and expenditures and performance data or any item in any fund, as well as an opportunity to present oral testimony concerning Salt Lake County's intent to levy a tax rate that exceeds Salt Lake County's certified tax rate; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council finds it necessary to levy an ad valorem tax rate that exceeds Salt Lake County's certified tax rate; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council finds it necessary to make certain adjustments to the recommended budget and now desires to adopt a final budget for fiscal year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council has reviewed a financial plan for the expenditure of bond proceeds and funds for capital improvements projects and related matters, which plan includes reimbursement to the

County from bond proceeds for expenditures made or incurred on those projects prior to the issuance of their related bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council desires to adopt a salary plan which will provide for compensation adjustments to elected officials and employees, and which is and has been a part of the budget and public hearings and notice concerning that budget; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council desires to adopt certain adjustments to the 2019 fiscal year budget; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Lake County Council desires to make contributions to certain non-profit entities to assist those entities in providing services to Salt Lake County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Salt Lake County Council that:

- 1) The Salt Lake County Council, acting as the County legislative body, intends to levy a tax rate in 2020 that exceeds the certified tax rate for the 2020 budget year. The Salt Lake County Council intends to levy additional ad valorem tax revenue for the 2020 budget year that exceeds the 2019 budgeted ad valorem tax revenue for certain countywide funds. The amount of additional ad valorem tax revenue being levied is \$15,950,000.00, exclusive of new growth. This amount of additional ad valorem tax revenue does not exceed the proposed increased dollar amount and percentage increase that were previously announced and legally noticed by Salt Lake County.
- 2) The Salt Lake County Council, acting as the County legislative body, hereby adopts an overall final budget for fiscal year 2020 for Salt Lake County offices, departments, and agencies, as more specifically described in Attachment A and its Addendum to this Resolution, including specific budgets for fiscal year 2020 for Salt Lake County's particular funds and accounts, and also adopts proposed tax revenues for fiscal year 2020 for the funds and accounts indicated above.
- 3) The Salt Lake County Council hereby adopts personnel allocations for County offices, departments, and agencies, effective for fiscal year 2020 as more specifically provided in Attachment A.

- 4) The Salt Lake County Council hereby adopts salary compensation adjustments for elected officials, employees, and exempt employees, effective for fiscal year 2020 as more specifically provided in Attachment A.
- 5) The Salt Lake County Council hereby approves and adopts fee changes presented and approved during its budget meetings and hearings, and as reflected in the revenue totals set forth in Attachment A.
- 6) The Salt Lake County Council hereby approves final year-end adjustments to the 2019 fiscal year budget, as more specifically described in Attachment B and its Addendum to this Resolution.
- 7) The County Mayor is directed to provide proof of compliance of all legal requirements necessary to levy the tax rate established in paragraph 1, above, to the Salt Lake County Auditor and Utah State Tax Commission.
- 8) The 2020 budgets adopted as provided in paragraph 2, above, shall be in effect for the next fiscal year, 2020, subject to further amendments as provided by law, and the County Auditor is directed to file, with the State Auditor not later than thirty (30) days hence, certified copies of these final budgets and amendments. Copies of these budgets shall be available at the offices of the County Council, County Mayor, County Clerk, and County Auditor for inspection by the public during business hours.
- 9) The final year-end adjustments to the 2019 fiscal year budget adopted as provided in paragraph 6, above, shall be effective for fiscal year 2019.
- 10) The Salt Lake County Council has provided for monetary assistance to certain non-profit entities in the community in exchange for which the County will receive fair and adequate consideration in that the assistance, individually and collectively, will contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the community at large through the preservation of its cultural heritage, the encouragement of economic development and tourism, the encouragement of the arts, the increase in capacity for services to the disabled, the disadvantaged, the needy, and those receiving social and human services from county supported agencies, and the development of resources to assist and mentor youth.
- 11) The Salt Lake County Council certifies that it has, to the best of its knowledge, exercised due diligence in complying with all public notice and

hearing requirements established by the Uniform Fiscal Procedures Act for Counties, Utah Code Ann. § 17-36-1, et seq., Utah’s truth in taxation process, Utah Code Ann. § 59-2-919, and Salt Lake County’s County Budget Process Ordinance, Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.95.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 3rd day of December, 2019.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST (SEAL)

By /s/ RICHARD SNELGROVE  
Chairperson

By /s/ SHERRIE SWENSEN  
Salt Lake County Clerk

**Council Member Newton** stated she would be voting no on the resolution because there were other proposed cuts of about \$5 million that if cut, would have made this a better budget.

A motion was made by Council Member DeBry, seconded by Council Member Jensen, to approve the resolution. The motion passed 7 to 2, with Council Members Newton and Snelgrove voting in opposition.

**ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM until Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 4:00 PM.

SHERRIE SWENSEN, COUNTY CLERK

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

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CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL