



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Wednesday, September 25, 2024 – 6:10 pm**  
**Approved October 9, 2024**  
8000 S Redwood Road, 3rd Floor  
West Jordan, UT 84088

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## **WORK SESSION**

### ***1. CALL TO ORDER***

**COUNCIL:** Vice Chair Chad Lamb, Bob Bedore, Pamela Bloom, Kelvin Green, Kent Shelton, Kayleen Whitelock

**STAFF:** Council Office Director Alan Anderson, Mayor Dirk Burton, Budget & Management Analyst Rebecca Condie, Interim City Attorney Paul Dodd, Policy Analyst & Public Liaison Warren Hallmark, Assistant City Attorney Duncan Murray, Council Office Clerk Cindy Quick, Police Chief Ken Wallentine, Economic Development Director David Dobbins

Vice Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 7:58 pm.

### ***2. DISCUSSION TOPICS***

#### ***a. Discussion of West Jordan Justice Court***

Council Office Director Alan Anderson reported that Judge Ronald E. Kunz had announced his retirement in January 2025. He turned time to Justice Court Administrator Jim Peters and Deputy Justice Court Administrator Kim Zimmerman, both local residents.

Justice Court Administrator Jim Peters presented options for the future of West Jordan's Justice Court following Judge Kunz' retirement. The options included: dissolving the Court, partnering with a neighboring jurisdiction, or continuing to operate the Court.

Mr. Peters said notice would need to be provided to the Judicial Council by July 1 at least two years prior to the effective date of dissolution of the Court. The Judicial Council could shorten that time frame if deemed warranted. If the court were dissolved, it would be unlikely be restored easily, under 78A-7-123(2)(b) they would need to demonstrate a strong need for its reinstatement. Partnering with a neighboring jurisdiction would require approval of the Judicial Council. He also noted that upon termination of the partnership, and with Judicial Council approval, West Jordan could resume operating its own court.

The process to continue operating the West Jordan Court, was outlined as follows: the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and West Jordan would advertise the vacancy for at least 30 days and possibly 45 days, ideally at the same time the AOC would form a Nominating Commission of five individuals which would conduct interviews (45 days),

followed by a public comment period (at least 10 days), and the Mayor would select a finalist (30 days) with Council ratification (30 days). The whole process can take six months. The AOC would then provide a new judge orientation, and the Judicial Council would certify the new judge.

Mr. Peters outlined the required advertising process and membership of the Nominating Commission found in 78A-7-202(3). Responding to a question from Vice Chair Lamb, Judge Kunz said his retirement date was flexible if the City chose to continue the Court and moved forward with finding a new judge in a timely manner. Mr. Anderson said City Code was already in place if the Council chose to continue the Court, and commented a judge pro tem could be appointed in the interim if needed. Mr. Peters would like to minimize the gap between Judge Kunz and a new judge as much as possible.

The Council discussed benefits of continuing with a judicial court in West Jordan. Vice Chair Lamb and Council Members Whitelock, Green, and Bedore spoke in favor of continuing the West Jordan Court. Council Member Shelton mentioned knowing a neighboring city who eliminated their judicial court because they felt the city was subsidizing cases from outside the city, however, he would be happy to accept the will of the Council.

Judge Kunz said he took pride in the service that had been provided in West Jordan and while caseloads were down recently, he believed the City owed it to residents to provide the service. Police Chief Ken Wallentine said approximately 416 hours per year would be added to Police Department personnel costs if West Jordan relied on the County for court services. He appreciated the relationship between the West Jordan Court and Police Department and felt the people were best served by being able to come to West Jordan Justice Court.

A majority of the Council supported the continuation of West Jordan Justice Court.

### **3. ADJOURN**

**Vice Chair Lamb adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:38 pm.**

*I certify that the foregoing minutes represent an accurate summary of what occurred at the meeting held on September 25, 2024. This document constitutes the official minutes for the West Jordan Committee of the Whole meeting.*

Cindy M. Quick, MMC  
Council Office Clerk

Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024