

CITY OF OREM
SPECIAL JOINT OREM /ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT (ASD) CITY COUNCIL MEETING
56 North State Street Orem, Utah
August 20, 2024

4:00 P.M. WORK SESSION - CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM

CONDUCTING	Mayor David A. Young
ELECTED OFFICIALS	OREM - David Young, David Spencer, LaNae Millett, Jeff Lambson, Tom Macdonald, and Jenn Gale (Chris Killpack absent) ASD - Joylin Lincoln, Sara Hacken, Stacy Bateman, and Ada Wilson
APPOINTED STAFF	OREM - Brenn Bybee, City Manager; Ryan Clark, Assistant City Manager/Development Services Director; Steve Earl, City Attorney; Brandon Nelson, Finance Director; Josh Adams, Police Chief; Marc Sanderson, Fire Chief; Chris Tschirki, Public Works Director; Bryce Merrill, Library and Recreation Director, Jennica Jones, Strategy and Innovations Division Manager; Jon Dorney, Transportation Engineer; Gary McGinn, Acting Assistant Development Services Director; Peter Wolfley, Communications Manager, PIO; Teresa McKittrick, City Recorder ASD - Shane Farnworth, Superintendent; Jason Sundberg, Business Administrator;

NOTE: The referenced report and presentation documents for each discussion may be viewed at [orem.org/meetings](https://www.orem.org/meetings) under “City Council Presentations”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57PT7WW5sb0&t=1171s>

Sharon Elementary Partnership Presentation *Presenter: Jennica Jones, Strategies and Innovations Division Manager*

Ms. Jones explained that the vision for Sharon Elementary is to develop a partnership between ASD and the City of Orem to utilize Sharon Elementary and the surrounding property for residents and ASD benefits. This partnership will benefit Orem residents through school, City and partner programs and it will ensure continued building maintenance and daily traffic to support and protect the property. The potential City uses include Orem Recreation could use the

school for recreation programming, Orem Events could use it for community events, and Orem City could use it for a child care programming. There are some partner organizations that could use the building, including myHometown and United Way.

Ms. Jones spoke of the logistics that need to be determined. There will need to be approval of the process and timelines, which will include an interlocal agreement. There will need to be capital preparations done and reach out to potential partner organizations. When it comes to operations and budget, the agreement, insurance and cost sharing would need to be determined. Costs that may need to be shared include utilities, building preparations, equipment upgrades, park costs, signage, lighting, and security. For maintenance and custodial needs there would need to be a determination for initial facility preparation, ongoing maintenance and daily custodial. For park maintenance, there would be a determination on Sharon Park staff and short term to longer plans to support mowing, tree health, irrigation, etc. For security, support would be needed from Orem police and fire, and an evaluation of parking lots, pathways, security cameras, etc. There would need to be determinations on the staff needed for the facility, including administration and on-site staff.

Ms. Jones opened it up for questions and discussion of this partnership. Mr. Farnsworth showed support for this partnership. There were discussions about the partnership and questions about the timeline and next steps.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57PT7WW5sb0&t=2452s>

Water Tank Construction by Orem Elementary Discussion *Presenter: Ryan Clark, Assistant City Manager*

Mr. Clark started the presentation with a short video of the Heritage Park 10 million gallon water storage tank construction. He explained that this tank is west of 400 West and 400 South. The tank is about 320 ft in diameter and 21 ft in height. He showed drawings of what the park will look like when completed. The road on 400 South between the tank and Orem Elementary has been closed for several months for the installation of a pipeline. The goal to complete this project is June 15, 2025. The pipeline in the road has been installed and the road is being repaired. The City has a goal to open for westbound traffic on 400 South this fall. Pictures were shown of the inside of the tank.

Mr. Clark opened the discussion up for questions. Mr. Clark explained the design and purpose of the future Heritage Park. Mr. Tschirki explained quickly some of the ways Orem City gets their water.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57PT7WW5sb0&t=2940s>

Future Development and Growth Discussion

Ms. Millett addressed the ASD board and staff regarding significant upcoming developments in the city. First, is the Canyon Park Development. This is a new residential

development proposed near Orchard Elementary School, replacing part of the once WordPerfect campus, now known as Canyon Park Tech Park. The plan currently includes 150 homes, though the final number may be closer to 100, depending on zoning and planning decisions. Concerns were raised about the impact of this development on the neighborhood, especially considering the nearby DLI Magnet School, which won't serve local students but rather those enrolled in the DLI program from other areas. Other developments in the area include projects on Fourth East, Strat property, and 1600 North, which could collectively bring in around 150 new homes.

The developments are expected to have a substantial impact on local schools, particularly in terms of student enrollment numbers. The City Council discussed the need to plan for these changes, noting that the developments could increase the number of students in the area. There is concern about how the new housing developments will affect local school demographics, especially with a noted decline in student enrollment at some schools over recent years.

The City Council members also discussed the state's recent legislation allowing single-family homes to include accessory units, which could result in an increase in housing density. Data collection on housing trends and school enrollments were emphasized, with the City Council expressing a desire to monitor these changes closely. Additional developments near Krispy Kreme and other parts of the city were mentioned, with a focus on maintaining the city's appeal to families by offering housing options that meet the demand.

A detailed discussion on the capacity of local schools, particularly high schools and junior highs, was held. The schools' ability to accommodate current and future student populations was analyzed, the growth in Vineyard is accounting for much of the increase in Orem schools' numbers. The City Council briefly touched on the impact of charter schools, home schools, and private schools on the local education system, noting that these options also affect overall student numbers in the district.

The Alpine School District emphasized the importance of staying informed about these developments and their potential impacts on the community, particularly on local schools and infrastructure. The need for ongoing communication and data sharing between the city and the school district was highlighted to ensure proper planning and response to the anticipated growth.

Rise in Taxes in 2023 & 2025 Discussion

Mayor Young began the discussion on the rising property taxes related to the Alpine School District's bonds and the restructuring of these bonds. Concerns were raised about the impact on Orem, particularly with the possibility of the district splitting into three separate districts. It was explained that any debt, including general obligation bond debt or lease revenue bond debt, would be divided proportionately based on taxable value. The conversation also addressed confusion regarding tax notices and how they reflect increases. ASD explained that a 20% increase was expected last year, but due to reductions in debt service, the actual increase was closer to 10%. This year, a similar situation occurred where a 16.5% increase was indicated, but the actual increase ended up being around 7%.

There was also discussion on how the school district manages levies and bonds. The district aims to keep tax rates steady by making small increments rather than large increases. This approach is intended to ensure stability in revenue without causing a significant burden on taxpayers. The overall message from ASD emphasized that while there have been tax increases, the district has been responsible and comparable to other districts in terms of tax rates, ensuring that the funding needed for education is secured without excessively burdening taxpayers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57PT7WW5sb0&t=5829s>

School Busing Issues Discussion

Mr. Spencer spoke about several parents from Lakeridge that had reached out to City Council members to express concerns regarding school busing issues, particularly involving students from Lakeridge. The main concern was that some children chose to walk home instead of waiting on a double run bus route, which included crossing the busy and unsafe 1300 South road. This situation led to safety worries among parents and guardians.

Mr. Farnsworth explained that the double runs result in some students having to wait for a second bus trip. The double runs are necessary because there aren't enough drivers to complete all routes in a single run, which causes delays of 15-20 minutes for the second group of students to be picked up. The shortage of bus drivers is slowly improving, but challenges remain in retaining drivers due to competitive pay in other sectors and the inability to offer full 8-hour contracts. There was also concern about the discontinuation of 13 bus routes to Lakeridge Jr. High. Mr. Farnsworth explained that the bus radius and routes are determined by the Transportation Director, who follows State guidelines.

Mr. Spencer asked the ASD representatives if in the general budget overhead every child is given \$244 for busing? He believed that this would result in \$23 million for busing. Mr. Spencer wanted to know the busing costs for ASD. Mr. Sundberg did not have those numbers at this time. Mr. Farnsworth reported that an external review of their routing system confirmed that, given the current number of drivers and students, no more efficient solutions are available. Orem has 197 stops that are not reimbursed by the state, leading to substantial additional costs. This situation causes double runs in other areas and poses challenges. Overall, Orem is receiving a disproportionate amount of transportation services compared to other areas.

Safe Crossing Discussion

Ms. Millett emphasizes the importance of partnership with the Alpine School District, especially concerning the impact of school closures on traffic safety. She explained that the City has taken significant steps to improve safety around Sharon Elementary, addressing community concerns about near misses and accidents involving students. Actions include the installation of pedestrian crossings, concrete islands, ADA ramps, curbing, RRFBs (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons), and the hiring of additional crossing guards. The City's traffic engineer, John

Dorny, has been instrumental in these efforts. The City is eager to collaborate with the school district to establish safe routes for students and advocate for necessary legislative support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57PT7WW5sb0&t=6887s>

Magnet School Discussion

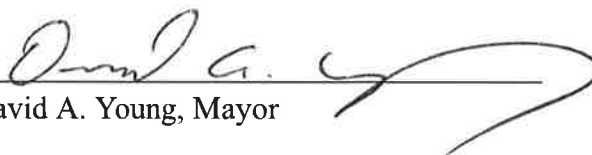
Ms. Millett and Mr. Spencer demonstrated a lot of concern about how the introduction of the DLI (Dual Language Immersion) magnet school at Orchard will impact local schools and communities, particularly Windsor and Northridge. Members of the Council advocated for the needs of students and families in the Windsor area who are already facing significant challenges and are worried about how changes will affect their educational stability and access.

Ms. Bateman emphasized that the school district has similar issues across the entire district. She explained some of the reasons the school district is looking into a magnet school option. Ms. Millett's point is that the school district should wait until after the decision on the school district split is made before deciding whether to start a magnet school in Orem. Ms. Wilson and Mr. Farnsworth spoke about challenges that the school district is facing with this decision. Mayor Young asked the ASD representatives to consider the concerns the Orem City Council members have expressed in their upcoming votes.

ADJOURN

Mr. Macdonald moved to adjourn this meeting, **seconded** by Ms. Millett. Those voting yes: David Young, LaNae Millett, David Spencer, Jeff Lambson, and Tom Macdonald. The motion **passed**.

PASSED and APPROVED this 17th day of September 2024.


David A. Young, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teresa McKittrick, City Recorder



COUNCIL MEMBER

AYE NAY ABSTAIN

Mayor David A. Young	☒	☐	☐
Chris Killpack	☒	☐	☐
David Spencer	☒	☐	☐
Jeff Lambson	☐	☐	☐
Jenn Gale	☒	☐	☐
LaNae Millett	☒	☐	☐
Tom Macdonald	☒	☐	☐

