

**MINUTES OF LAYTON CITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

JANUARY 9, 2024; 7:33 A.M.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT:**

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

ABSENT:

**COUNCILMEMBERS ZACH BLOXHAM AND
DAVE THOMAS**

STAFF PRESENT:

**ALEX JENSEN, CLINT DRAKE, STEVE GARSIDE,
CHAD WILKINSON, PAUL BAUER, TRACY
PROBERT, STEPHEN JACKSON, DAVID PRICE,
ALLEN SWANSON, KEVIN WARD, AND KIM
READ**

LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

**SENATOR JERRY STEVENSON AND
REPRESENTATIVE TREVOR LEE**

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

Mayor Petro opened the meeting and expressed a welcome to everyone and requested introductions be made for those in attendance. Senator Jerry Stevenson excused Senator Stuart Adams as he was out of the country.

Mayor Petro expressed appreciation to Senator Stevenson, Representative Lee, and the other local Legislative Representatives for their continued support for matters of concern for Layton City: Great Salt Lake and water issues. She expressed assurance Layton City had been forward thinking with water conservation and inquired about potential proposed legislation.

Mr. Stevenson responded water conservation would be key to restoring the Great Salt Lake and believed continuation of the same would provide positive results. He announced Highway 89 and the West Davis Corridor had been completed at a significant savings and indicated that allowed for the continuation of Highway 89 construction north to the mouth of Weber Canyon and up the hill to South Ogden. He briefly reviewed the challenges associated with the interchange and the railroad overpass. He mentioned the opening last weekend of the newly completed West Davis Corridor and invited everyone to take a drive on the new road. He spoke of the significant importance with completing both the Highway 89 and the West Davis Corridor road projects. Representative Trevor Lee mentioned other counties and legislators were envious of northern Utah's transportation system and complimented the efforts of Senators Adams and Stevenson.

Senator Stevenson mentioned land use would be a significant issue this legislative session and specifically mentioned lot sizes and smaller home communities.

Mayor Petro expressed concern regarding the appropriation of future road funding and Mr. Stevenson identified transportation issues in Utah County and specifically mentioned traffic near Eagle Mountain. He also mentioned the need to complete the widening of Interstate 15 into Riverdale, the extension of the West Davis Corridor to 1800 North in West Point, and the completion of an Interstate on/off ramp to Hill Air Force Base at that location. He also mentioned the need to address additional bottlenecks on Interstate 15 to St. George.

Senator Stevenson spoke to Land Use and development with a proposed overlay for vacant land specific to housing eliminating any zoning rights. He suggested this would be an issue of significance during the legislative session and a discussion followed. Representative Lee expressed understanding cities and

towns desired control for land use to remain with local government as opposed to the legislature mandating zoning and how development had to occur. He also suggested builders needed to be incentivized with respect to residential construction. The Council expressed Layton was doing its part with water conservation, zoning, and approved building lots/sizing and shared continued concern about the effects of legislative mandates. A discussion also took place regarding issues pertaining to purchasing power for a homebuyer given the current market and interest rates and how the incentives to the homebuilder/developer don't benefit the buyer. Senator Stevenson encouraged ongoing communication with the legislative contingency regarding proposed legislation.

Alex Jensen, City Manager, inquired whether the Legislature would encourage collaboration as opposed to mandates and shared some examples the City had experienced and a discussion followed. He challenged the Legislature to not overlook what the local communities could manage and believed the quality of life in Utah was declining due to previous legislative action and policies.

City Staff expressed concern with the following proposed legislation:

- Housing
- HB13
- School safety and officers in schools
- Medicaid allotment & reimbursement
- Fireworks
- Changes to retirement for police & fire Staff

Mayor Petro expressed concern with the Code Blue mandate specific to the homeless population and Representative Lee believed that bill would be eliminated this session.

Steve Garside, Assistant City Manager, encouraged the legislative contingency to continue its work with mitigating issues associated with JRI (Justice Reinvestment Initiative).

Senator Stevenson mentioned the State would be working with a significant decrease in funding this Legislative Session and identified how that happened.

Mr. Lee expressed appreciation to Layton City Staff and Elected Officials for the way in which the City operated and indicated it was envied by the Legislature and other Cities. He stated he loved living in Layton City.

Mr. Lee left the meeting at 8:27 a.m.

Senator Stevenson provided a brief update regarding the following:

- Inland Port
- MIDA (Military Installation Development Area)
- Hill Air Force Base (HAFB)

Councilmember Roberts expressed concern the legislative process had changed significantly with the designation of committees over the last few years, in that committees seem to meet throughout the entire year which allowed significant bills/legislation to be brought forth. He continued to express concern the Executive Branch was now involved with lawmaking. Councilmember Smith Edmondson expressed agreement with Councilmember Roberts' comments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Kimberly S Read, City Recorder