

CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

August 19 at 5:00 p.m. - Cache County Chamber at 199 North Main, Logan, Utah.

In accordance with the requirements of Utah Code Annotated Section 52-4-203, the County Clerk records in the minutes the names of all persons who appear and speak at a County Council meeting and the substance "in brief" of their comments. Such statements may include opinions or purported facts. The County does not verify the accuracy or truth of any statement but includes it as part of the record pursuant to State law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Sandi Goodlander, Vice-Chair Kathryn Beus, Councilmember David Erickson, Councilmember Barbara Tidwell, Councilmember Keegan Garrity, Councilmember Nolan Gunnell, Councilmember Mark Hurd.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

OTHER ATTENDANCE:

Council Meeting

1. **Call to Order 5:00p.m. – [:05](#) Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance – [0:14](#)** Chair Goodlander opened meeting with prayer and condolences to the families of the slain officers from neighboring Box Elder County.

2. **Special Meeting Matters**

a. **Presentation of Tentative Budget and Associated Recommended Tax Rate by County Executive**

i. **David Zook, Cache County Executive**

ii. **Matt Funk, Cache county Auditor**

[3:14](#) HR Director Amy Adams explained 2024 and 2026 wage differences and projections for market adjustments. [11:31](#) Councilmember Nolan Gunnell asked what the dots below minimum represented. Amy responded those were the lowest market points that needed an adjustment. Councilmember Keegan Garrity inquired what the value for each dot was. Amy answered each dot represented a job title and average pay. Councilmember David Erickson asked what the competitive goal for HR would be. [12:49](#) Amy answered the policy and procedures manual stated to be at the midpoint or above, and then transitioned to COLA discussion. [13:31](#) Councilmember Nolan Gunnell clarified what was included in the area prices. Amy answered the data she had was directly from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Amy explained how Cache County compared to other counties living adjustments. [15:51](#) Councilmember David Erickson asked how many employees and departments are in the other counties. Amy answered the counties are similar in type of jobs compared to cities with different structures and then listed their wage COLA and merit increases. [18:40](#) Amy read the elected officials salaries for comparable counties. She said the compensation committee recommended increase to the market average. Amy read through the salaries of council and urged their consideration to increase wages for fellow councilmembers and future successors. [26:30](#) Councilmember Keegan Garrity asked when the last increase happened. Amy answered 2023 and summarized the costs for each increase. [29:38](#) Vice Chair Kathryn Beus pointed out a possible mathematical error in the wage figures. Chair Goodlander mentioned other counties received benefits. Amy responded per federal and URS law if part time elected officials receive the benefits part time employees would also and it would be costly. [30:55](#) Councilmember Keegan Garrity wondered if the average was different. Amy responded the salaries were listed individually. Chair Goodlander added the population would be valuable to see included. Amy answered the counties highlighted are third class and similar to Cache. Council thanked Amy for her work. [33:10](#) Britteny Kingston handed packets to council. [34:03](#) Auditor Matt Funk went through the budget process and called out what was presented as level 2. [37:10](#) Councilmember Nolan Gunnell asked Fire Chief Brady George how much more capital would be needed. Chief George said it came down to what the analysis received provided. Councilmember Nolan Gunnell commented his fears of fire district, fire, and school taxes. [38:03](#) Matt listed the items on the budget: Assessor needed a vehicle, senior center nutrition budget, meals on wheels. Chair Goodlander interjected there should have been a donation that paid for the three vehicles. Matt answered he was unsure. [39:48](#) Brittany Kingston commented the vehicles were in addition to those already donated. Chair Goodlander clarified what the \$69 million was for. Matt answered a list of expenditures. [41:45](#) Councilmember Keegan Garrity inquired to hear from the Executives office what their recommendations would be. Chair Goodlander commented Council would hear that from the Executive next week. Councilmember Nolan Gunnell asked if policy existed for replacements on

equipment. Matt answered no. Councilmember Nolan Gunnell commented a policy would be needed. Councilmember David Erickson added there should not be competition between other employers. Matt listed a grater that had met over 5,000 hours and was expensive for repair. Councilmember Nolan Gunnell stated at that point the department would need to inform the Executive's office. [45:48](#) Chair Goodlander said she and others had met with Bart Nelson and discussed the need for equipment. Councilmember Keegan Garrity said the chain of command should be followed. [47:32](#) Matt continued with list of expenditures for building and grounds. Chair Goodlander asked about the cost for a new shed. Councilmember David Erickson said the compliance requirements add to the cost. Council discussed the Executive would review the expenditures next. Councilmember Barbara Tidwell expressed her gratitude to Matt for presenting the expenditures to council. [49:34](#) Matt described the detailed cots for public safety and explained in order to balance the \$69 million and \$7.9 million shortfall an option would be to increase property tax of 36%. Discussion among council. Matt added if taxes were raised to cover 3.9% shortfall expect to end 2026 with 18.8% property tax increase. [57:58](#) Councilmember Nolan Gunnell asked if the cost for past flooding paid for from the fund balance to recover is known. Matt answered the trend had been downward. Vice Chair Kathryn Beus asked what the fund was before the AARPA bump happened. [58:39](#) Chair Goodlander asked if there was a recommendation for where the percentage of total budget needed to be. Matt answered the statutory minimum was being checked. Discussion among council and Matt. Matt suggested the possibility of economic downturn and provided conservative approach. Vice Chair Kathryn Beus clarified the breakout of collected budget. Brittany and Matt clarified the amount splits. Councilmember Nolan Gunnell pointed out the taxpayers concern with the economy. He added his hope for the Executive's office help to reduce the budget. Councilmember Keegan Garrity summarized the options were 36% increase, half and half increase, or with cuts. Matt reminded council 47% of the costs are in law enforcement. [1:03:14](#) Chair Goodlander asked what the projected growth for the county would be next year. Matt responded \$540,000. Brittany spoke to a previously asked question with the answer the fund balance before AARPA was unassigned \$8,314,799 and after AARPA increased to \$16,012,910. Vice Chair asked what the budget for 2019 was. Councilmember Keegan Garrity added to see the historical budgets and tax increases over the years. Further discussion between council of known reasons into where property taxes are not being paid, and costly requirements for other expenditures. [1:07:31](#) Brittany read the budget in 2019 was \$29,840,500 with 8 million in reserves, and in 2020 the budget was \$31,830,700. Chair Goodlander commented the budget had doubled since 2021. Councilmember Nolan Gunnell inquired when the assessor would be able to reallocate the commercial and residential weight of tax. Chair Goodlander and Matt responded several appeals were expected. [1:09:10](#) Chair Goodlander asked Amy if the Surveyor position was accounted for in the 2026 budget. Amy answered yes. Council discussed. Brittany mentioned in 2019 and 2020 the roads and weed department were not in the general fund and instead in the municipal services. Vice Chair Kathryn Beus asked why. Brittany answered state code. Council discussed fund balances. [1:11:06](#) Matt included the general fund balance 21 million was unrestricted and the restricted fund balance was closer to 25 million. Councilmember David Erickson asked if the revenues for the jail were included and added the cities should pay competitive costs. Vice Chair Kathryn Beus asked what next step was. Matt said by next week a decision would need to be made on a truth in taxation. Executive Assistant Dirk Anderson commented to set the max rate, but could be lower. Vice Chair voiced what was published in the last notice stayed in the public's mind. [1:14:28](#) Councilmember David Erickson added his favor to look at statutorily unnecessary costs and brought up the non-departmental fund. [1:16:45](#) Councilmember Barbara Tidwell thanked Matt for his work. Council echoed their thanks. Councilmember Keegan Garrity asked for a third option from the Executive's office. Council agreed.

Action: [1:18:48](#) Motion made by Nolan Gunnell to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Keegan Garrity.

Motion passes.

Aye: 7 David Erickson, Barbara Tidwell, Kathryn Beus, Nolan Gunnell, Sandi Goodlander, Keegan Garrity, Mark Hurd

Nay: 0

Adjourn: 7:30 PM [1:18:53](#)

Sandi Goodlander

APPROVAL: Sandi Goodlander, Chair
Cache County Council

Bryson J Behm

ATTEST: Bryson Behm, Clerk
Cache County Council

