



**MINUTES OF A CITY COUNCIL
FY26 BUDGET WORK SESSION
March 12, 2025, at 5:04 PM**

Present

Mayor Julie Fullmer
Councilmember Sara Cameron
Councilmember Jacob Holdaway
Councilmember Mardi Sifuentes
Councilmember Brett Clawson

Absent

Staff Present: City Attorney Jayme Blakesley, Lieutenant Holden Rockwell with the Utah County Sheriff's Office, Community Development Director Morgan Brim, Public Works Director Naseem Ghandour, Parks and Recreation Director Brian Vawdrey, and Deputy City Recorder Tony Lara

Mayor Fullmer began the meeting at 5:04pm

1. WORK SESSION

1.1. City Council Budget Priorities Discussion

The mayor and City Council will discuss their top budget priorities for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. No action will be taken at this time.

- ▶ Mayor Fullmer began a discussion with City Manager Eric Ellis regarding budget priorities that had been discussed during the previous budget retreat.
- ▶ Councilmember Cameron discussed restriping on 300 West to potentially double the parking.
- ▶ Councilmember Sifuentes commented on the skate park meeting. She said that she felt the project had momentum and would like to see it as a priority.
- ▶ Mayor Fullmer commented that she felt a future cemetery is an important part of the city's infrastructure and that she wanted it to also continue to be a priority.
- ▶ Councilmember Holdaway wanted to set a budget line for total spending. He wanted to see cuts and said that he felt it was possible to cut 10-12 percent of the overall budget.
- ▶ Mayor Fullmer explained that she felt the goal of the meeting was not to add anything but to express what needed to be a priority but that she and the rest of the council were open to discuss cuts.

► Councilmember Holdaway explained that by cuts he meant cutting existing spending rather than cutting out future programs. He wanted to see a cut in both communications and HR stating that he felt both of those were overstaffed. He felt both departments were not necessities. Mayor Fullmer expressed concerns over what cutting those departments would look like.

► Councilmember Holdaway gave a list of the cuts he would like to see made. They included the city's contract with XFactor and Sage Consulting. As well as eliminating both the communications and HR departments, explaining that those could potentially be done by contractors instead. He said this could be made possible by having department heads manage social media.

► Additionally, he wanted to see certain capital projects delayed though he did not say specifically which ones. There was a discussion about the building of the fire station and the city hall. As well as a discussion about tax rate increases and funding for the city center project. Councilmember Sifuentes clarified that the increase last year was not to fund construction of the fire house, but rather ongoing costs related to staffing.

► Mayor Fullmer felt that even cutting 10-12 percent would have still resulted in a shortfall and that even with the tax increase from the year before, the city was still unable to fully fund fire operations. She expressed her support for building the city center citing that some staff were working in halls and split among several buildings. She explained that cutting expenses would result in cutting services and she expressed concern that cutting services could impact residence. Councilmember Holdaway expressed concern over future funding as well as the size and location of the proposed city center.

► Councilmember Clawson asked for clarification from Councilmember Holdaway on the building of a new city hall and costs. He felt that there would not be a way to get the kind of building Councilmember Holdaway was suggesting for 2-3 Million dollars. There was a discussion about future staff and city needs and the costs associated with building. Mayor Fullmer explained that population may be higher based on certificate of occupancy numbers. Councilmember Clawson expressed interest in seeing alternative plans for a city hall and encouraged Councilmember Holdaway to share those alternatives.

► Councilmember Cameron clarified that there would not be a tax rate increase but that any bonds being used would be from sales tax. There was a discussion about the use of sales tax, and an explanation on the difference between taxes that would impact residence versus sales tax. There were additional comments from Councilmember Clawson that to some degree the city was required to spend some of the money that comes in to maintain a balanced budget. Mayor Fullmer initiated a discussion regarding cutting services in a way that would affect the city's budget in a meaningful way.

► Councilmember Sifuentes said she would never want to pay a city engineer to do social media. A discussion ensued. She explained that she was not interested in cutting or reducing hours in the departments that Councilmember Holdaway wanted to see cuts in. Additionally, she felt that some of the legislative accomplishments brought about by the city's lobbyist showed a good return on investment such that she did not feel cutting them out was an option.

▶ Councilmember Clawson stated that he felt the city was understaffed and that he was more interested in understanding how that staffing had been allocated.

▶ Mayor Fullmer felt it would be good to dive into their items and start the regular budgeting process. Councilmember Holdaway expressed his opinion on staffing.

2. ADJOURNMENT

▶ Mayor Fullmer adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM. Mayor Fullmer gave a brief recap.

MINUTES APPROVED ON: _____

CERTIFIED CORRECT BY: _____


TONY LARA, DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

