

**APPROVED**

**CACHE COUNTY  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

**SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
November 26, 2019**

<u>NATURE OR ORDER OF PROCEEDING</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
BOOTH, CHRIS – Public Comment.....	3
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX INCREASE – Public Hearing-November 26, 2019-Resolution No. 2019-39-2020 Cache County.....	1
HOUSLEY, CLAYTON – Public Comment.....	1
HOUSLEY, MICHAEL – Public Comment.....	2
JOHN (NORTH LOGAN) – Public Comment.....	2
MIKE (PROVIDENCE) – Public Comment.....	1
MORGAN, MICHAEL – Public Comment.....	1,2
PUBLIC COMMENT – Booth, Chris .....	3
PUBLIC COMMENT – Housley, Clayton .....	1
PUBLIC COMMENT – Housley, Michael .....	3
PUBLIC COMMENT – John (North Logan).....	2
PUBLIC COMMENT – Mike (Providence).....	1
PUBLIC COMMENT – Morgan, Michael .....	1,2
PUBLIC COMMENT – Rendall, John.....	2
PUBLIC HEARING – November 26, 2019-Resolution No. 2019-39 – 2020 Cache County Budget and Proposed Tax Increase .....	1
RENDALL, JOHN – Public Comment .....	2
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-39 – 2020 Cache County Budget and Proposed Tax Increase ( <i>NO ACTION TAKEN</i> ).....	3

**CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

The Cache County Council convened in a special session on November 26, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. in the Cache County Council Chamber at 199 North Main, Logan, Utah.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Chairman:** Karl B. Ward  
**Vice Chair:** Gina H. Worthen  
**Council Members:** Paul R. Borup, David L. Erickson, Barbara Tidwell, Jon White, & Gordon A. Zilles  
**County Executive:** Craig "W" Buttars  
**Deputy County Clerk:** Sharon L. Hoth  
**Deputy County Attorney:** James Swink

**The following individuals were also in attendance:** Director Amy Adams, Janeen Allen, Floyd D Burnett, Boyd Fullmer, Carolyn Fullmer, Director Chris Harrild, Brad Hess, Sharon L. Hoth, Michael Housley, Sheriff Chad Jensen, Chris W. Jensen, John ? (North Logan), Laura Kohler, Hank Lund, Attorney John Luthy, Wayne McKay, Michael Morgan, Mike ? (Providence), Chief Deputy County Executive Bryce Mumford, Phillip Noble, John Rendall, Dianna Schaeffer, Terry Warner **Media:** none

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ward called the meeting to order.

**2. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. Public Hearing – Resolution 2019-39 – 2020 Cache County Budget and Proposed Tax Increase** – Chairman Ward explained the purpose of the meeting, opened the Public Hearing and invited public comment.

Michael Morgan asked how county growth compares with the growth of tax. Chairman Ward explained the proposed increase would be 8% to 10%. The Council is trying to be certain money is spent as carefully as possible with no waste. Executive Buttars said the county has seen exponential growth creating a need for increased services and the county is considering holding the mill levy. There was a population increase of 5,000 in 2019.

Morgan said he doesn't receive a 20% increase in his salary. Chairman Ward responded inflation in the cost of providing services has hit the county hardest.

Mike, Providence, said his taxes keep going up. Some wizard determines the market value of his home. Why can't the value stay at what he bought it at? Council member Borup stated his home value has also gone up, but if you look at the tax notice, two-thirds goes to a school district. The county has to provide roads, health care, etc. and do it on a fraction of what the school district is charging. All the Council can do is control the county piece of the taxes. One hundred percent of income tax in Utah goes to education plus the majority of the property tax collected. The state helps determine property values as well.

Clayton Housley, Smithfield, said Smithfield residents were hit with a substantial tax increase and wants to know what plan the county has for the additional taxes it will receive with the proposed increase. Chairman Ward said the budget is open to the public. Most of the money needs deals with inflation and increased cost of services. Six bridges need to be replaced and one bridge can cost \$500,000. Housley said he is curious what process the county goes through to determine if costs can be cut. Council

Cache County Council  
11-26-2019 Special Council Meeting

member Erickson replied the budget process happens all year. The council looks at projected income and expenses. Is it perfect? Probably not – the state legislature can change a county budget with one stroke as it has this year with legislation that took a projected \$500,000 of revenue away from the county. Roads are an area where the county is falling behind because costs are astronomical. Do we scale back on services?

Executive Buttars noted that Smithfield's big increase is because they did not raise taxes for so many years, they had to make a huge adjustment. The county is trying to avoid that by doing a small increase each year.

Sheriff Chad Jensen explained that the \$500,000 the county lost is because the legislature took that amount away from payments to the county for housing state inmates. Does the county rebel and not take any state inmates and lose an additional \$1.2 million or does it bite the bullet and try to cover the lost \$500,000?

In answer to why the county built a jail that will house so many, Jensen replied it takes the same amount of personnel to man the jail for 150 or 300 inmates so it was built for the future in mind.

Council member White reminded the audience that Cache County has one of the lowest tax rates in the state.

Vice Chair Worthen urged the County to put out the budget to the public as the process goes along so they can better understand where the dollars are going.

John Rendall, Providence, asked if the county looks at outsourcing. Executive Buttars, Chairman Ward and Council members Erickson and Borup all responded, yes when possible. In-house is frequently more cost effective, but outsourcing is used when financially more sound.

Michael Morgan said inflation has been historically low and the budget seems to have been increasing 10% a year. This isn't right. Executive Buttars corrected the amount of historic increase to about 6% a year.

Council member Erickson asked, "Are we willing to cut some services? Are we willing to have less fire protection and a lesser quality of roads?"

Council member Zilles reminded the audience of the year the floods washed out so many county roads and citizens were happy to see the repairs. Was Mendon willing to not repair the bridge that washed out on the Mendon Road? No.

Chairman Ward said sometimes the Council feels like they are the adversary in the eyes of the public, but the Council is concerned with providing essential services at the most efficient cost possible. Can we reduce costs? Yes, but at the expense of services.

Vice Chair Worthen mentioned that last year the Human Resources Director was able to get insurance for employees at a reduced cost for a big savings.

John, North Logan, asked what is the cap on taxes? When will they stop going up? When will this top out?

Cache County Council  
11-26-2019 Special Council Meeting

Executive Buttars stated Cache County is at 48% of what the state allows for a property tax mil levy. Council member Borup remarked holding the rate is the best tactic. Executive Buttars said, "Is there a time when taxes will be cut? If I had a crystal ball....."

John replied the county should give more to the people to protect themselves. Council member Borup responded that volunteer firemen are badly needed. John could look into that; however, he would be required to participate in the necessary training and have time to give during the day as a volunteer fire fighter. That is why the county is losing volunteer fire fighters which causes the cost of fire protection to go up.

Michael Housley asked Chairman Ward to elaborate on the possible 8% increase instead of 10%. Chairman Ward said that would require lowering the mil levy and taking the money from the fund balance.

Chris Booth encouraged the Council to consider the 8% or lower. He sees an awfully lot of new county vehicles. Where is the money coming for them? Are they needed? Take a hard look at spending.

Council member Borup thanked everyone as did Council member Tidwell. It is gratifying to see people who are interested in their local government.

**ACTION: Motion by Council member Erickson to close the Public Hearing. Borup seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 7-0.**

**3. INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACTION**

- b. Resolution No. 2019-39 – 2020 Cache County Budget and Proposed Tax Increase (NO ACTION TAKEN)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ATTEST:** Jill N. Zollinger  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
**APPROVAL:** Karl B. Ward  
Chairman