

December 28, 2019

Sandy City Council

Dear Council Members,

On October 24, 2019 the 2019 City Council offered Steve Newton, Steve Van Maren, Steve Smith, and Kay Burton the opportunity to serve as a budget review committee. This committee is to provide an outside budget review to the council. This was to be separate from Mayor Bradburn's budget focus group. A copy of Steve Fairbank's letter to potential committee members is attached.

Steve Van Maren and Kay Burton have accepted this invitation; the others have withdrawn for now. However, we strongly suggest the 2020 City Council give this committee a more formal declaration and a more specific charge. With your further endorsement, we suggest growing this committee's membership with the appropriate expertise to accomplish the council's directives.

As constituted, our focus could be analyzing the current budget to find savings or waste. However there are known issues understanding the Capital needs of the city. So far, only broad strokes have painted the needs. The costs are estimates, and there may be needs not yet apparent.

After meeting with Mike Applegarth, the City Council's Executive Director, we believe you will best be served by a two prong approach:

In consideration of the budget cycle and our interest in getting started, we endorse Mr. Applegarth's plan to train the council in a budget development process he shared with us. We would expect to monitor this training to understand how we can contribute in the future.

At the same time, we would recruit additional volunteers with professional skills, and focus our efforts on identifying the condition of the city's current major facilities. Our intention is to provide a report on our progress monthly. We envision our final report for this stage will consolidate the existing information in a format designed to inform you of the current condition of all major facilities.

The next step is a more detail study, refining the parameters, quantifying conditions, and recommending priorities. This process is expected to require some outside resources, and a funding authorization will be needed. With that support, the council can hire the required expertise to assist this committee and collect the detail to prepare written recommendations that:

1. Identify the current condition of facilities of the city;
2. Identify the benefits and risks associated with those conditions;
3. Develop a reasonable and prudent timetable for mitigating any risks, and;
4. Include practical and reasonable financing options impacting city resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kay Burton
Steve Van Maren
Budget Review Committee Members



Sandy City Council Office

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October 24, 2019

Steve Newton
Steve Van Maren
Steve Smith
Kay Burton

Gentlemen:

At the August 13, 2019 Truth in Taxation hearing there was a suggestion that the Council convene a budget review committee to consider alternatives to the proposed task increase. I believe former Mayor Newton even offered to lead that effort. This would be in addition to the Mayor Bradburn's budget focus group.

The City Council discussed this idea on two subsequent occasions. Although the Council did not opt to formally convene a citizen budget review committee at this time, it was very receptive to the thought of additional, detailed, citizen-led budget analysis. Your names have surfaced as among those who have interest and qualification to offer such a product.

I must stress again that the committee would not have any formal advisory authority. However, I do think that focused, reasonable, well-researched recommendations from a group of citizens such as yourselves would carry weight with future councils and perhaps lead to the creation of a more formal effort. Although the work would now happen in an unofficial capacity, Council Office staff would be available to you if needed, and we hope the Finance staff would participate as well.

Please contact City Council Executive Director Mike Applegarth at (801) 568-7107 or mapplegarth@sandy.utah.gov with your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Steve Fairbanks, Member
Sandy City Council