**The Mayor’s Livability Agenda**

With the input of Salt Lake City residents, Mayor Ralph Becker has outlined an agenda to guide Salt Lake City on a path to becoming a Great American City. Goals for sustainability, social justice, neighborhood vitality and education have helped shape our collective vision for where we live, work and recreate. As budget priorities are determined and the annual budget is developed, these goals, listed below, are considered by the City’s administration.

1. A Resilient Economy: Advocating for a balanced mix of economic activity in Salt Lake City and pursuing initiatives to bolster our business community.

2. Salt Lake City in Motion: Working to further develop connections between the City's activity centers with a safe, clean and green travel network.


4. Innovation and Celebration of Salt Lake City: Education; Bolstering the City’s partnership with the Salt Lake City School District as it builds a culture of educational excellence through educational innovation, accountability and results.

5. A Commitment to Equality and Opportunity: Elevating the protection of basic human rights for all Salt Lake City residents through policy, education, advocacy and celebration.

6. Enhancing the Artistic and Cultural Life: Focusing on supporting and promoting a culturally engaged population in our City.

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**Budget Process Overview**

The development of Salt Lake City's yearly budget is one of the most important functions of the government. It requires the efforts of both the executive and legislative branches. The City budget year runs on a fiscal year, from July 1 to June 30. Beginning in January, budget staff meet with department heads and budget managers to prepare recommendations for the Mayor’s consideration. Beginning in March, each department head meets with the Mayor as he considers their proposals and the revenue the City will have to expend. Decisions are finalized in April and the Mayor’s Recommended Budget is presented to the City Council in early May. During May and early June, Council members study the budget, have briefings with each department and hold public hearings to determine if they wish to adopt the budget as presented by the Mayor or make changes. The final budget must be balanced with anticipated revenues. The Council votes on the final budget in June. During the fiscal year, there may be budget amendments to make adjustments to the adopted budget.

In accordance with Utah law, each year the County Auditor calculates a certified tax rate that will provide the same amount of property tax revenue as was charged to Salt Lake City in the previous year, excluding new growth. In general, as property values increase, the tax rate or levy will decrease, producing the same amount of revenue each year. If elected officials determine the City needs greater revenues than the certified tax rate will generate, the City must go through a process referred to as Truth in Taxation. This process includes public hearings and notices designed to make sure taxpayers know about the tax rate and costs associated with implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

**Budget Challenges**

Although there have been many positive trends over the last three years, including sales tax revenues returning to pre-recession levels, the City is still struggling to recover from the effects of the recession. For example, this year, and over the last four years, the City has had to add additional funding for pension adjustments based on rate changes made by the Utah Retirement System. The budget also addresses increases in costs for providing and maintaining our technology backbone, and costs associated with implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

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**Budget Summary**

**An Overview of the FY 2015 Budget**

**Mayor**

RALPH BECKER

**City Council**

**District 1** JAMES ROGERS

**District 2** KYLE LAMALFA

**District 3** STAN PENFOLD

**District 4** LUKE GARROTT

**District 5** ERIN MENDEHALL

**District 6** CHARLIE LUKE

**District 7** LISA ADAMS

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**Budget Highlights**

**FY 2015 Council Approved Budget**

- **Total Citywide Budget**: $1.02 Billion
- **General Fund Budget**: $230 Million
- **Capital Improvement Program Fund Budget**: $22.6 Million

**Sales Tax Revenue Improvement**

Sales tax receipts dipped significantly during the recession, however, there has been positive growth for several quarters and revenues are now projected to exceed pre-recession levels.

**Airport Expansion**

Ground was broken this year for the Salt Lake City Airport Terminal Redevelopment Program. Airport officials have spent a number of years analyzing options, soliciting public input and building partner support for this initiative. The $1.8 billion project is expected to generate nearly 24,000 jobs and $1 billion in wages over the next ten years. This project will be financed entirely without adding additional burdens to Salt Lake City taxpayers.

**Government Finance Officers Association Award**

Each year since 1983, Salt Lake City has met the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) criteria for the preparation and presentation of an outstanding budget.
Salt Lake City's budget is comprised of several different types of funds, including the General Fund, Enterprise Funds and Internal Service Funds. The General Fund is discussed in more detail on the following panels. Enterprise Funds, unlike the General Fund, are not supported by property or sales taxes. Revenues in these funds come primarily from fees charged for services provided. For instance, a large part of the Airport Fund revenues are derived from airline landing fees, concession fees and parking fees. The Public Utilities Fund revenues come primarily from fees charged to City residents and businesses for water, sewer, storm water and street lighting services.

The City also has several internal service funds, including Fleet and Information Management Services. Internal service funds exist to account for the financing of goods and services provided by one City agency or department to another.

Where the Money Goes

Where the Money Comes From

Salt Lake City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a multi-year planning program for capital expenditures necessary to replace, rehabilitate or expand the City's public infrastructure. The construction, rehabilitation and/or expansion of streets, sidewalks, bridges, parks and public buildings are typical projects funded by the City's CIP. The Airport and Public Utilities enterprise funds and the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) also invest heavily in infrastructure expansion or rehabilitation.

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Approval Process

Each year, applications requesting General Fund, Federal Community Development Block Grant and/or State Class C Road Fund funding are reviewed by the City's CIP Board, which consists of community residents and City staff. The Mayor considers the Board's input when deciding which projects and funding levels to recommend. The CIP Board and the Mayor also consider the City's 10-Year CIP Plan when making funding recommendations. The City's Enterprise Fund managers and the RDA also formulate CIP recommendations which are reviewed and endorsed by the Administration. All CIP budget recommendations are ultimately reviewed and approved by the City Council after study and deliberation.

Capital Improvement Program Projects

This fiscal year the Council approved approximately $22.6 million in Capital Improvement Fund dollars for CIP projects. A portion of this funding will be used to service the debt on bonds the City has issued for projects such as the City's fleet facility and development of the North Temple Boulevard. The remaining amount will be used toward projects such as local streets reconstruction, traffic signal upgrades, park restroom construction and rehabilitation, and various facilities upgrades. Some examples of specific projects in recent years are listed below:

- $536K in 2010 for Local Streets Reconstruction in Districts 2 and 4
- $300K in 2012 for East Capitol Boulevard Streetscape and Memory Grove Overlook Improvements
- $450K in 2013 for Citywide Bike Lane Projects
- $450K in 2014 for Fairmont Park soccer field improvements