

KAYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
April 17, 2021

Minutes of a special Kaysville City Council work session held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers in Kaysville City Hall at 23 East Center Street, Kaysville, UT.

Council Members present: Mayor Katie Witt, Council Member John Swan Adams, Council Member Barber, Council Member Mike Blackham, Council Member Andre Lortz and Council Member Tamara Tran

Others Present: City Manager Shayne Scott, Finance Director Dean Storey, Assistant Finance Director Levi Ball, City Recorder Annemarie Plaizier

**OPENING**

Mayor Witt opened the work session and welcomed everyone present. Mayor Witt introduced Levi Ball and explained that he was recently hired as the Assistant Finance Director.

**FY 2022 BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Finance Director Dean Storey introduced the tentative FY 2022 budget and explained that Staff is seeking input from the council. The tentative budget will be adopted at the May 20, 2021 city council meeting. The council will continue to be updated with further information as we progress in reviewing the budget. The city's sales tax numbers from over this previous year has remained stronger than anticipated, despite the impacts of the pandemic. We are unsure if those numbers will change substantially or if we will see much difference. Staff has reviewed the tentative budget with the department heads and have asked them to determine what their anticipated needs will be over the next fiscal year. The city's department heads have been good with managing their budgets well over the years and they try not to spend their allotted budget amount. This is one of the reasons why the city currently has a sizeable amount of money in our fund balance. The city is only allowed to have so much in our fund balance and must determine what to do with the extra funds. This opens up some options for the city on where the money will be used or transferred to. The numbers being presented now with the tentative budget will be changed before the council approves the final budget, mostly because we will not receive the numbers from the county assessor for our property taxes until the end of May. Another thing the council will need to consider is how the city will cover the money necessary to fund the paramedic program that the city is required to take over from the county next year. When we do take over the program, the county will take the revenue that was previously collected from property taxes by the county and redirect those funds to the cities. However, the county paramedic program has been underfunded for several years and the city will need to determine how to make up the difference in that fund balance in order to cover the cost for paramedic services.

Council Member Lortz commented that the city needs to be as transparent as possible with residents about the paramedic program to try to help educate them about what is going to happen.

Even though they may see that a portion of their taxes will be raised, the county's portion will be lowered at the same time. There may be a little more of an increase over what the county's portion is, but that will be to cover the cost of these services.

Council Member Blackham said that the fire chief would like to start to hiring paramedics next February and have them start by April or May.

Council Member Adams asked about tax rates.

Mayor Witt commented that for many years the city has held our rate the same, but the value of the homes have gone up, which is why people have seen an increase. Because housing prices have gone up so much more recently, we may need to consider not capture all of that rate.

Council Member Lortz said that it is great in notion to think that we could lower our property taxes. However, property tax rates have been set to be flat from year to year and our cost to operate city services that are supported by property taxes do not remain flat. Every year they go up with inflation. We would need to be collecting a much higher growth rate from our other taxes, our sales and use taxes primarily, in order to be able to consider decreasing our property taxes. We need to plan that our property taxes will grow with that inflation to be able to continue to support our city services.

Mayor Witt commented that by holding a truth in taxation yearly and increasing it by small increments, the city can keep up on having the funds we need in order to cover our costs for city services.

Council Member Lortz said that we need to be proactive in setting the rate for the taxes that we need.

Dean Storey reviewed the funds budgeted for city staff salary and compensation funds and said that the proposed budget also includes the requested staff from department heads, as well as a cost of living increase.

Council Member Barber said that there a big need in the city for a good HR person and we need to try to make sure the salary for the position is competitive.

Shayne Scott commented that recently the Code Enforcement Officer has moved positions within the city and now the Community Development department, with the help of Public Works, is considering rearranging their budget and employee duties to find the means to hire a city engineer. The rest of the staff in the Community Development department would then work jointly to do code enforcement. Hiring a city engineer would help relieve some of the duties that Josh Belnap, the Public Works Superintendent, has been burdened with since the previous city engineer quit, and would also help with other duties that the Community Development staff has been doing.

Council Member Blackham said that our engineering consulting costs have gone up in order to cover our needs. However, it likely might be less expensive to continue to rely on outside engineers rather than hiring one in-house.

Shayne Scott said that there are many duties that are being done by different staff members that a

city engineer could help relieve them of. The council could consider hiring an engineer in training to do most of the engineering work and then Josh Belnap would still be considered as the city engineer and would oversee the engineer in training.

Dean Storey commented that the police department has requested some positions for their department as well.

Council Member Lortz said that the DTC has reached out to the city about having city police officers being on site at the school. They have indicated they are willing to direct more funds to the city in order to get officers on site sooner.

Shayne Scott said that it is uncertain if there will be money in the budget to fulfill all of the requests for more employees. However, we would like to continue to review this as we see where our numbers are.

Dean Storey discussed the creation of a vehicle fleet program with the city council and the possibility of leasing fleet vehicles rather than buying the vehicles at a lump sum. The council asked to see a comparison of the net cost of leasing vehicles versus purchasing them.

The City Council discussed the possibility of implementing a RAMP tax in Kaysville.

Council Member Lortz said that there has been a lot of interest in our community in building a recreation center and a RAMP tax would be a start in gathering funds for these types of buildings.

Council Member Barber commented that she has wanted to put a RAMP tax on the ballot for three years now. It is something we need in Kaysville and makes a lot of sense. People associate tax negatively but residents have indicated they want more with our parks and recreation. It would be negligent of us to not consider this. The Council should be unified in support of putting this on the ballot.

Council Member Lortz said that there needs to be information passed to our residents about it before it goes to vote. People are always asking how to implement more parks and recreation programs and we need to make it clear that if they vote for this it would be a big first step in doing so.

Council Member Blackham added that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be a good ally in helping to spread the word about a RAMP tax and be a support for this.

The City Council took a break at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

Dean Storey reviewed the consolidated fee schedule with the city council and explained that there are a few increases that had been proposed for the FY 2022. One of those increases is raising the annexation fee. Some of the city's fees collected for utilities need to be reviewed and possibly raised to cover costs, such as the storm water fees, which hasn't been changed for several years.

Council Member Lortz commented that he would like to see that fees be raised incrementally over the next 5 years. It would be more efficient to do it this way and will give us more long-term value.

Dean Storey commented that the power department recently had a reliability study done and have created a long-range plan as part of this.

Council Member Lortz said that the power department is not generating enough funding at its current pace and the Power Commission has been discussing where the city's operating utility price funds need to be.

Council Member Blackham commented that he would like to see the data behind the operating costs for our power, and what is being proposed.

Council Member Tran suggested that each department look at their needs and determine what is the most important thing is to them and what capital projects could possibly be put off for another year.

The City Council took a break at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

Council Member Lortz suggested that the city be more specific in why we are moving money from the fund balance elsewhere, especially if we decide to put it aside for a designated project so that it doesn't just become a slush fund.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Council Member Barber made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting at 12:27 p.m. and reconvene into a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual or individuals, in conformance with Utah State Code §52-4-205. The motion was seconded by Council Member Blackham and passed unanimously.

Council Member Lortz made a motion to adjourn the closed session at 1:07 p.m. and reconvene into the City Council work session, seconded by Council Member Tran. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Adams made a motion to adjourn the City Council work session at 1:08 p.m., seconded by Council Member Lortz and passed unanimously.