

1 **South Davis Recreation District**  
2 **Truth in Taxation Public Hearing**

3 November 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
4

5 Board Members present in person:

6 Councilmember Kate Bradshaw, Bountiful City  
7 Jennie Decker, County Representative  
8 Rick Earnshaw, County Representative  
9 Mayor Brian Horrocks, North Salt Lake City  
10 Todd Meyers, County Representative  
11 Councilmember Spencer Summerhays, Centerville City  
12 Mayor Ken Romney, West Bountiful City  
13 Mayor Ryan Westergard, Woods Cross City.  
14

15 Staff In Attendance:

16 Tif Miller, Executive Director  
17 Mary Gadd, Office Manager  
18 Cory Haddock, Ice & Recreation Director  
19 Scott McDonald, Aquatics & Fitness Director  
20  
21 Tyson Beck, District Clerk  
22 Jayme Blakesley, District Attorney  
23 Galen Rasmussen, District Treasurer

24 Others in attendance:

25 Kathy Adams (North Salt Lake), Randy Adams (North Salt Lake), Julio Amarillo (Bountiful),  
26 Faye Anderson (Bountiful), John Armknecht (North Salt Lake), Kathy Asay (Bountiful), JoEllen  
27 Ashworth (North Salt Lake), Kevin Astill (Centerville), Jason Baker (West Bountiful), Ed Bartling  
28 (Bountiful), Sheri Bennett (North Salt Lake), Janalyn Biehn (Bountiful), Russ Biehn (Bountiful),  
29 Angela Brock (West Bountiful), Jeff Bryson (Centerville), Marianne Burbidge (Woods Cross), Neil  
30 Burnette (Woods Cross), Rick Burt (Fox 13), Carrie Callister (Bountiful), Mark Callister (Bountiful),  
31 Ruth Cannon (Bountiful), Steve Carlson (Bountiful), Geraldine Chappell (Bountiful), Linda Child  
32 (Bountiful), Paul Child (Bountiful), Paul Cutler (Centerville), Pat Dowler (Bountiful), Dalane  
33 England (Bountiful), Alena Ericksen (Centerville), Michaelyn Erickson (Bountiful), Ed Fila  
34 (Bountiful), Kevin Francis (Bountiful), Joy Gowans (Bountiful), Joel Grant (Bountiful), Kyle Green  
35 (Centerville), Dana Guertin (Bountiful), Ron Guertin (Bountiful), Scott Hansen (Centerville),  
36 Sterling Harms (Bountiful), Joanne Heldeband (North Salt Lake), Kara Higginson (Bountiful),  
37 Richard Higginson (Bountiful), Jason Holt (Bountiful), Amy Hughes (city not provided), Stephanie  
38 Humphrey (Bountiful), Suzette Jackson (North Salt Lake), Lisa Jeray (Centerville), Lorene Kamalu  
39 (Davis County Commission), Val Leary (West Bountiful), Pete LeFevre (Woods Cross), Stacy  
40 LeFevre (Woods Cross), David Lewis (Woods Cross), Robert Lindsay (Bountiful), Gary Lund  
41 (Bountiful), Laura Malan (Bountiful), Paul Malmstrom (Bountiful), Charlynn McNair (Bountiful),  
42 Scott McNair (Bountiful), Sylvia Miera-Fisk (Bountiful), Bret Millburn (Centerville), Debbie Miller  
43 (Bountiful), Mike Moore (North Salt Lake), Greg Mortensen (Bountiful), Melanie Mortensen  
44 (Bountiful), Ron Mortensen (Bountiful), Holly Nelson (Bountiful), John Norman Jr. (Bountiful),  
45 Anne Marie Oborn (Bountiful), Ashley Olsen (Bountiful), Kirk Olsen (city not provided), Erin Ottley  
46 (Bountiful), Gary Powell (North Salt Lake), Cecilee Price-Huish (Bountiful), Blair Reed (North Salt  
47 Lake), Sylvia Redmond (Bountiful), Jim Redmond (Bountiful), CJ Reist (Bountiful), Virginia Reist  
(Bountiful), Phil Richter (West Bountiful), Norene Riedle (Woods Cross), Gloria Roach (Bountiful),  
Blaine RosKelley (Centerville), Kathleen RosKelley (Centerville), Carolyn Scheese (Woods Cross),  
Pamela Schilling (Bountiful), Michele Smith (Bountiful), Paul Smith (Bountiful), David Sorenson

48 (North Salt Lake), Kevin Thacker (West Bountiful), Lori Thorpe (Bountiful), Matt Watson  
49 (Bountiful), Melissa Watson (Bountiful), Megan Wells (Centerville), Marilyn Whittaker (Bountiful),  
50 Patsy Womak (Bountiful)

51

52 **WELCOME**

53

54 Chairman Earnshaw opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

55

56 **DISTRICT STAFF PRESENTATION REGARDING PROPOSED TAX INCREASE**

57

58 Tif Miller presented a brief history of the Recreation District highlighting that in 16 years the  
59 District has never increased its tax levy and has only seen a change in the levy from new growth, in  
60 that time the District has loss buying power due to inflation, costs of operations have increased  
61 substantially, and staffing wages have increased to remain competitive. In the same 16 years the  
62 District’s program offerings have increased due to community requests. District management only  
63 began instituting increases to admission fees and membership fees in 2018. As the pandemic hit in  
64 2020 the District was forced to cease operations for a few months and posted the first budget loss. In  
65 2021 a master plan was approved for the District but has not moved forward with the projects, but the  
66 proposed tax increase would allow for a swimming locker room remodel to a more family-friendly,  
67 individualized private spaces.

68

69 **PUBLIC HEARING**

70

71 At 6:16 p.m. Chairman Earnshaw opened the public comments.

72

73 *Ed Fila* – supports the tax increase, wants the community (young & old) to utilize the facility

74 *Kyle Green* – too many entities are raising his taxes, does not believe the facility is a need to have

75 *Kevin Astill* – can be for an increase for maintenance and upkeep but not expanding during this  
76 economy

77 *Suzette Jackson* – government should not compete with private businesses and then ask those to pay  
78 into their competitor, would like a full audit to be performed

79 *Michael Moore* – against the tax increase as it appears that user rates will be increasing over the next  
80 few years

81 *David Lewis* – against the tax increase, does not see the value in the facility to what they pay

82 *Megan Wells* – supports the tax increase, the facility is a safe place for everyone to go

83 *Alena Ericksen* – if the facility is a public space why is there a membership fee?

84 *Stephanie Humphrey* – asked if it has been considered to cut the increase and take a “let’s see”  
85 approach

86 *Richard Higginson* – believes there is disproportional representation with the three county seats on  
87 the Board, asked to find a workable compromise,

88

89 Mr. Higginson also read a prepared statement from Bountiful City Council that urges  
90 reconsideration of the tax increase and instead focusing on sound budget principles.

91

92 *Ron Mortensen* – many of the problems are due to lack of planning and feels that there is no  
93 comprehensive maintenance plan for the facility, programs have been added without asking the  
94 taxpayers

95 *Greg Mortensen* – facility has the worst ice, community should come together to fund what they want

96 *Edward Bartling* – the tax increase will take a hit on low-income households livability  
97 *John Armknecht* – reconsider the tax increase  
98 *Melanie Mortensen* – asked that the problem be resolved and provide transparency  
99 *Dalane England* – think of creative ways to make up the deficit  
100 *Rusty Cannon* – find a balance between taxes and user fees as the facility is heavily used  
101 *Kevin Thacker* – the community has grown and it’s continually straining  
102 *Russ Biehn* – asks for respect with his tax money  
103 *Lisa (no last name given)* – can taxes be shifted from one entity to another  
104 *JoEllen Ashworth* – users of the facility should be paying for it  
105 *Bob Lindsey* – can the cities step up and use their reserve funds  
106 *Gary Lund* – against the tax increase and opposed it back in 2004  
107 *Holly Keddington* – unconscionable to increase taxes for recreation  
108 *Phil Richter* – against tax increase, no need to remodel the locker rooms  
109 *Blair Reed* – it is not that there is not enough but that it is mismanaged  
110 *Joel Grant* – shift the burden to the users of the facility  
111 *CJ Reist* – compromise somewhere  
112 *Kyle Green* – use more outside of the box thinking to find revenue, other ways to staff the facility  
113 *Megan Wells* – consider who is missing from the meeting tonight  
114 *Debbie Miller* – her and her family cannot afford a membership,  
115

116 At 7:53 p.m. Mayor Horrocks made a motion to close the public hearing. Mayor Romney  
117 seconded the motion.  
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119 **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-07 SETTING NEW OPERATIONS TAX**  
120 **REVENUE FOR 2024**  
121

122 Tyson Beck answered several of the questions that were raised in the public hearing. Mr.  
123 Beck responded that the District has an independent audit performed and it’s available on the State  
124 Auditor’s website, along with the budget documents. Mr. Beck provided clarification on the  
125 percentages of the Districts two tax levies and the way tax is configured. Mayor Romney asked if the  
126 Board could approve a lesser amount than the posted one, and Mr. Beck confirmed that they could.  
127

128 Mr. Miller provided information fee increases and program costs and changes, that expenses  
129 have been reduced by removing operations of the concessions, removal a full-time position, working  
130 with Davis School District on funding of an additional pool space, the possibility of on-going  
131 operations and maintenance funds, and what the interlocal agreement with the school district is.  
132

133 Chairman Earnshaw commented that previous boards have been too conservative, and any tax  
134 increase was always pushed back. Mayor Romney commented that the cash reserve levels have  
135 decreased over the last couple of years, that he was aggressive in the amount of tax increase he  
136 proposed and agrees there will be reviews on how to operate more efficiently. Mayor Horrocks  
137 expressed that after tonight that he is against the increase but is open to a lesser increase, Mayor  
138 Horrocks mentioned that the master plan has an expansion facility planned in North Salt Lake but is  
139 unsure if that will ever happen. Mrs. Decker stated that an audit of programming is underway and that  
140 an audit has been asked for all the full-time positions to see where improvements can be made. Mrs.  
141 Decker is in favor of out of box thinking and increasing utilization for additional private functions.  
142

143 Councilmember Bradshaw expressed that the lack of data doesn’t allow the board to make

144 great fiscal decisions and that steps are being taken that will mostly track the expenses by the  
145 different activities and sports. Councilmember Bradshaw has been concerned about this tax increase  
146 and said that spending cuts are needed and a review of the services that are provided. Mayor  
147 Westergard is also concerned about the lack of information and has asked for a review of staffing and  
148 programming offered. Councilmember Summerhays stated that any tax increase should be founded  
149 on a practical logical basis and that he previously suggested a lesser increase of 72.19%.  
150 Councilmember Summerhays also has asked for further review of the competitive programs. Mr.  
151 Meyers expressed his concern on increasing the reserves for the maintenance of the current facility.

152  
153 A motion to adopt Resolution 2023-07, Setting New Operations Tax Revenue for 2024 at  
154 1.275 million, was made by Mrs. Decker. Mayor Romney seconded the motion. Chairman Earnshaw  
155 asked for a roll call vote. Board Members Romney, Decker, and Earnshaw voted “aye.” Board  
156 Members Horrocks, Bradshaw, Westergard, Summerhays, and Meyers voted “nay.” The motion  
157 failed.

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159 Board Members and staff discussed the timeline of when a budget is to be approved and an  
160 approval on any tax increase.

161  
162 Councilmember Bradshaw made a motion to continue the discussion on setting a new  
163 operations tax revenue in the next board meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Councilmember  
164 Summerhays seconded the motion. Board Members Bradshaw, Decker, Earnshaw, Horrocks,  
165 Romney, Summerhays, and voted “aye.” Board Member Meyers voted “nay.”

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167 **ADJOURN**

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169 At 9:07 p.m. Mayor Romney made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Summerhays  
170 seconded the motion.