

SALT LAKE COUNTY

*2001 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
(385) 468-7500 TTY 711*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

2:15 PM

Room N2-800

Council Work Session

1. CALL TO ORDER**Present**

Chair Laurie Stringham
Council Member Richard Snelgrove
Council Member Jim Bradley
Council Member Steve DeBry
Council Member Arlyn Bradshaw
Council Member Dave Alvord
Council Member Aimee Winder Newton
Council Member Ann Granato
Council Member Dea Theodore

2. CITIZEN PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Steve Van Maren stated with regard to the Agenda Item 4.3, the transfer of property to Schmidt Body Shop, the assessed valuation is more than six times the sales price. He thought the sales price was fair and that the County needed to get assessed valuation of its properties in alignment with reality.

The following citizens spoke in support of the Joint Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council and the Salt Lake County Mayor supporting a common-sense solution approach to the Utah Department of Transportation's (UDOT) Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identified Gondola B as the preferred alternative to improve transportation in Little Cottonwood Canyon for the following reasons: A survey sent to Sandy City residents showed only 23 percent of respondents were interested in a gondola; the community wants to see a phased approach, which is fiscally conservative; a 2,500 car parking structure at Wasatch Boulevard to ride the gondola will increase development at the mouth of canyon; a gondola will have a long-lasting impact on the canyon, ruining the beauty of it, and permanently destroying the environment, the natural landscapes, the climbing areas, and the species, for which there is no going back; the gondola will overwork a very delicate eco-system; it will impact the watershed, potentially polluting it, and the sensitive watershed has a finite carrying capacity; UDOT said the gondola will bring approximately 2,500 additional people to the canyon every day, so, the sewer system will need upgrading, as it is already at capacity and at times overflowing into the creek; Alta and Snowbird are already at maximum skier capacity making skiing dangers, and a gondola dumping thousands more people into those resorts will impact and overload all the infrastructure; climate change is confronting the canyons - the ski season has already lost months on each end; year-round solutions to improve transportation in the canyons are needed; the gondola will only stop at Alta and Snowbird, and not everyone is a skier; it will not benefit back country users, hikers, and others; it will bypass all the areas that everybody can go to now; the infrastructure to

operate a gondola or lift is extensive; a gondola locks users into one way of getting up and down the canyon; the EIS study, which began in 2018, showing the gondola will cost \$550 million, is grossly underestimated; the gondola will cost \$1 billion now due to inflation, labor shortages, and material shortages; the purpose of the gondola is to bring in outside tourists and investments rather than prioritizing health, sustainability, or the safety of the community and canyon; it will be funded by taxpayer dollars, putting an unnecessary burden on taxpayers; it will only serve tourists and ski resorts, and private corporations and other investors will reap the benefits, not the citizens; there are many other issues facing the County, which this money could go towards; spending this amount of money is incongruent with the conservative fiscal policies and practices of the state of Utah; UDOT has deliberately indicated it will only do the practical solutions if the Legislature were to approve the full \$550 million, out of which \$129 million is the price tag to do snow sheds, enhanced busing, bus facilities, tolling, and expansion of Wasatch Boulevard, and these practical solutions need to be decoupled; community members want to see more busing and disbursed mobility that would allow less traffic congestion at the base of the canyon and provide more opportunities for people to get up the canyon; enhanced busing, tolls, car pools, mobility hubs, and improvements to the road need to be considered before a gondola or widening Wasatch Boulevard; buses can be used year-round and buses that connect to existing public transportation systems serve everyone; common-sense approaches have been used in Europe successfully; and if a gondola did not work out as planned, it would be more expensive to take it down or it would be left to rot and scar the landscape. In addition, citizens spoke against expanding Wasatch Boulevard stating a Fehr & Peers 2018 study, on which the Wasatch Boulevard expansion is based, is faulty; and a 2020 Hales Engineering study based its data for the need to expand Wasatch Boulevard on a ski village of 75 room hotel, 50 homes, and a restaurant, which will add approximately 1,400 daily trips.

Mayor Monica Zoltansky, Sandy City

Zach Robinson, Council Member, Sandy City

Pat Shea, Friends of Alta

Hari Kumar

Ellen Birrell, Council Member, Cottonwood Heights

Jason Erickson

Mosmo Celekey

Brian Keller

Emily Pitch

Claudia Wise

Elle Meru

Savannah McCauley

Mike Marker, Chair, Board of Friends of Little Cottonwood Canyon

Carl Fisher, Executive Director, Save Our Canyons

Chad Evans

Jessica Lance

Holly Christmas

Dylan Bush

Johnny Stanzione

Madison McArthur

Alex Hopp

Patti Hobfoll

Leo Sharp

Ms. Hannah Gorski, Administrative Coordinator, Council Office, submitted comments received via email from the following citizens in support of the Joint Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council and the Salt Lake County Mayor supporting a common-sense solution approach to the Utah Department of Transportation’s (UDOT) Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identified Gondola B as the preferred alternative to improve transportation in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The comments have been distributed to the Council and the Clerk to be filed.

Marika Xydes

Amy Penechar

Hunter Tuesday-Heathfield

Tim Komlos

Teri Dibble

Sheila Gelman

Kirk Nichols

Heather Dance

Carolyn Morrow

Janet Gillette

Michelle Shuman

LeeAnn Diamond

Isaac Lindstrom

Erin Packham

Judith Gooding

Brent Curtis

Deborah Eppstein

Olivia Juarez

Julia Geisler

Diane Cotsonas

Ted Fridirici

Elliott Hansen

Craig Sturm

Martin Gelman

Whitney McCarthy

Riley McGann

Eric Wadley

Steve Stepanek

Lisa Hamann

Richard Whitson

Dennice Marin

Tim Roberts

Michelle Martineau

Jordan Diamond

Ron Barness

Bob Macfarlane

Jay Griffith
Ryan Hunter
Jarek Spencer
Chris Balun
Cheryl Altman
Mary Yedlin
Marjorie McCloy
Holly Christmas
Jake Eiting
Bridgette Meinhold
Patti Hobfoll
James Carlisle

Valoree Dowell
G. M. Roh
Jonathon Nichols
Sabrina King
Jill Thomas
Monte Yedlin
Rochelle Kaplan
Leo Sharp
Dennis Turville
Tim Tingey
Laurie Hillyer

Council Member Winder Newton asked that the following statement emailed by Sandy City Council Members be entered into the minutes. (The email is on file in the Council Clerk's Office.)

Dear Salt Lake County Council Members,

As our colleagues in providing the best possible services and quality of life to our shared constituents, we the undersigned of the Sandy City Council ask for your support on an important Sandy issue.

Sandy is directly impacted by transportation, safety, recreational and environmental considerations relative to Little Cottonwood Canyon. Our residents are heavy users of the canyon, we depend on its water to survive, and we are vulnerable to traffic, safety, and environmental issues within its walls.

Sandy is exceptionally invested in finding a transportation solution that is highly effective, very safe, and environmentally superior. We appreciate the years-long efforts of the subject-matter experts at UDOT to deeply study and evaluate more than a hundred possible solutions. Their work is not yet done. At this juncture, UDOT has isolated a preferred solution, but a final Record of Decision (ROD) won't be forthcoming until sometime after the current public comment period.

Our request to the Salt Lake County Council is simple. Do NOT pass a Resolution recommending that UDOT take the gondola off the table for consideration. We're not taking that action in Sandy. In our city, we want UDOT to fulfill their duty to recommend the best overall solution. Whether that solution gets funded and

implemented, how, and in what phases are later steps.

If we as elected officials can't depend upon UDOT to give us their best expert advice, or worse, if we signal to them that we don't want to hear it, are we fulfilling our obligations to our constituents? We members of the Sandy City Council ask that you stand with us in allowing UDOT to complete their work unimpeded by political messaging. Sandy City depends on good and complete data to make informed decisions. We want to hear UDOT's final ROD and their reasoning. We hope Salt Lake County is our partner in that stance.

Signed,

Brooke D'Sousa, Sandy City Council At-large

Scott Earl, Sandy City Council District 4

Marci Houseman, Sandy City Council At-large

Cyndi Sharkey, Sandy City Council At-large

Alison Stroud, Sandy City Council District 2

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

3.1 Proposed Hire Report / Incentive Plans under \$3,000 / [22-0931](#) Weekly Reclassification Report

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Proposed Hire Report 9-28-2022](#)
[Incentive Plans 9-28-2022](#)
[Weekly Reclassification Update for Council 10-4-2022](#)

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

This agenda item was not discussed.

3.2 Budget Adjustment: Capitol Theater Exterior Caulking [22-0960](#) Replacement by Utilizing Underspent Budgets from Four Other Projects.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[26957 - Capitol Theater Exterior Caulking Project](#)
[26957 - Capitol Theater Caulking cost estimate](#)
[Capitol Theatre Caulking](#)

Presenter: Hoa Nguyen, Council Budget and Policy Analyst (Less than 5 mins)
Discussion/Direction

This agenda item was not discussed; however, it was formally approved in the 4:00 PM Council meeting.

- 3.3 Budget Adjustment: The Assessor's Office Requests to True Up the MCAT Reimbursement Amount from \$140,000 to \$160,000.** [22-0962](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[26954 - MCAT \\$20,000 Reimbursement](#)

Presenter: Hoa Nguyen, Council Budget and Policy Analyst (Less than 5 mins)
Discussion/Direction

This agenda item was not discussed; however, it was formally approved in the 4:00 PM Council meeting.

- 3.4 Budget Adjustment: The Assessor's Office Requests to Move Budgets for the Scanner Group from Their Default Org Code to the Correct Org Code.** [22-0961](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[25963 - Move TL budget to correct Org](#)

Presenter: Hoa Nguyen, Council Budget and Policy Analyst (Less than 5 mins)
Discussion/Direction

This agenda item was not discussed; however, it was formally approved in the 4:00 PM Council meeting.

- 3.5 Budget Adjustment: The Assessor's Office Requests a Consolidation of Operation Budgets from 6 Sub Departments into 1 Sub Department.** [22-0963](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[27007 - Assessor's Budget Consolidation](#)

Presenter: Hoa Nguyen, Council Budget and Policy Analyst (Less than 5 mins)
Discussion/Direction

This agenda item was not discussed; however, it was formally approved in the 4:00 PM Council meeting.

3.6 2023 Medical Insurance Recommendations

[22-0956](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[2023 Medical Insurance Recommendations](#)

Presenter: Sharon Roux, Human Resource Director (Approx. 15 mins)
Discussion/Direction

Ms. Sharon Roux, Director, Human Resources Division, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the 2023 Medical Insurance Recommendations, reviewing the County's medical trends and performance; considerations; and recommendations to use \$2 million from reserves to cover a 5 percent increase and the remaining County funds of 13 percent to maintain the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) at the zero premium for employees and current Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan premiums for the County and employees, increase the employee service reserve charge to organizations to cover a funding gap, and Human Resources to build a 3-5 year strategic plan by end of Q1 2023.

Council Member Newton stated she was willing to support this, but she would like the County to start insurance coverage for new employees on the first day of the month following the day they started work, as that is the industry standard. That would save the County money.

Mr. Mitchell Park, Legal Counsel, Council Office, stated he would need to make sure there is not something in policy precluding that before that could be implemented.

Mr. Ralph Chamness, Chief Deputy District Attorney, stated the District Attorney's Office would want to bring that back to the Council in the proper form.

A motion was made by Council Member Winder Newton, seconded by Council Member Bradley, to approve the recommendations and forward the request to the 4:00 PM Council meeting for ratification, and to find out what the dollar amount would be if the County were to move the insurance date coverage start date for new employees. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TIME CERTAIN 3:00 PM

3.7 Cultural Core Action Plan Implementation Year 5 Overview and Year 6 Proposed Budget and Activity [22-0930](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Cultural Core July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 Contracted Services Budget-Salt Lake County Council Memo Attachment](#)
[Cultural Core-Salt Lake County Memo-Y5 Overview & Y6 Budget & Plan](#)
[PDF Presentation, Cultural Core Year-5 Overview & Year-6 Budget and Plan](#)

Presenter: Robin B. Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director; Matt Castillo, Arts & Culture Division Director; Lucas Goodrich, Cultural Core Program Manager (Approx. 15 mins)

Discussion/Direction

Ms. Robin Chalhoub, Director, Community Services Department, stated Downtown Alliance is here to present on the Cultural Core Action Plan Implementation Year 5 Overview and Year 6 Proposed Budget and Activity.

Mr. Matt Castillo, Director, Arts & Culture Division, gave an overview of the Cultural Core program, which was created and implemented to establish downtown Salt Lake City as a cultural core and draw audiences. It is funded via sales tax increment assessed on the cultural core area in downtown Salt Lake City. He reviewed a history of the program and the contract with Downtown SLC.

Mr. Lucas Goodrich, Program Director, Downtown Alliance, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Blocks, Salt Lake's Cultural Core, Year 5 Overview and Year 6 Budget and Plan, reviewing the Year 6 operating budget of \$500,000, which included investments for programs and events, marketing and promotion, and office and administration; percentages of the cultural core contract allowable annual administration costs, and Downtown SLC Presents Year 6 annual administration costs; advertising; activities; Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute partnership; economic summary of Utah's arts, culture, and entertainment industry; Salt Lake County cultural industry jobs; tax revenue from Salt Lake County's cultural industry; consumer spending by arts and entertainment patrons; cultural core visitation; and heat maps

tracking where people are coming from.

A motion was made by Council Member Snelgrove, seconded by Council Member DeBry, that this agenda item be approved and forwarded to the 4:00 PM Council meeting for ratification. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

3.8 County Auditor Hotline Policy [22-0958](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Reviewed as to Form Auditor Hotline Policy](#)

Presenters: Councilmembers Snelgrove and Bradley (Approx. 15 mins)
Discussion/Direction

This agenda item was not discussed.

3.9 A Joint Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council and the Salt Lake County Mayor Supporting a Common-Sense Solutions Approach to the Utah Department of Transportation's Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement [22-0855](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[UDOT LCC EIS Resolution.9.7.22_RATF](#)

Presenter: Councilmembers Bradley and Granato; Mayor Wilson (Approx. 30 mins)
Discussion/Direction

Council Member Bradley stated the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requires a public process, and the County is a participator in that process. The County has done yeoman's work over the years to protect foothills through ordinances, protect the canyons, and make sure the water purity is there through setbacks from the streams, and this resolution is an important piece of its obligation and responsibility. The purpose of it is to encourage the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to look at alternative resolutions, which the EIS failed to do.

A motion was made by Council Member Bradley, seconded by Council Member Granato, that this agenda item be approved and forwarded to the 4:00 PM Council meeting for ratification. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Council Member DeBry stated he would be voting no on the resolution because he was undecided. However, voting no did not mean he was for the gondola; he just needed more information on how it will impact the canyons and the environment, how people will be moved up and down the canyon, the costs versus the benefits, and the pros and cons of each alternative.

Council Member Alvord stated the gondola may cause some environmental impacts on the short-term, but long-term, wheels and pulleys driven by an electric motor were better environmentally than the exhaust pipes of buses. The gondola will save taxpayer dollars because it can be paid for by those who use it and by those who use the canyon, whereas, the Utah Transit Authority system is an extremely expensive part of the transportation network, as it has to pay for pensions, fuel, and vehicles.

Council Member Theodore read a statement of why the resolution seemed to be premature, strange, and political. She would be voting no on the resolution, not because she endorsed or discounted the gondola, but because the gondola cannot be eliminated as an option, and UDOT should fulfill its duty and finish its work without political messaging.

Council Member Bradshaw stated the Council is the land use authority for these canyons and it has invested so much in the protection of the canyon over the years, so it is absolutely appropriate for the Council to participate in the public comment process. He was in support of the resolution.

Council Member Newton invited Chris McCandless, CW Management Corporation, to come to the table to answer what the \$550 million cost was for and whether the gondola and the busing option would both only stop at the two private ski resorts.

Mr. Chris McCandless, CW Management Corporation, stated he understood the cost of the gondola, including the base station parking structure, is \$391 million. The balance of the \$550 million is for things like the snowshed, widening Wasatch Boulevard, fixing trailheads, hooking bathroom facilities to sanitary systems, etc. Then, both the gondola and bus will only stop at Snowbird and Alta. He also explained what it would cost for an enhanced bus system. The budget put out by UDOT shows it would cost \$14 million to operate the bus during the winter only. The gondola's operational costs would be \$4 million. So, it would cost \$10 million a year more to operate the bus versus the gondola.

Council Member Newton stated she could not support the resolution because it is

inaccurate and misleading. The \$550 million cost is not the cost of the gondola, and the resolution does not say what buses will cost, nor that both the bus and gondola will only stop at the two private ski resorts. In addition, she did not think buses were the solution because people do not want to ride them, nor has she heard about any alternative solutions that have not been tried.

Council Member Snelgrove suggested solutions that could be put in place to negate the necessity of a gondola or expanded bus service. Spending \$1 billion on the gondola is a boondoggle; there is a higher and better use for that money. If the gondola is built, it will bring more people, more traffic, and more congestion. His responsibility is to the people who live here, not the people who want to visit or move here. He was wholeheartedly in support of this resolution.

Mayor Wilson invited Carl Fisher, Executive Director, Save Our Canyons, to the table. It was inappropriate for one side to speak. She wanted to make equal time was given to both sides.

Mr. Carl Fisher, Executive Director, Save Our Canyons, stated UDOT is doing a National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) process, which controls what gets analyzed and what gets excluded, and that process for including or excluding something is called the Purpose in Need. UDOT drew its Purpose in Need statement so narrowly as to exclude other solutions. Dozens of commonsense solutions have been provided to UDOT, yet its response has been “out of scope,” with no discussion about the merits and no engagement about the qualities of the ideas or the values they are seeking to protect. Additionally, UDOT is proposing implementing a \$30 to \$50 toll per day, per car to go into that canyon, once the gondola is built to incentivize people to use the gondola. However, the gondola will not go to places he and his family recreate at. People will be displaced from these canyons for an elite commercialized use. Save Our Canyons is not in favor of the gondola, snowsheds, or widening the road; it is in favor of improving vehicular occupancy, including improvements to the bus system.

Ms. Catherine Kanter, Deputy Mayor of Regional Operations, stated UDOT is scheduled to present on this next week.

A motion was made by Council Member Alvord, seconded by Council Member Theodore, that this agenda item be tabled until next week after the Council hears from UDOT and can have it answer questions. The motion failed by the following votes:

Aye: Council Member Alvord, and Council Member Theodore

Nay: Chair Stringham, Council Member Snelgrove, Council Member Bradley, Council Member DeBry, Council Member Bradshaw, Council Member Winder Newton, and Council Member Granato

A motion was made by Council Member Bradley, seconded by Council Member Granato, that this agenda item be approved and forwarded to the 4:00 PM Council meeting for ratification. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. The motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: Chair Stringham, Council Member Snelgrove, Council Member Bradley, Council Member Bradshaw, and Council Member Granato

Nay: Council Member DeBry, Council Member Alvord, Council Member Winder Newton, and Council Member Theodore

4. CONSENT ITEMS:

A motion was made by Council Member Bradshaw, seconded by Council Member Winder Newton, that the consent agenda be approved and forwarded to the 4:00 PM Council meeting for ratification. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- 4.1 **A Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Accepting a Donation of Real Property from Edge Homes Utah, LLC, to Salt Lake County** [22-0953](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Resolution for Acceptance of Donation of Real Property to County from Edge - RAFL JED \(2\) - \(Rev.3 09.26.22\)](#)
[Donation Agreement & Declaration - Edge Homes](#)

This consent item was approved and forwarded.

- 4.2 **A Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Accepting a Donation of Real Property from Monarch Development of Salt Lake, LLC to Salt Lake County** [22-0954](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Donation Agreement & Declaration - Monarch Development](#)
[Resolution for Acceptance of Donation of Real Property to County from Monarch - RAFL JED - \(Rev.1 09.19.22\)](#)

This consent item was approved and forwarded.

- 4.3 **A Resolution of the Salt Lake County Council Declaring Surplus Real Property and Approving the Conveyance of the Same by Quitclaim Deed to Schmidt Body & Paint, Inc.** [22-0955](#)

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Lucy Ave Resolution - Agreement-QCD- Schmit RAFL JED](#)

This consent item was approved and forwarded.

5. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- 5.1. Internal Business

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 6.1 **Approval of September 20th, 2022 Council Work Session Minutes** [22-0947](#)

Attachments: [092022 CWS Minutes](#)

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

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

SHERRIE SWENSEN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

