

TO: The Sandy City Council
FROM: Pat Casaday, Sandy City Resident, bishopcasaday@gmail.com
DATE: 5 August 2019
RE: Proposed 34% Property Tax Increase

Thank you for your service in support of our City and for your sacrifices in our behalf. I am a long-time Sandy City resident. I will be unable to attend your Truth in Taxation hearing scheduled for August 13, 2019, and I wanted to express my feelings in this letter.

1. Under the previous administration we had little or no property tax increases (actually, we may have had some decreases), so I can perhaps understand a “small” increase as being warranted. However, I am opposed to the “magnitude” of the proposed 34% property tax increase.
2. I understand that when the proposed budget was approved in June, (a) you were essentially given two choices, a 34% property tax increase, or no increase, and (b) the increase was accepted by a bare majority. Did you consider lesser amounts, other options, etc?
3. I understand the streetlight fee (as part of the proposed budget) is scheduled to be eliminated. I think the streetlight fee should stay. It could offset and reduce any property tax increase.
4. I believe user fees (like the streetlight fee) are more equitable than property taxes. Many entities are exempted from property taxes (schools, churches, government buildings (federal, state, county, etc.), quasi-government buildings (UTA, etc.), certain non-profits, etc.), whereas user fees are applied more evenly to those who receive the service.
5. I understand a Government Obligation bond for capital facilities projects (new Parks Building, upgrades to the new Public Works Building, etc.) has been contemplated for many years. I believe a 34% property tax increase could make it less likely that voters would approve such a bond.
6. In light of proposed Canyons School tax increases, I believe 34% is untenable with Sandy City residents, and this would reflect poorly on you and the City.
7. I understand a substantial portion of the proposed tax increase would fund new positions within the Police Department. However, I understand there currently exists a \$1,000,000 carry-over from their previous budget. This money (in my opinion) should be used before additional funds are appropriated.
8. Under the previous administration, City officials were able to take advantage of various outside funding sources that (in my opinion) avoided such property tax increases. I know “first-hand” that Mayor Dolan brought in tens of millions (perhaps hundreds of millions) of dollars by developing relationships, attending meetings, and (essentially) getting very involved in the Community. I learned that (under his management style) the CAO runs the City while the Mayor actively goes out and gets the money.
9. I would encourage the current administration to look for creative ways to fund the City and consider a property tax increase only as the last resort.
10. I believe that for Sandy City to even “hint” that a property tax increase is necessary “so it can be in line with neighboring cities of comparable size”, is misguided and does a great disservice to our residents.
11. Without “running the numbers”, I estimate an increase of 15% to 20% would be more reasonable, rational, and acceptable.

Again, thanks for all you do. I don’t mean to be critical - and certainly not disrespectful - just to express some honest, heartfelt opinions.