

These are draft minutes and are subject to change until approved by the County Council.

Salt Lake County Council

Committee of the Whole

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

[1:35 PM](#)

Committee Members

Present:

Jennifer Wilson
Richard Snelgrove
Jim Bradley
Arlyn Bradshaw
Michael Jensen
Max Burdick
Aimee Winder Newton, Chair

Excused:

Sam Granato
Steven DeBry

Citizen Public Input

Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, Millcreek, spoke under "Citizen Public Input" delivering a resolution the Millcreek City Council unanimously adopted urging the Salt Lake County Council to authorize the .25 percent Local Option Sales Tax for transportation, pursuant to S.B. 136. This tax would generate approximately \$1 million for Millcreek to use to repair roads.

Mr. George Chapman spoke under "Citizen Public Input" in opposition to the Local Option Sales Tax proposal. He stated the County needed public safety funding more than it needed transit. The revolving door at the jail is ridiculous. The increase of taxes for transportation would benefit maybe 3 percent of the population. Approximately 95 percent of the population is affected by the problem with the jail. The Council decision will affect the vote for the gas tax, which is needed to help fund education.

Mr. Billy Hesterman, Utah Taxpayers Association, spoke under "Citizen Public Input" in opposition to the Local Option Sales Tax proposal. He stated the Utah Taxpayers Association feels that sales tax is not the appropriate way to fund roads. The burden needs to be placed upon the users of the road, so an increase in gas tax or a road user fee would be a more appropriate way to raise the funds needed.

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Review of New Hires

Mr. Brad Kendrick, Budget & Policy Analyst, Council Office, reviewed the following new hires:

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| <u>Agency</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|---|--|
| <i>Public Works Operation Division</i> | Construction Specialist 11 Heavy Equipment Operator 10 |
| <i>Criminal Justice Services Division</i> | Case Manager 14 Treatment Specialist 15 |
| <i>Facilities Services Division</i> | Electrician 13 |
| <i>Surveyor's Office</i> | GIS Specialist 13 |
| <i>Sheriff's Office</i> | Jail Assessment Specialist 10 Construction & Maintenance Specialist II 11 |
| <i>Public Works Engineering Division</i> | Structural Engineer 18 |
| <i>Assessor's Office</i> | Residential Ad Valorem Tax Appraiser 13 |



Little Cottonwood Canyon Transportation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Project

Mr. John Thomas, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Project Manager, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), delivered a PowerPoint presentation relating to the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the various studies that are being done in this area. The PowerPoint presentation highlighted the partnership that UDOT has with other organizations, project background, why improvements are needed, study area, alternatives, and resources. The public comment period ends May 4, 2018. The EIS should be completed in the spring 2020.

Council Member Wilson asked for more information about tolling and how it would affect the canyon.

Mr. Thomas stated one of the primary goals is to get more people up the canyon with fewer vehicles. Tolls would incentivize people to carpool, take transit, or try the shuttle system. Money collected from the toll would be used to create desired behavior and not maximize revenue. If tolling is a viable option, it would create a revenue stream that would support the Forest Service's efforts in building additional restrooms, trails, and trailheads.

Council Member Wilson stated she assumed the tolling process would consider the day of the week, time of day, and season.

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Mr. Thomas stated yes; the cost of the toll would take those issues into consideration.

Council Member Burdick asked if UDOT had engaged the ski resorts in these discussions.

Mr. Thomas stated UDOT is actively working with Alta Ski Area and Snowbird Resort on a couple of concepts. One concept deals with transit and the number of stops made. The concept would be to have one stop at each resort with a pull out, which contains restrooms, lockers, ticket sales, and even food carts. It would allow a better recreation experience for people using transit.

Council Member Snelgrove shared the following observations:

- The 9400 South Highland Drive and 6400 South 10th East park and ride lots are underutilized. These lots could be used as a staging point for mass transit or ride sharing.
- Hitchhiking needs to be a viable option at the mouth of the canyon as well as certain points near the resorts. If pullouts are used, they should be big enough for vehicles to pickup and drop-off hitchhikers.
- Visitors from out-of-state ski multiple resorts. The canyons could be connected using the existing tunnels. Some system such as conveyor belts could be used to transport skiers from one resort to another. This would reduce traffic in the areas.

Council Member Bradley asked if UDOT had received any comments on the proposed EIS study.

Mr. Thomas stated UDOT has received hundreds of comments, which have been very productive. He is very surprised on how civil, informed, and problem solving many of the comments have been.



Proposed Timeline for Implementation of Process for Transportation Deliberation

Mr. Wilf Sommerkorn, Office of Regional Transportation, Housing, and Economic Development, submitted a proposed timeline to be used if the County chooses to impose the sales and use tax to fund highways and public transit. The timeline is contingent upon the County imposing the tax at the earliest possible time.

Ms. Helen Peters, Office of Regional Transportation, Housing, and Economic Development, stated the timeline has a few additions that would need to be made. The full applications from the municipalities would need to be submitted by October 10, after which the selection committee would make a recommendation to the Mayor, who in turn would make the

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recommendation to the Council by the 13th of November. The interlocal agreements would be prepared and out to the municipalities by January 5, 2019.

Council Member Newton stated it was her understanding that the process would be like the Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention (TRCC) Advisory Council, which makes recommendations directly to the Council. She asked that the proposed process be changed to follow the same procedure as the TRCC Advisory Council.

Mr. Sommerkorn stated included in the ordinance is a requirement for a 13-member board to evaluate the process of spending the one-quarter sales tax. He suggested the Council use the same board.

Council Member Newton asked what was the makeup of the 13-member board.

Mr. Sommerkorn stated the County Mayor would make the appointments with the advice and consent of the Council. Six members of the board would be either representatives that sit on the new Transit District Board, or members that have some background in transportation. The other seven members would be mayors or city managers from municipalities throughout the County.

Council Member Newton stated this item will be placed on a future agenda once an updated timeline is ready.

Ms. Peters stated the Office of Regional Transportation, Housing and Economic Development would be happy to work with members of the Council to come up with a list of priorities for road projects.

Council Member Newton stated Council Senior Policy Advisors, Sam Klemm and Nic Dunn have expressed interest in working on this.



Ordinance Regarding Optional Sales & Use Tax to Fund Highways and Public Transit

The Council reviewed an ordinance, which would impose an Optional Sales and Use Tax to fund highways and public transit. (Final adoption of the ordinance will be considered at the Tuesday, May 1, 2018, Council Meeting.)

Council Member Jensen stated this ordinance relates to S.B. 136 and the imposition of a sales and use tax to fund highways and public transit. The proposed ordinance gives municipalities the authority to determine if they want to impose the tax. If 67 percent (super majority) of the municipalities have not adopted a resolution in support of the tax by June 22, 2018, the tax would not be imposed by this ordinance. Salt Lake County, as the regional government, would not take a position on the imposition of this tax. It would only act as the conduit

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and let the municipalities decide. If the tax is not imposed by 2022, then the State would impose it.

The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) is finding that more and more citizens want a different mode of transportation, such as transit, electric cars, bicycles, and walking. The gas tax is not sufficient to pay for these new modes of active transportation.

Council Member Newton stated if a super majority of the residents pass this by June 22, 2018, it would immediately go into effect. This gives the citizens as much time as possible to decide, while allowing time for the Clerk's Office to verify the percentage and get with the Tax Commission to implement this tax.

Council Member Snelgrove stated he is opposed to this ordinance and would be voting against it. S.B. 136 gives the County the option to impose the tax unilaterally without placing it back on the ballot. If it were to be placed back on the ballot, the State fears it would not pass again. He did not like that \$50 million from this tax would be used to rebrand the Utah Transit Authority. This bill gives Salt Lake County the ability to impose the tax with little or no accountability, no one takes responsibility for raising taxes, and everyone has plausible deniability. This sets a bad precedent; it is bad public policy.

Council Member Wilson stated she was in favor of this ordinance due to the quality of life benefit and the economic benefit. The County needs to find a way to fund transportation projects. This is not an accountability issue, in fact, everyone is showing accountability – the Legislature gave the County the ability to impose the tax and the County is asking the municipalities to be accountable by indicating if they want the tax imposed.

Council Member Bradshaw stated he would support this ordinance. The Legislature has already imposed the tax, which would take effect in 2022 if the County does not act before that time. The benefit of an earlier implementation is reason enough for him to move forward now.

Council Member Bradley stated he would support this ordinance. There are other critical needs in the County, but that is still a battle to be fought. Transportation and transit are high priorities of the County.

Council Member Burdick stated he would vote in favor of this ordinance. The tax has already been imposed by the State, this would implement the tax earlier for the benefit of the citizens by paying down debt service and improving highways. The Council is looking to the cities to see if they are on board with the early implementation.

Council Member Newton stated she would support this ordinance. This is about local control. The cities within Salt Lake County know best what they need, they know their transportation needs, and what the citizens want. If this does not go into effect by the County, then the State will implement it.

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Council Member Jensen stated the Council has always said that the government closest to people speak for them the best. This ordinance gives the opportunity to municipalities to decide. If there is not a super majority it would not go into effect. If a super majority is not in favor of the tax, the County can still put it on the ballot for citizens to decide.

Council Member Jensen, seconded by Council Member Bradshaw, moved to approve the ordinance and forward it to the 4:00 p.m. Council meeting to be introduced. The motion passed 6 to 1 with Council Member Snelgrove voting in opposition.



Behavioral Health Area Plan

Ms. Karen Crompton, Director, Human Services Department, stated this is the annual review of the Behavioral Health Area Plan. As the County mental health authority, the Council is responsible for signing off on this plan.

Mr. Tim Whalen, Director, Behavioral Health Services Division, delivered a PowerPoint presentation relating to the 2019 Behavioral Health Area Plan. He reviewed the definition and timeline of the area plan, organization chart, mental health and substance abuse programs, and the process by which funding is distributed throughout the behavioral health system, and new and notable achievements.

Council Member Wilson asked when Optum's contract expires and how often it is renewed.

Mr. Whalen stated the County did an initial four-year contract with Optum and it is renewable every two years. The next renewal is in 2020. Optum provides 24/7 in-patient care. The County is on a pre-paid status with it. The County pays a set amount for care and then Optum manages the Medicaid benefit. Optum also indemnifies the County against risk, accepts the prepaid rate, and then manages the network of providers, pays the providers, and works with Salt Lake County to make sure the services are taking place.

Council Member Newton asked if that was the best way to go or would it be better on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Whalen stated a lot is gained by having a prepaid plan. If services are managed well, there is money left over at the end of the year to invest in additional services. Fee for service is very expensive.

Council Member Newton stated it is not likely the County will have a decrease in the need for mental health care.

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Mr. Whalen stated he agreed. This is especially true since suicide with youth is on the rise.

Council Member Wilson asked if all the County's mental health crisis services were provided by UNI.

Mr. Whalen stated yes.

Council Member Wilson stated not long ago the Council discussed integrating behavioral health and physical health care within the Intermountain Health Care system. She asked the status of that plan.

Mr. Whalen stated there is still a lot of conversation around that issue. Integration at the highest level is at the payer level. That would look something like the Department of Health contracting with Select Health to manage all Medicaid patients in the County, both physical health and behavioral health. Currently, the County is carving out the behavioral health portion. However, there is a lot of conversation nationally about eliminating carve outs. The challenge is that most physical health providers are not set up to deal with the hard to treat populations, like hardcore substance users. During the previous discussion, the Council supported the Governor's Healthy Utah plan, but that never came to pass.

Council Member Newton asked if some sort of integration could be done within the existing system.

Mr. Whalen stated yes, but that scares a lot of counties. Because Salt Lake contracts with Optum, that is an option. Such a move would add a lot of administrative work for most counties.

Council Member Wilson asked about the choices between Methadone, Vivitrol, or no medication at all to treat substance withdrawal.

Mr. Whalen stated that is a decision made between the therapist, doctor, and patient.

Council Member Newton stated there are certain providers that meet the qualifications to be included in the behavioral health network. The County has delegated that responsibility to Optum. She had concerns about one provider making a call like that.

Mr. Whalen stated Optum has accreditation standards and network accessibility. If there is some provider that is not included that should be, they can have that conversation.

Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Burdick, moved to adopt the FY2019 Behavioral Health Area Plan and forward it to the 4:00 p.m. Council

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meeting for ratification. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.

Council Member Burdick stated during the April 17, 2018, Board of Equalization meeting, the Council discussed its charity plan review. They spoke about talking to Intermountain Health Care about working together to share data. That was received positively, and the Council recommended they contact Mr. Whalen. He hoped Behavioral Health Services could make something happen with that.

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CLOSED SESSIONS – Real Estate Matters

Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Burdick, moved to close the open session of the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss real estate matters. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.

The Council reopened the meeting by motion during the closed session.

Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Wilson, moved to direct the Real Estate Section to move forward with the projects as discussed and to bring the resolutions back before the Council next week. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.

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CONSENT AGENDA:

Gifts to Salt Lake County

The Council reviewed the following gifts to Salt Lake County. The Declaration of Gift forms have been placed on the Council agenda for ratification:

Animal Services Division

Kelly Lawson has offered to donate dog and cat treats, food, beds, leashes, collars and toys. The estimated value of this gift is \$2,500.

Lauren McMullin has offered to donate 102 new dog coats and 8 bandanas. The estimated value of this gift is \$1,546.

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Associated Foods has offered to donate 50 20-pound bags of dog food and 10 bags of cat food. The estimated value of this gift is \$1,070.

Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Bradley, moved to accept the gifts and forward the Declaration of Gift forms to the 4:00 p.m. Council meeting for ratification. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.



Resolutions

The Council reviewed the following resolutions and agreements. The resolutions authorizing execution of the agreements have been placed on the Council agenda for final approval and execution:

Resolutions and Agreements

Housing Authority of the County of Salt Lake regarding transfer of \$10,000 of County funds to provide training for community based non-profit organizations.

Cottonwood Heights City regarding the transfer of Corridor Preservation Funds.

Bluffdale City regarding the transfer of Corridor Preservation Funds.

Salt Lake City Corporation regarding County District Attorney administration and management of City Prosecutor's Office.



Resolution

Salt Lake County Landfill regarding the "Buck a Bucket" program, discount price at the landfill.

Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Bradley, moved to approve the resolutions and agreements and forward them to the 4:00 p.m. Council meeting for ratification. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.

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Board Appointment

Mayor Ben McAdams submitted a letter requesting the Council's advice and consent to the reappointment of **Tanja Kari** as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to serve a three-year term. Her term will begin April 24, 2018, and will end April 23, 2021.

Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Bradley, moved to approve the reappointment and forward it to the 4:00 p.m. Council meeting for ratification. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.

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Tax Matters

The Council reviewed the tax matters, which will be placed on the Council agenda for ratification.

Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Bradley, moved to approve the tax matters and forward them to the 4:00 p.m. Council meeting for ratification. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.

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Other Business

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Bradley, moved to approve the April 10, 2018, and April 17, 2018, Committee of the Whole minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Jensen was absent for the vote.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 P.M.

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Chair, Committee of the Whole

Deputy Clerk

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