MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGALE BOULEVARD,
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH

Members Present: Mayor Mike Peterson, Council Member Mike Shelton, Council Member Scott
Bracken, Council Member Tali C. Bruce, Council Member Christine Mikell

Staff Present: City Manager John Park, Assistant City Manager Bryce Haderlie, City Attorney
W. Shane Topham

Others: City Recorder Paula Melgar

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Mayor Mike Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.2 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bracken.

2.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS

2.1 Robert Jacobs stated in reviewing his property tax statement, he realized that Cottonwood
Heights City directly impacts his life more than the other line items listed and the City’s portion
of the budget is relatively small. He expressed his support for the proposed tax increase. He
suggested the City support Salt Lake City with regard to the inland port and was opposed to the
State having confiscated 25% of the City for their own use.

2.2 Eric Kraan reported that on September 26, 2017, Brian Berndt presented a PDD idea suggested
by a developer for the expansion of a specific map. The response was favorable, the matter went
through the planning process, and the land use map was expanded. He reported that in January
2018, the same developers requested an amendment to the PDD to change the boundaries. He
stated that the City is responsible for protecting R-1-8 and open space. The guiding principal
suggests looking for funding to purchase properties to maintain the open space. He expressed
his disappointment in the budget and the proposed increase, which is more than originally
proposed. He recommended taking the $27,000 pickleball budget and using it for snow removal.

2.3 Kelley Bollinger, a Mill Hollow resident, reported that she served on the Holladay Cottonwood
Community Council prior to the City’s incorporation. The Police Department at that time would
not respond when called as opposed to the current average response time, which is less than five
minutes. She commended the Cottonwood Heights Police Department and felt that Chief Russo
was being thrown under the bus, which creates a hostile environment in the department and
among staff. She suggested the budget be further reviewed.

2.4 Val Martin concurred with Ms. Bollinger’s statements.

2.5 Ed Schwartz felt that the City had lost sight of who they are and commented that with regard to
taxes, the Council could have made modifications slowly over the course of several years. He
was concerned by the sudden dramatic increase. Mr. Schwartz was opposed to paying a City
Attorney as a consultant rather than hiring a full-time City Attorney. He suggested the Council
consider what is being proposed in terms of actual budget cuts and what has changed from past leadership to the present day.

2.6 Val Martin reported that he has served as a Chief Fiscal Officer within the Federal Government for the past 30 years. He believed the City is having difficulty with the budget because they do not have a CFO. He hoped the City was looking for someone to fill that position.

3.0 ACTION ITEMS


3.1.1 Mayor Peterson reported that the above Ordinance grants telecommunications systems to MCIMetro Access Transmission Services Corporation for the installation of cable fiber.

3.1.2 City Attorney, Shane Topham, reported that the company is an affiliate of Verizon Wireless and wishes to install a fiber cable line in the City’s public right-of-way. They are a public utility provider for the State and, therefore, the City must allow them to use the right-of-way on the same basis as other providers. He confirmed that it is for fiber, not antennas, and will service antennas already installed by other providers.

3.1.3 MOTION: Council Member Shelton moved to approve Ordinance 300. Council Member Bruce seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Council Member Shelton—Aye, Council Member Bracken—Aye, Council Member Mikell—Aye, Council Member Bruce—Aye, Mayor Peterson—Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Consideration of Ordinance 301 Adopting a Proposed Budget for the Period of 1 July 2018 through 30 June 2019; Making Appropriations for the Support of Cottonwood Heights for such Period; and Determining the Rate of Tax and Levying Taxes Upon All Real and Personal Property Within the City of Cottonwood Heights, Subject to Subsequent Adoption of a Final Budget and Rate of Tax in Compliance with Truth in Taxation Requirements.

3.2.1 Mayor Peterson reported that the above Ordinance has been a difficult issue the Council has been working on for several weeks. The previous week the Council commented that they have a greater responsibility to be more transparent and timely. He explained that there are extenuating circumstances and they have discussed adopting new ideas and protocols to ensure more involvement from the Council and more information going out on an annual basis rather than just during the budget process.

3.2.2 Assistant City Manager, Bryce Haderlie, understood the concern constituents have with regard to the professional nature in which staff prepares the budget. He was willing to take full responsibility for his actions and not making the budget information more available. The City’s CFO accepted employment elsewhere and in February the City went through the process of hiring someone new. Unfortunately, the individual who was hired chose to leave after three weeks. Mr. Haderlie noted that at that point, he was given the responsibility of preparing the budget. He has eight years’ experience as a Budget Officer in another community and he spent two additional years as a Finance Department Director. While the City’s current budget is
larger than the one he managed, he felt qualified to handle the demands. He noted that he had only four weeks to revamp the entire budget. He learned a lot in the process and recognized that next year they need to begin much earlier and establish expectations early on. Dean Lundell, the City’s prior CFO, continues to counsel staff while they put a team.

3.2.3 With regard to the proposed $1.5 million increase, he reported that two public surveys were conducted in 2016 and 2017 in an effort to determine where citizens would like to see more money spent. Mr. Haderlie commented that roads were identified a top priority. Projects were identified in the budget and a portion of the increase included projects that total just over $1 million. He pointed out that the Council proposed a 21.9% increase for a total of $1.5 million. The previous afternoon, the Council determined that those figures should be modified. After a lengthy discussion, a decision was made to make a change recognizing that the total amount remains the same. The Council has the discretion to modify them if so desired the present time. He explained that adoption of the proposed budget only begins the Truth in Taxation process. Property tax revenue was reviewed. In 2017-2018, it was reported that the budget included $6,899,090 to be collected. This year, the proposed tax increase estimate is $8,493,000. Mr. Haderlie confirmed that the budget is available for the public to review and noted that the Council will need to set a tax rate. They will then work with the State to establish the Truth in Taxation process.

3.2.4 Mayor Peterson felt it was important to note that throughout the process, they have created or identified deficiencies in the operational budgets and overall, they have reduced the Police Department budget by over $300,000. Because the UFA has redefined how the City is charged through the Interlocal Agreement, the decision was made to reduce the Station 116 four-man crew to a three-man crew with Station 110 maintaining a four-man crew. He confirmed that adjustments will continue to be made.

3.2.5 Council Member Bracken stated that the citizens’ concern about service cuts have been heard. He explained that there have been personnel reductions throughout the City and in both the Fire and Police Departments. While he has a difficult time with the reductions, he has relied on statements by Chiefs Russo and Watson who have indicated that they can still provide the needed services with the proposed numbers. He believed this was a workable budget and he hoped the residents will understand the time and effort that has gone into it.

3.2.6 Council Member Bruce remarked that she has been criticized for nit picking the City’s spending. She believed that the majority of the citizens want full transparency and accountability on the part of the Council. As a City, they can and should be held to the same standard as private industry.

3.2.7 Council Member Mikell thanked Mr. Haderlie for stepping in and for his patience. She commented that going through the budget process has been challenging as there are competing interests. The Council is committed to meeting monthly to review the budget and spend the time necessary to ensure that Police and Fire protection services remain a top priority.

3.2.8 Mayor Peterson commented that after being in municipal government for 45 years, the most difficult thing he has experienced is the Truth and Taxation process. He assured those present that the proposed increase was not a unanimous decision on the part of the Council.
3.2.9 MOTION: Council Member Bracken moved to approve Ordinance 301. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shelton. Vote on motion: Council Member Shelton-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Mikell-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

3.3 Consideration of Resolution 2018-34 Approving an Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County for TRCC Funding (Lighting for Butler Middle School Auditorium).

3.3.1 Mayor Peterson reported that the above Resolution approves an Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County for TRCC funding, which involves a 50% match for the lighting of the Butlerville Middle School Auditorium.

3.3.2 MOTION: Council Member Shelton moved to approve Resolution 2018-34. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce. Vote on motion: Council Member Shelton-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Mikell-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

3.4 Consideration of Resolution 2018-38 Approving an Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County for a Grant of $3,380 in Corridor Preservation Funding (Highland Drive and Fort Union Blvd. Intersection Project).

3.4.1 Mayor Peterson reported that the above Resolution approves an Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County for a grant in the amount of $3,380 for Corridor Preservation Funding.

3.4.2 MOTION: Council Member Bracken moved to approve Resolution 2018-38. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce. Vote on motion: Council Member Shelton-Aye, Council Member Bracken-Aye, Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Mikell-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval of the City Council Business Meeting minutes of January 2 and April 10, 2018 and the City Council Work Session minutes of May 5 and 12, 2018.

4.2 MOTION: Council Member Bruce moved to approve the City Council Business Meeting minutes of January 2 and April 10, 2018 and the City Council Work Session minutes of May 5 and 12, 2018. The motion was seconded by Council Member Shelton. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

5.0 ADJOURN BUSINESS MEETING AND RECONVENE WORK SESSION.

5.1 MOTION: Council Member Shelton moved to adjourn the Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce. The motion passed unanimously.

5.2 The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Business Meeting held Tuesday, June 19, 2018.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: November 13, 2018