

**MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY  
COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 10, 2023; 7:36 A.M.**

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

**MAYOR JOY PETRO, ZACH BLOXHAM, CLINT MORRIS, BETTINA SMITH EDMONDSON, AND DAVE THOMAS**

**NOT PRESENT:**

**TYSON ROBERTS**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**ALEX JENSEN, GARY CRANE, STEVE GARSIDE, CHAD WILKINSON, TRACY PROBERT, STEPHEN JACKSON, DAVID PRICE, ALLEN SWANSON, KEVIN WARD, AND KIM READ**

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

**SENATOR STUART ADAMS, REPRESENTATIVE TREVOR LEE, AND REPRESENTATIVE KARIANNE LISONBEE**

**The meeting was held in the Council Conference Room of the Layton City Center.**

Mayor Petro opened the meeting and expressed appreciation to the elected delegation for its support of the following:

- Water conservation and grant funding appropriated for secondary water meters. Senator Adams shared some examples of new innovations specific to irrigation and expressed confidence the State would solve its water problem and a discussion followed. Representative Lee suggested eradicating invasive tree species on a local level would be beneficial to water conservation.
- Memorial Plaza located at the north end of Constitution Circle, in Commons Park, and pointed out the Vietnam Memorial Wall had become a destination location for tourism. She indicated funding appropriation from the state would be needed for what would be known as the Freedom's Memorial Plaza. David Price, Parks and Recreation Director, announced Staff had worked with the Vietnam Veterans Association in conjunction with the planning of the Plaza. He believed it would continue to provide an educational component for school students and invited the delegation to take a folder which identified what was planned.

Gary Crane, City Attorney, also expressed appreciation to the delegation and identified the Councilmembers which would be attending and participating with this year's Legislative process. Senator Adams expressed appreciation to Mr. Crane for his efforts on the Hill. Mr. Crane referenced the following subjects of concerns by the Council:

- Taxes – Property and Gas Tax, related to local government. Senator Adams announced the State needed to address how it funded education and shared some examples. He suggested some equalization was needed to correct funding issues and indicated a reduction in the Income Tax would be implemented. Mr. Crane mentioned the 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Transportation Tax would be important to Layton City.

Kevin Ward, Fire Chief and Representative Karianne Lisonbee arrived at 8:00 a.m.

- Land Use – a handout compiled by the ULCT (Utah League of Cities and Towns) and staff from Bountiful City was distributed which addressed housing myths. Mr. Crane expressed concern about the Governor's proposed 'transformative change' for local housing specific to a proposed bill by Senator Fillmore. Senator Adams believed the proposal was specific to a process, such as a uniform land use process, and acknowledged Layton had already implemented some of the proposed changes to its processes. Mr. Crane continued to identify processes which were proposed and specifically mentioned the possible elimination of the City Council's approval for

subdivision review. He reported cities and engineers were in the process of establishing standards specific to the subdivision review process, which would include street width and other uniform standards. Senator Adams pointed out the missing middle class homebuyer and suggested bringing back the state money option, for first time homebuyers which was available in the 1980's and 1990's, and a discussion followed. Alex Jensen, City Manager, expressed frustration with the pressure being placed on cities to provide affordable housing and believed collaborative efforts between cities, legislators, and private developers might have yielded better results. Senator Adams pointed out there were many factors associated with affordable housing and expressed agreement with Mr. Jensen that more collaboration was needed. Mr. Crane pointed out the importance of having leadership from the Legislature regarding these issues.

- JRI (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) – Representative Lisonbee reported the focus had been on juvenile justice and announced she was aware of five specific bills and indicated she would be receptive with input from the Council. Steve Garside, Assistant City Manager, suggested conversations should take place with those directly involved and believed many problems could be resolved by providing more resources and pointed out the lack of options for female juvenile offenders. Representative Lisonbee continued to share some of what would be included in her proposed bills specific to violent crimes. Mr. Jensen expressed concern with violent offenders being released with very few consequences and/or accountability following the judicial process. Representative Lisonbee believed better data would back better decision making moving forward. Senator Adams suggested the Legislature should reconsider the statute which restricted judges from incarcerating offenders. Mr. Garside expressed comments regarding costs compared to the health and safety of residents. Representative Lisonbee also pointed out the challenges with staffing jails, prisons, police officers, probation officers, etc. Councilmember Bloxham also expressed comments allowing dangerous criminals to be among the public. He believed the Council had the obligation to provide health and safety to City residents and wouldn't want the Police Department and prosecutors to not be able to appropriately deal with dangerous and/or violent offenders. A discussion followed specific to the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.**

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Kimberly S Read, City Recorder