

SOUTH JORDAN CITY  
CITY COUNCIL ELECTRONIC STUDY MEETING

January 3, 2023

**Present:** Mayor Dawn Ramsey, Council Member Tamara Zander, Council Member Patrick Harris, Council Member Don Shelton, Council Member Brad Marlor, Council Member Jason McGuire, City Manager Gary Whatcott, Deputy City Manager Dustin Lewis, CFO Sunil Naidu, Director of Strategy & Budget Don Tingey, Director of Commerce Brian Preece, Director of Public Works Jason Rasmussen, Director of Administrative Services Melinda Seager, City Attorney Ryan Loose, City Recorder Anna Crookston, IT Director Jon Day, GIS Coordinator Matt Jarman, Senior IS Tech Phill Brown, Director of Planning Steven Schaefermeyer, City Engineer Brad Klavano, Deputy City Engineer Jeremy Nielson, Fire Chief Chris Dawson, Deputy Police Chief Jason Knight, Associate Director of Recreation Jacob Druce, Meeting Transcriptionist Diana Baun, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Katie Olson

**Absent:**

**Others:** Salt Lake Board of Realtors Staff, Kirby Croyle, Steven, Chase Andrizzi

4:37 PM  
STUDY MEETING

**A. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introduction:** *By Mayor Dawn R. Ramsey*

Mayor Dawn Ramsey welcomed everyone present and introduced the electronic meeting. She mentioned that Council Member Zander is on her way and will be arriving momentarily.

**B. Invocation:** *By Director of Strategy & Budget Don Tingey*

Director Tingey offered the invocation.

**Council Member Marlor motioned to amend the study meeting agenda to include the words “electronic meeting,” since Mayor Ramsey is joining electronically. Council Member McGuire seconded the motion; vote was unanimous. Council Member Zander was absent from the vote.**

**C. Mayor and Council Coordination - None**

**D. Discussion/Review of Regular Council Meeting**

**Action Item:**

- Resolution R2023-01, Proclaiming January 16, 2023 as Religious Freedom Day.

**Annexation Items:**

- Motion to petition for Annexation from Kennecott Utah Copper, LLC and JVWCD.
- Motion to receive Certification of Petition for Annexation
- Resolution R2023-05, Accepting Petition for Annexation and authorizing required notices be sent, further consideration, and related matters.

**E. Discussion Items:**

**E.1. Discussion of updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Briefing** *(By Risk Emergency/Safety Manager Aaron Sainsbury).*

Risk Emergency/Safety Manager Aaron Sainsbury introduced himself and reviewed his prepared presentation (Attachment A).

**Council Member Tamara Zander joined the meeting.**

Council Member Zander noted that if we are sending help to other cities on a regular basis, that's our tax dollars helping and supporting those other cities. She asked if there is any reciprocation from those cities, or is it just done more for goodwill.

Deputy City Manager Dustin Lewis responded that there are actually written mutual aid agreements, good for the first few hours of those emergencies. If they go into multiple phases, there are ways for our city to recoup those costs from those agencies. An example used was when we sent officers to help Salt Lake during the riots, and that means they will come here to help us with our next issue.

Council Member Zander said the help in Salt Lake was only for a few hours, but she thought one of our vehicles was damaged and asked about that.

Manager Lewis confirmed that one of our vehicles was damaged, and noted that the other jurisdiction paid for that damage. He also added that recently, we had another one of our vehicles damaged and that jurisdiction is going to cover the damage. During the incident with the explosives inside the home, one of West Valley's vehicles was damaged and we paid for it.

City Manager Gary Whatcott added that in those agreements used during the short-term aid it says the agencies will not charge each other; however, if the expenses are large enough, the city has helped cover those damages

Council Member Zander asked if there is a dollar amount specified in those agreements.

Manager Whatcott responded no, it actually says we will take care of our own damages.

Attorney Loose added that in regards to the liability and risk, everyone takes care of their own.

Council Member Zander said we all know we will be sending a lot more help to Salt Lake than they will be sending to us due to their population.

Manager Lewis said it goes both ways, but they also have resources we don't that we can call on them for.

Manager Whatcott said that in all the years he has been here, including while he was with the fire department, there hasn't been a reciprocity issue where one group was taking advantage of another. No one likes to have these types of events happen in the first place, because they cost money, but everyone has been really great to work with.

Council Member Marlor noted it would cost us a lot more to have those resources than it would cost us to use them from time to time.

Manager Lewis said the explosion house is a great example of that. We had aid from multiple jurisdictions and departments, even the federal government helping on that, and they didn't bill us for that aid.

Manager Whatcott added that some of those employees of other jurisdictions were on site for three weeks.

Council Member Zander asked who makes the final judgment calls when you have multiple agencies and jurisdictions involved, like with the explosive house.

Manager Whatcott answered it's that jurisdiction in charge.

Manager Lewis added it goes back to the incident command system, and that's why we have that.

Manager Whatcott clarified that it's really the incident commander in charge of the incident whom everyone reports to.

Attorney Loose added the caveat if we don't like what's going on, there is no obligation to keep our people there.

Manager Lewis said that also applies to a situation where we can't send resources, or we don't agree with the reason for aid; we don't have to send the resources.

Council Member Zander thanked everyone for their answers.

Manager Whatcott noted that he thinks Manager Sainsbury is referring more to the longer-term incidents that last more than a day, or even a few hours. Every day we use resources outside of our city, and we do the same helping other cities; this happens regularly with our surrounding neighbors with Police, Fire and even sometimes Public Works.

Council Member Harris said he assumes that, for the most part, all the neighboring areas don't nickel and dime each other.

Manager Lewis said it all works out in the end.

Fire Chief Chris Dawson said that's true, and as far as aid on fire sites and other incidents, we typically don't charge anything until after the 24 hour mark. Otherwise, every single day they operate mutual aid, sending our units out and having others come into the city.

Council Member Zander said in the seven years she has been on the council, she has noticed that there is a very harmonious reciprocation feeling between the cities. That's not always the case politically, but she loves that our emergency responders have that harmonious relationship and really respects that.

Manager Whatcott referred back to when the Sandy City Public Works yard burned down a few years ago. They lost all their snow trucks since it was snowing and they were inside, and the amount of resources that people pulled together allowed Sandy to not miss a beat with their snow plowing. Those are the kinds of things that are really unheard of around the country, he believes it is a cultural thing here in Utah where people lend aid to one another; there are cities where entire departments don't even talk to one another. In fact, we have one other 9-1-1 dispatch center besides Salt Lake City, which is good because you need redundancy, but we have a system we can all be together on in the state. Even larger than that, the Utah Communications Agency Board that he sits on provides a backbone system, which is basically a utility run on a statewide basis for public safety radio and 9-1-1 systems throughout the state. It is actually leading the nation in the way that everyone is cooperating with each other, where you have the entire state on one backbone instead of a bunch of cut up, multiple jurisdictional issues that come up, and we have been able to do that seamlessly.

Manager Sainsbury added that he works with every emergency manager in the county, and feels like that is his department, even though he works under Chief Dawson and the city's fire department, as he meets with all those other people at least twice a month. All of those other managers are very impressed with the way our departments and divisions here within the city work together; you wouldn't even see the two chiefs sitting next to each other in some cities, and it's great. He continued his review of his prepared presentation (Attachment A), discussing federally declared disasters.

Manager Lewis discussed the UCAN (Utah Communications Authority Now) System, and said that Utah boasted their system would never go down, it would always be available. There was an event in the valley that took that system down and at that time, he and one of the city police officers had worked together to develop their own backup system that allowed the city to use the existing 800 MHz equipment, on our own 800 MHz network that they developed. They started calling it the WEcan system, because "when UCAN't, WE can." Manager Sainsbury and his team have managed to keep that system in place, maintained, and all our first responders have that already programmed so if that primary system is lost they can just switch over without

having to issue new equipment. Our city has a very viable 800 MHz network system, and it's pretty impressive.

Council Member Zander asked if any other cities have copied us.

Manager Lewis responded no.

Manager Sainsbury continued reviewing Attachment A, regarding repeater locations.

Council Member Marlor shared his experience in the past watching a wall of water about 15-20 feet high and several miles long come into Rexburg, ID. It took down everything including power and phone lines, there was nothing left. Back then, they communicated with CB radios and luckily they had CB radios in their vehicles, making them able to clean up the entire town of Rexburg using those CBs.

Manager Sainsbury continued reviewing Attachment A, regarding WebEOC. He also reinforced the S.A.F.E Neighborhoods Plans and emphasized that it's easier to communicate with nine elementary schools than it is with 86,313 residents. He gave a brief overview of how that works, explaining that there will be three HAM radio coordinators assigned to each elementary school for redundancy who will go to their assigned elementary school, call the HAM radio operator assigned to the EOC and let them know what's going on.

Council Member Marlor asked how long it would take to update this plan if additional property was added to the city.

Manager Sainsbury said when he took over, Manager Lewis told him this is a fluid document and it will change constantly. They have been told they need to update it every five years, and it has been a while since that was done. That will constantly keep changing because of the lessons learned. He referred back to the Columbine School shooting, which changed how police and fire respond to an active shooter, and noted that it's the same thing with emergencies.

Manager Lewis also responded that in terms of updating for large population growth or annexation, there isn't a lot that would need to be updated because it's an "all hazards" plan, and it's scalable; growth of the city doesn't change how they do business. It might require staff to tweak the hazard analysis because there might be a new hazard based on topography, but for the most part the response plan doesn't have to change significantly.

Manager Sainsbury continued reviewing his presentation (Attachment A).

Council Member Shelton asked what the council's role would be during an emergency.

Manager Lewis responded that the council's role is before the disasters happen. It is their role to ensure the city is doing things to be prepared by building fire stations, adopting new ordinances for building standards, etc. When something actually happens, the council will need to be visible and available in case a policy needs to change.

Manager Sainsbury passed out the guide to disaster operations for the council (Attachment B).

The council and staff discussed the different ways available to contact council members in the event of an emergency, and the plans outlined in Attachment B.

Council Member McGuire asked about the S.A.F.E. Neighborhoods Program, and how they communicate with the neighborhoods; how is the city connecting that program with the residents and the various groups that have already been created in neighborhoods.

Manager Lewis responded that Manager Sainsbury goes out and meets with local groups on a regular basis, and he encouraged those listening to invite him to their area to speak with their neighborhood groups.

**E.2. 1055 West Rise Development Analysis** *(By WCG Engineers Tim Taylor).*

Manager Whatcott explained the background behind this analysis, checking traffic and the effects of connecting 1055 West.

Tim Taylor reviewed his prepared presentation (Attachment C).

Council Member Zander pointed out that Baxter Drive doesn't exist yet, so if the Rise Development was built before that road she assumes those cars would be going through the neighborhoods.

Mr. Taylor explained the numbers on Attachment C represent traffic from the entire area, not just the Rise Development. That development specifically would only result in about 13-14 new cars on 1055 West during those peak hours. He continued reviewing his prepared presentation (Attachment C).

Council Member Marlor noted there must be an assumption that the current road on 1055 West would have to be expanded to accommodate that traffic?

Manager Whatcott believes it would accommodate the traffic with the regular residential standards, which is wider than what it is now.

Mr. Taylor continued his review of Attachment C.

Council Member Harris asked how option 1 or 2 would be funded.

Manager Whatcott responded some will be developer funded. The connection going all the way through with acquisitions of property would probably be on the city.

Attorney Loose added that sometimes, if the city waits for more development before adding in streets by stubbing the road in preparation that leaves it for the developers to do.

Attorney Loose discussed the stub on Wheadon property that has been there forever; that will have to be paid for and done by the future developer in that area.

Manager Whatcott noted even if they build out at the 8 units per acre in the available areas, this shows that the road network can accommodate that traffic. They should always consider looking at public safety access points, noting that the Rise Development would be going over the canal. If that was the only road in and out, it would be an issue having a bridge; having access to additional roads both helps the city in an emergency, but it also allows them to get more people out.

Council Member Marlbor asked if Area 1 does develop, would it be their obligation to take the road Rise Development is contemplating all the way through to the north, ending at 10550 South because that's where they would connect to their development. After that point, it's up to the city.

Manager Whatcott said it all depends on whether they want the Baxter Drive connection.

Council Member Harris said it would be awkward to have two accesses on South Jordan Pkwy so close together.

Manager Whatcott said they asked many years ago if Baxter could be a four way intersection, and it was approved, so he thinks UDOT would accept it. Based on the numbers being shown tonight however, he doesn't know if they really need the intersection there.

Mr. Taylor said there are some good options for phasing of improvements, including stubbing at 10550 South for a while. With a connection at Baxter, coming down into the office development, that relieves some pressure on the intersection and would be a benefit.

Council Member Marlbor said if this is the decision, this needs to be put on the long-term transportation plan.

Director Klavano agreed and added that it would be impact fee eligible as well.

### **E.3. Boards and Committee assignments *(By Deputy City Manager Dustin Lewis).***

Manager Lewis said this is done every year at this time and he offered discussion on what assignments everyone currently has, asking for any changes that need to be made.

Attorney Loose discussed the mayor's term on the board of Leagues and Cities, and that she will be released next year, so some changes will need to be made. The city currently has four positions on that board, including the mayor, so next year they will go back to three positions.

Council Member Zander noted that the current members are Council Member McGuire, Council Member Shelton, Mayor Ramsey and herself.

Attorney Loose proposed keeping the mayor as a voting member of the league, which would mean she would take the place of one of the council members on the board. He also asked if the council would allow one of the staff members to vote in their place if they are unable to attend, so they don't lose any votes if a board member is absent.

Council Member Zander has been having trouble keeping up with those LPC meetings, and she would be okay with being replaced on that board. She is okay with authorizing staff to act in her place for voting since she will be missing meetings, and asked the mayor if she was okay with that.

Mayor Ramsey responded that she is okay with whatever allows us to get all four of our votes.

The Council discussed possible replacements and their schedules. They agreed to change Council Member Zander's position to a staff member, and Council Member Zander mentioned that she would still love to watch the meetings and be involved.

#### **E.4. Legislative preparation (*By City Attorney Ryan Loose*)**

Attorney Loose reviewed his list (Attachment D) and will send a copy to everyone. He noted that local control is always best, for the things the council is elected to do, and that unfunded mandates are unwelcome by our council. He asked if there is anything specific the council members are concerned about and said his plans are to keep communication the same as previous years, encouraging council members to contact him with any future concerns. He continued discussing a few of the issues he is expecting to hear more about during the upcoming session including homelessness and developers wanting faster approvals.

Director Schaefermeyer added that many builders have opportunities to develop more than one development at a time, but they chose not to because they don't have the capacity to do so.

Attorney Loose reviewed the big things being seen by the legislature, as listed on Attachment D.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Council Member Shelton motioned to adjourn the January 3, 2023 City Council Study Meeting. Council Member Zander seconded the motion; vote was unanimous in favor.**

The January 3, 2023 City Council Study meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.