

CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING-WORK SESSION
CITY HALL-10 EAST CENTER STREET, NORTH SALT LAKE
MARCH 4, 2025

FINAL

Mayor Horrocks welcomed those present at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Horrocks
Councilmember Lisa Watts Baskin
Councilmember Tammy Clayton
Councilmember Suzette Jackson
Councilmember Ted Knowlton
Councilmember Alisa Van Langeveld

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Leetham, City Manager; David Frandsen, Assistant City Manager; Heidi Voordeckers, Finance Director; Jon Rueckert, Public Works Director; Craig Black, Police Chief; Karyn Baxter, City Engineer; Todd Godfrey, City Attorney; Wendy Page, City Recorder.

OTHERS: Dee Lalliss, resident.

1. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Black provided a 2024 police department update and presentation related to the upcoming budget meeting. He reported on staffing with:

- 31 full time positions
- 27 sworn officers
- 2 patrol shifts (day and night shift)
- 6 detective positions (sergeant, corporal, community liaison officer (CLO), sex crimes specialist, school resource officer, general crimes)
- 2 traffic specialists
- K-9 team (officer and Belgian Malinois)
- 4 non-sworn clerks (office manager, record clerk, victim specialist, evidence/forensic clerk)

Councilmember Van Langeveld arrived at 6:08 p.m.

Chief Black continued with a review of calls and cases from 2024 with 9,800 total service incidents (approximately 27 calls per day). He said this included 3,218 traffic related incidents with 504 accidents (59 hit & run, 108 injuries, 36 DUIs). He noted that there were 60 drug related cases and 337 domestic violence related with 90 arrests (this included protective order violations, child abuse, and ungovernable juvenile calls). He shared that there were 662 criminal investigation cases with 146 arrests. He reported on critical technology and equipment including:

- Vehicles (\$70,000 when equipped)
- Body and in-car camera systems compliant with State law
- In-car computers and CAD technology
- Records Management software and licenses
- Dispatch and server costs paid to Bountiful and Layton
- Interdepartmental and interagency sharing software and subscriptions
- License plate reader cameras and software
- GPS trackers
- Less lethal equipment
- DUI testing equipment and supplies
- In-car fingerprint readers (new State mandate)

Chief Black spoke on department staffing needs including being able to meet growth issues that affect public safety such as quality of life/sense of security and the safety of officers as well as participating in localized efforts such as Metro Narcotics Task Force. He shared that other aspects that could present challenges in the City included transportation (Redwood Road, Highway 89, I-15), zoning (railroad, industrial, manufacturing areas), and demographics (diversity of residents).

Chief Black reviewed proposed budget requests for staffing related to preventing gaps in service and responsiveness in fiscal year 2025-2026. He said the two personnel requests would include the specific need/purpose and expected results. He spoke on the request to add a sworn officer to the patrol division and how it was crucial to have a trained officer in place to limit risky hires or being short staffed. He noted that the call/case load was constant with a need for three officers per shift.

Chief Black explained that overtime was used to backfill emergency situations but too much overtime created burnout, sickness, and reduced sharpness which could lead to officer injury. He noted that every fiscal year had staffing shortages with payroll underruns to help to fund this position. He reviewed the second staffing request for a sworn officer to be assigned to the Davis Metro Narcotics Team. He shared that there were more than 30 drug overdose calls last year with

4 fatalities. He continued that responding was not enough and the police department needed to be participating with other cities in the county.

Councilmember Clayton asked if when an officer retired if their wage helped to balance the new hiring of officers. Chief Black responded that this would help as the department generally did not hire at the topped out salary.

Councilmember Jackson commented that the core expectations for the City was infrastructure, fire, and public safety. She also mentioned a house bill related to unlicensed drivers, car impounds, and mandated fingerprinting. Chief Black replied that he estimated it was a weekly issue in the City with accidents involving those with no license, revoked, or suspended license. He noted statistics in West Valley showed 50% of their accidents involved unlicensed drivers.

Councilmember Van Langeveld questioned if the victim advocate position needed to be expanded to a full time role. Chief Black replied that coverage was adequate at this time. He spoke on creating a non-profit that could receive donations from the community to provide emergency funds to youth, homeless, and those in domestic violence situations, etc.

Councilmember Van Langeveld asked for clarification in the 9,800 calls for service. She asked for data related to overtime. Chief Black clarified the 9,800 calls for service were the actual incident numbers. He said overtime was anything beyond 80 hours per pay period and noted that the department could not expect officers to always work extra hours.

Councilmember Van Langeveld wondered how oversight would work for the proposed Davis Metro Narcotics officer. Chief Black noted that this would be a full time position as part of the narcotics team and explained how general oversight would work. He noted the need for different drug task forces federally, statewide, and locally.

Councilmember Knowlton questioned how the Davis Metro Narcotics officer would help with dissuasion and interdiction related to drugs. Chief Black responded that this would include identifying drug trafficking organizations and transportation before they reached the state/city.

Councilmember Baskin asked how the City was more vulnerable than other cities in the County. She also questioned how the City had participated in metro narcotics in the past. Chief Black spoke on the vulnerability of the City based on proximity to Salt Lake City. He said the City previously participated in metro narcotics through an assessment.

Councilmember Baskin mentioned that Spectrum Academy had a school resource officer. She asked if other schools in the City had a dedicated officer. Chief Black replied that the other

schools had a DARE officer assigned to them. He said Woods Cross High School had a dedicated officer through Woods Cross police department that was paid through Davis School District.

Councilmember Baskin requested that Chief Black relay any important legislative bills related to public safety and law enforcement.

Councilmember Van Langeveld requested information on the City's previous contribution to Davis Metro Narcotics.

Councilmember Jackson clarified that the salary of a dedicated officer would be partially offset by the dues that were being paid. Chief Black replied affirmatively.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO CIVIC EVENTS COMMITTEE BY
COUNCILMEMBER WATTS BASKIN

Councilmember Baskin introduced Elexis Contreras as her appointment to the Civic Events Committee.

Councilmember Baskin moved that the City Council approve the appointment of Elexis Contreras to the Civic Events Committee with a term ending 1/1/2029. Councilmember Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Councilmembers Baskin, Clayton, Jackson, Knowlton, and Van Langeveld.

3. ADJOURN

Mayor Horrocks adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m. to begin the regular session.

CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING-REGULAR SESSION
CITY HALL-10 EAST CENTER STREET, NORTH SALT LAKE
MARCH 4, 2025

FINAL

Mayor Horrocks welcomed those present at 7:09 p.m. Suzette Jackson offered a prayer and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Horrocks
Councilmember Lisa Watts Baskin
Councilmember Tammy Clayton
Councilmember Suzette Jackson
Councilmember Ted Knowlton
Councilmember Alisa Van Langeveld

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Leetham, City Manager; David Frandsen, Assistant City Manager; Heidi Voordeckers, Finance Director; Jon Rueckert, Public Works Director; Craig Black, Police Chief; Karyn Baxter, City Engineer; Todd Godfrey, City Attorney; Wendy Page, City Recorder.

OTHERS: Dee Lalliss, Elexis Contreras, Tom Cohan, Camille Thorpe, Natalie Cope, Susie Dee Miller, residents; Sam Christiansen, Woods Cross; Nathan Anderson, Union Pacific Railroad.

1. CITIZEN COMMENT

Natalie Cope, resident, questioned if dogs would be allowed in Hatch Park after the remodel. She noted the need for an off-leash dog section in the park. Ken Leetham replied that Hatch Park would not include a dog park. He said that current law allowed for leashed dogs in the park. He also acknowledged there was a problem with dogs in the current park and that the City intended to do a much better job keeping the new park clean and enforcing regulations related to dogs.

Susie Dee Miller, resident, also spoke on allowing dogs in Hatch Park and how this had helped create a community.

Camille Thorpe, resident, commented that the City had not received input from all neighborhoods of the City related to Hatch Park. She expressed her concerns regarding walkability, trails, a community gathering space, the tower feature, and tree preservation in the park.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CITY'S APPLICATION FOR A WAIVER OF FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION (FRA) REGULATIONS RELATED TO CROSSING ARMS ON THE INDUSTRIAL RAILROAD CROSSING LOCATED ON MAIN STREET IN NORTH SALT LAKE AND POSSIBLE REINSTATEMENT OF THE WOODS CROSS QUIET ZONE

Ken Leetham reported that the quiet zone was a geographic zone allowed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) where trains could pass at grade crossings without the use of train whistles. He shared the area of the zone on a map which included 11 cities from Ogden to Salt Lake with over 80 at-grade crossings. He noted that Woods Cross was the sponsoring agency and shared the history of the quiet zone including:

- In 2021 FRA notified Woods Cross that the required inspections had not been done
- FRA inspected the quiet zone in 2021, 2023, and 2024
- Notices of non-compliance were sent in April 2024
- Cities worked to fix crossing deficiencies
- Notice of quiet zone suspension was received in September 2024
- All crossings fixed except NSL and SLC

Mr. Leetham shared that the City of North Salt Lake and Salt Lake City have both funded their improvements and have submitted construction plans to Union Pacific Railroad. He said Union Pacific would then review the plans and perform the construction. He noted that Union Pacific had made these crossings a high priority. He continued that both cities have applied for a waiver to the FRA regulations which require a gate arm at the crossing. The waiver process triggered a public comment period which ends on March 17, 2025.

Mayor Horrocks questioned if this crossing was an oversight and if it had always been out of compliance. Ken Leetham replied that FRA requirements changed in 2008 and a reinspection found the crossing to be out of compliance.

Sam Christiansen, Woods Cross, added that when the quiet zone was formed in 2007-2008, an FRA inspection of the crossing was not done. It is believed that the two crossings were out of compliance then, but the quiet zone was formed because the proper inspections were not completed.

Councilmember Jackson asked why the City could not perform the work to bring the crossing into compliance. Ken Leetham responded that it was specialized equipment that must be coordinated with the existing signalization. He noted the complexity of the project, road

widening occurring in this area, and that only Union Pacific could make the repair. He noted that the jurisdiction for railroad warning systems belonged to the railroad and so local government is not allowed to perform that work.

Nathan Anderson, Union Pacific Railroad, shared the issues of the project including how safety was the number one priority, the complex signal system, and obtaining the parts from a third party manufacturer. He noted that the anticipated project should be completed in months rather than years as they had requested the parts for this project be moved forward in the queue as well as onsite diagnostics scheduled for March 19th.

Mayor Horrocks opened the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Dee Lalliss, resident, commented that he heard the train whistle blowing at the crossings and how the two offending crossings were affecting all the crossings. He spoke on considerations for those areas that were not out of compliance.

Mayor Horrocks closed the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Ken Leetham shared that there were two ways the quiet zone could be reinstated prior to the repairs being made including engaging the services of railroad flaggers at two locations for approximately \$800,000 or if both cities (NSL and SLC) were willing to close the roadways which intersected with these crossings (Main Street in NSL on the south and north side of the crossing). He said Salt Lake City would need to close 1000 West and had passed an ordinance allowing for that closure to happen. He noted that the road closure would require the removal of 50 feet of asphalt and concrete panels supporting the railroad crossing with replacement to be covered by the cities. He spoke on the concerns related to road closure including emergency access and cost to replace asphalt and concrete panels.

Mr. Leetham explained that one way to address the concern for emergency access in the event the City closed Main Street at this crossing was to provide a dedicated police officer on the west side of the City at the estimated cost of \$200,000. He also mentioned that they would request the FRA waive the requirement that the asphalt and concrete be removed with the road closure. He addressed business access and signage.

Councilmember Knowlton asked about the timeline for the completion of improvements. Ken Leetham replied that Union Pacific provided a timeline of six months for the completion of improvements and FRA could then inspect within seven days.

Nathan Anderson, Union Pacific Railroad, noted that the six month timeline was discussed with the City but not with Salt Lake City. He said this should be taken into consideration that Salt Lake City may have a different timeline which may impact the City.

Mayor Horrocks asked regarding the police officer to be allocated. Chief Black replied that it would be through overtime and relying on partner agencies to staff this position.

Councilmembers Knowlton, Jackson, and Van Langeveld were in favor of closing the road with the contingency that the removal of asphalt and concrete panels did not need to be removed. Ken Leetham said Salt Lake City had approved the road closure with the contingencies that they would not need to remove asphalt and that the City also performed a similar action.

Councilmember Baskin was in favor if Salt Lake City was in agreement. Ken Leetham explained that it was property owners around the rail corridor in Salt Lake City that are willing to donate the funds to the City in order to cover the costs of the additional police services.

Councilmember Baskin commented that it was important for the public hearing to occur even though there was not a large public response. She said providing the forum was almost as important as the comments that would have been received.

Dee Lalliss asked if the removal of the quiet zone was an economic detriment and expressed concerns with spending City funds. Mayor Horrocks responded that there was an economic impact occurring in Salt Lake to the point that property owners were willing to raise money to reinstate the quiet zone.

Councilmember Knowlton stated that this option would help to achieve a quiet zone with more resilience. Councilmember Jackson mentioned that any economic impact would be negated by the provided funding. Councilmember Baskin said that the entire corridor was affected and would benefit from the temporary fix and other cities would perceive the City in a more favorable light. Councilmember Van Langeveld commented quality of life was being hindered by the lack of a quiet zone.

3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 31, 2025

Heidi Voordeckers reported on the financial period ending January 31, 2025 and compared expenditures in the General Fund. She noted some one time costs (quiet zone waivers, general plan development, playground and chip replacement) and ongoing expenditures (full time court employee, school resource officer). She compared the General Fund expenditures for the end of January with \$8.3 million (FY 2024) to \$8.67 (FY 2025). She then reviewed the request for proposals (RFP) for professional audit services which was posted February 19th with a

submission deadline of March 13th. She said the Audit Committee would review the proposal on March 18th and then the City Council could award the contract on April 1st or May 7th.

Mayor Horrocks commented that he had a confidence level in the auditors the City had been using and if they were the only respondent then he would not have a concern with it.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ken Leetham provided a legislative update and addressed SB 337 which was related to the creation of new land use authority for significant community impact projects (SCIPs). He explained that the bill, originating from the Governor and legislative leadership, was designed to address large-scale projects such as nuclear power plants, space launch facilities, and Olympic venues that could benefit economically disadvantaged areas. Mr. Leetham noted that the bill had undergone significant changes and had been modified to include local consent provisions. He highlighted the following:

- Local communities would have 45 days to evaluate and either approve or deny a proposed SCIP.
- If denied, the Beehive Authority (the State's land use authority) would be prohibited from approving the project.

Mr. Leetham mentioned that the revised bill also included an economic opportunity coordinating council, allowing representation from the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) and the Utah Association of Counties. He stated that although this was not equivalent to local leaders having direct authority, it was viewed as a positive development. He expressed the following concerns regarding other aspects of the bill:

- The need for increased time for local input beyond 45 days.
- Concerns about potential preemption of the State's Land Use Development and Management Act (LUDMA).
- The removal of the cap on the number of SCIPs, with a promise from the Governor's Office to reinstate the cap.

He also mentioned that the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) authorized the Board leadership to determine the ULCT's position on the bill due to the absence of an additional LPC meeting prior to the end of the legislative session.

Councilmember Baskin expressed concerns about subsection E and whether there was a possibility of a workaround allowing the Beehive Authority to bypass local consent by creating a preliminary municipality. Ken Leetham responded that, as currently written, the bill prohibited

the Beehive Authority from approving a SCIP that had been previously denied by an affected local government.

Councilmember Baskin emphasized the importance of having local elected officials on the authority rather than representatives from associations, stating that the exclusion of local leaders would be a deal-breaker. Mr. Leetham confirmed that ULCT leadership was continuing to advocate for local representation in the approval and development processes of SCIP projects.

Councilmember Baskin further inquired about the potential loss of tax increment and whether redevelopment agencies' funds could be diverted to SCIP projects. Mr. Leetham acknowledged that this concern had not been addressed. Todd Godfrey added that the bill contained language authorizing the use of tax increment outside of the geographic area of the SCIP, similar to past redevelopment agency practices.

Councilmember Knowlton questioned why any community would consent to a project given the risks and potential loss of local authority. Mr. Leetham and LPC members echoed this concern, suggesting that without addressing these issues, communities would likely reject proposed SCIPs.

Councilmember Baskin questioned the timing of the bill's release in the last week of the session and expressed frustration over the lack of protections under LUDMA. Mr. Leetham noted that Salt Lake City had motioned to recommend pushing the bill to the interim session, but the motion failed.

Mayor Horrocks acknowledged the Governor's desire to attract Fortune 500 companies and major projects to Utah, emphasizing that the Governor's priority was securing commitments from these companies and ensuring project approvals without local obstacles.

Councilmember Jackson raised concerns about the necessity of the Beehive Agency and argued that local communities already had tools such as Community Reinvestment Agencies (CRAs) to manage economic development. She described the bill as a "tax grab, power grab, and negation of local authority" and urged cities to stand against the legislation.

Councilmember Baskin expressed skepticism about the composition of the authority, suggesting that it would likely consist of major developers and influential business figures, leaving smaller contractors marginalized.

Mayor Horrocks speculated that the bill's origins were rooted in past conflicts with Salt Lake City over the inland port, suggesting that the Governor's Office wanted a nimble and competitive tool to attract high-profile projects. Todd Godfrey agreed this was likely the impetus.

Mr. Leetham acknowledged that part of the Governor's motivation was to boost economic development in rural Utah and to make Utah more competitive on a national level. However, he warned of the trend toward centralized state control over land use, highlighting concerns about the erosion of local government authority.

Councilmember Jackson said a cost benefit analysis would need to be done. She mentioned a trend over the last decade and rankings showed that Utah had the third worst housing market in the nation affordability wise and had also dropped from one of the most desirable places to live to the bottom third in the country. She said these were metrics the State could look at and questioned if the things the State was doing were working. She said this bill epitomized the example of the direction the State was going and how she felt it was the wrong direction. Councilmember Baskin inquired about the league officers responsible for determining the ULCT's position. Mr. Leetham responded they included Mayor Walker, Mayor Kaufusi, Seth Perrins, Kate Bradshaw, and Mayor Silvestrini.

Mayor Horrocks closed the discussion by reflecting on the complexities of balancing free market principles with local community interests and acknowledged the difficult position the Governor's Office was in to facilitate statewide development.

5. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The City Council minutes of February 18, 2025 were reviewed and approved.

Councilmember Van Langeveld requested an amendment to line 68 ending the sentence at the word "*start*" and deleting "*and was not in favor of hiring a marketing company.*" She also asked that line 696 be revised from "*voting and taxation related to education funding*" to "*voting and taxing entities.*"

Councilmember Knowlton moved the City Council approve the minutes of February 18, 2025 as amended. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Councilmembers Baskin, Clayton, Jackson, Knowlton, and Van Langeveld.

6. ACTION ITEMS

The action items list was reviewed. Completed items were removed from the list.

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Clayton reported on an email sent to the City Council for their review and requested having Council participation at City events.

The Council discussed participating in the Bountiful Handcart Days Parade along with the Youth City Council.

Councilmember Van Langeveld mentioned the social media manager position for Eaglewood Golf Course and branding for the City. She mentioned the perception of the City and working to counteract the current reputation and negative publicity. She suggested hiring a public relations firm and having discussions about the vision for the City.

Councilmember Baskin reported on the work of the Legislative Policy Committee. She mentioned the Gateway Parks winter tubing had concluded and wondered if the Council was able to participate.

Councilmember Jackson thanked staff for the comprehensive training during the new Arts Committee meeting. She reported on the South Davis Rec Center board meeting and touched on revamping the budget, competing with private entities, and the passage of a large tax increase.

Councilmember Knowlton reflected on the General Plan update and how it could be helpful in a rebrand.

8. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Todd Godfrey had nothing to report.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Horrocks commented that he had received a phone call related to Red Barn Farms potentially relocating to the City. Staff commented that they were unaware of a potential relocation.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ken Leetham reported on the public comment letter related to the quiet zone. He said it was the same letter that had been previously submitted with the change that Union Pacific had moved the project forward and anticipated the improvements would be completed within six months.

11. ADJOURN

Mayor Horrocks adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

The foregoing was approved by the City Council of the City of North Salt Lake on Tuesday April 1, 2025 by unanimous vote of all members present.



Brian Horrocks, Mayor



Wendy Page, City Recorder

