

**MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

JANUARY 13, 2022; 7:36 A.M.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT:**

MAYOR JOY PETRO, ZACH BLOXHAM, CLINT MORRIS, TYSON ROBERTS, AND BETTINA SMITH EDMONDSON

STAFF PRESENT:

ALEX JENSEN, GARY CRANE, STEVE GARSIDE, CHAD WILKINSON, PAUL BAUER, TERRY COBURN, PAUL APPLONIE, STEPHEN JACKSON, TRACY PROBERT, MARK CHATLIN, KEVIN WARD, AND KIM READ

LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

**SENATOR JERRY STEVENSON,
REPRESENTATIVE BRAD WILSON,
REPRESENTATIVE STEVE HANDY,
REPRESENTATIVE STEWART BARLOW,
REPRESENTATIVE KELLY MILES, AND
REPRESENTATIVE KARIANNE LISONBEE**

EXCUSED

SENATOR STUART ADAMS

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Layton City Center.

Mayor Petro opened the meeting and expressed appreciation to the legislative delegation for participating with the Council during this meeting and introductions took place. She turned the time over to Staff.

Gary Crane, City Attorney, expressed appreciation to the legislative delegation for their attendance to discuss issues important to Layton City. He asked if there were any issues the legislative delegation would like to discuss with the City.

Representative Wilson reported the Senate and House leadership met recently and reported both had identified water as an important issue this year and suggested it would be a focus of legislation in several areas and would probably affect the City. He also mentioned he had met with various cities over the past year and had complimented Layton City for leading out with conservation efforts during these visits. He mentioned distribution of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and expressed his desire to see a similar matching grant program for water conservation and explained his vision of how it could be applied.

Representative Lisonbee arrived at 7:46

Representative Wilson mentioned the legislature would also be considering development incentives related to housing and suggested any grant funding in the future specific to commercial development would also require a housing component. He mentioned Layton was also a leader in this area. Mr. Crane mentioned Staff had been looking into that and suggested there were some benefits, on a local level, not recognized by the State, such as the constructed infrastructure required to support the development. Senator Stevenson mentioned Layton City was positioned in a transportation triangle and development within the City had generally been completed without incentives.

Mr. Crane expressed appreciation to Speaker Wilson for the Great Salt Lake (GSL) Summit he was instrumental in organizing. Representative Wilson suggested there was no other City poised with more to lose, in relation to the shrinking water levels of the GSL than Layton.

Mr. Crane explained those things the City had recently completed in obtaining additional water resources for the City which he believed illustrated the foresight of Staff and Elected Officials. Mayor Petro reported City residents had conserved 17.9% of culinary water this past summer.

Senator Stevenson informed the Council of a potential controversial bill associated with photo radar. He pointed out the benefits of possible use on I-15 and in school zones and expressed his opinion the bill wouldn't be intrusive in nature. He informed the Council of another proposed bill specific to the Inland Port and the four land use authorities within the State. He believed the ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns) would take a position on this bill.

Representative Miles reported he was working on some bills providing access to higher education via technical schools. He also mentioned JRI (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) and its unintended consequences associated with law enforcement. He suggested legislation was needed specific to compensation for hiring and retention of public safety employees.

Mr. Crane pointed out the legislature had continued to favor defendant's rights and shared an example to illustrate how the system granted criminals/perpetrators to avoid consequences allowing them to continue a life of crime, while the number of victims escalated. Representative Wilson requested Mr. Crane provide suggestions for fixing the current system. Mr. Crane informed the delegation of a bill sponsored by Senator Kennedy proposing changes to the sex offender registry which wouldn't benefit sexual assault victims. He stated victims would like to see the names of defendants, which skip bail, be added to the sex offender registry, or notification list, until they have been re-arrested and tried, thus notifying the public a named perpetrator was at large.

Mr. Miles believed laws were moving in that direction and shared another example of legislation specific to entering a blood draw in the data base, which he believed provided law enforcement with more tools.

Mr. Crane also mentioned bail was very rarely assessed anymore with these types of crimes. Representative Lisonbee reported she had been working on similar bills for the previous three years and believed the bill which eliminated bail had been repealed; however, there were certain judges which chose to not assign bail. She mentioned suggestions by Steve Garside, Assistant City Manager, had been included in some proposed legislation and expressed confidence there would be several proposed bills specific to this topic. Mr. Crane expressed his appreciation that the legislature recognized correction was needed.

Representative Handy informed the Council of legislation he had been working on for a number of years regarding the testing for lead in water within schools and suggested the use of ARPA funding could be appropriated for this specific initiative. He reported an endorsement from Superintendents and School Board Associations had been received and believed this could be completed now that a funding source had been identified.

Tracy Probert, Finance Director, arrived at 8:07 a.m.

Representative Barlow expressed appreciation to City Staff for organizing the meeting and believed it was beneficial. He mentioned the Severance Tax Bill, similar to the State Trust Fund, which would allow funds to be saved for future generations. He expressed his opinion the reconstruction of Highway 89 and the Gordon Avenue extension within the City had netted positive results.

Mr. Crane expressed agreement and appreciation for the support of the legislative delegation. He also mentioned the Inland Port could have a negative impact on Layton City and pointed out the possible need

for railroad overpasses should the development result with an increase in railroad traffic. He also mentioned the West Davis Corridor project was progressing very well and reported the City was in the process of acquiring properties for frontage roads.

Representative Lisonbee informed the Council of a food truck bill based on the original intent that they would be treated similarly to caterer; in that each food truck wouldn't need to obtain a business license in each entity. She reported she had met with ULCT representatives regarding bill language and it had been published. Mayor Petro inquired if the registering City would be the entity to ensure appropriate inspections and Ms. Lisonbee responded inspection issues were a large part of the issue. She requested the Mayor contact her for further discussion.

Mr. Crane referenced the book which addressed housing and growth issues within the State which came about as invested groups and contributors such as: ULUI (The Utah Land Use Institute), ULCT, home builders, legislators, local officials, UTA (Utah Transit Authority), and WFRC (Wasatch Front Regional Council), had met and discussed collaborative solutions. He mentioned the book was distributed through the Ombudsman as it highlighted land use regulations and approval processes. He provided a list of proposed meetings and mentioned a bill sponsored by Representative Waldrip, with a funding request of \$500,000, would address land use issues and accomplish what had been requested last year. He requested support of the bill. Representative Wilson expressed appreciation to Mr. Crane and Layton City for the leadership with this task and expressed his opinion Layton's leadership was needed on this issue and suggested his efforts would benefit the entire state.

Councilmember Roberts expressed appreciation for Representative Wilson's GSL Summit and stated he was always interested in water issues. He believed education would be a significant factor in moving forward in saving the GSL and suggested the video be made available to the public. He inquired about secondary water metering and the distribution of ARPA funds for that purpose. Senator Stevenson responded the distribution of funds had yet to be determined and shared an example illustrating the advantage of metering secondary water in certain areas within the State.

Councilmember Bloxham expressed concern with ineffective, but well-intentioned criminal justice reform legislation and pointed out its negative affects to police officer's morale. He pleaded with the delegation to do what was necessary to ensure citizens' safety. He also encouraged collaboration with the State in sharing resources on projects and Mr. Crane mentioned the success of the holding centers was one example of this philosophy. He reported the recidivism rate was extremely low.

Councilmember Morris mentioned he participated in a ride-along and shared his experience which illustrated the need to address legislation specific to law enforcement. He also expressed appreciation to the delegation for their experience of serving in local government which led to their support of issues important to the City.

Councilmember Smith Edmondson expressed appreciation at the opportunity of meeting the delegation and building relationships with them. She expressed concern regarding affordable housing and inquired about available incentives intended to benefit residents as opposed to developers. She indicated she would be reaching out to individual legislators regarding other items of concern. Mr. Crane asked the delegation whether an objective or goal had been identified regarding affordable housing issues.

Representative Wilson pointed out affordable housing was generally defined as some type of tax credit or subsidized product and indicated appropriations would be made to the Olene Walker Fund and other products ensuring a continued stock of housing. He also believed the supply and demand for housing in general was out of balance and identified reasons which contributed to this scenario and concluded the situation wouldn't be solved until there were enough available housing units for the public.

Mayor Petro expressed concern with the potential need for railroad overpasses as growth continued to occur in the western area of the county, in conjunction with development of the Inland Port in Salt Lake City.

Alex Jensen, City Manager, expressed appreciation for the contributions from the delegation which have contributed in making Layton City what it was today. He expressed concern the State of Utah was changing as a result of its success and economic viability, resulting in a decreased quality of life. He pointed out many issues had been discussed this morning and suggested the belief systems which contributed in making Utah unique were quickly disappearing. He challenged the delegation to consider the impact, not financially, but socially ,of recent prosperity and mentioned the importance of feeling safe within one's own neighborhood. He suggested the Legislature should commit to establishing a precedent of how controversial issues could be solved with mutual respect and hard discussions and shared an example to illustrate his point. He emphasized the City's desire to be a partner of the delegation and expressed appreciation to each of them.

Mr. Crane expressed appreciation to the delegation for their attendance and dialogue during the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Kimberly S Read, City Recorder