

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE WORK SESSION HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M. VIA ZOOM WITH AN ANCHOR LOCATION AT THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK ROOM LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH**

**Members Present:** Mayor Mike Weichers, Council Member Scott Bracken, Council Member Douglas Petersen, Council Member Shawn E. Newell, Council Member Ellen Birrell

**Staff Present:** City Manager Tim Tingey, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, Community and Economic Development Director Michael Johnson, Administrative and Fiscal Services Director Scott Jorges, Systems Administrator Alex Earl

**City Lobbyists:** Greg Curtis, Brian Allen, Chantel Nate

**1. Welcome and Determination – Mayor Weichers.**

Mayor Mike Weichers called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed those present.

**2. Legislative Update and Discussion.**

City Lobbyist, Brian Allen, presented the Legislative update and stated that there are two days remaining in the 2023 Session.

SB-295 had been circled and remains as such until the end of the session.

HB-499 pertaining to Homelessness made it through the House of Representatives and is expected to pass out of the Senate.

HB-364 and HB-406 pertaining to Housing Affordability, was presented by Representative White. They are addressing land development issues and working through changes.

HB-291 pertaining to Short-Term Rentals was intended to create a pilot program and was sent to the Intern Study.

HB-527 pertaining to Mining Operations did not leave rules and will not be heard.

SB-260 pertaining to Transportation Funding continued to go back and forth and was currently in suspended rules.

HB-329 pertaining to Event Permits requires the City rank content for events. There may be an attempt to amend with language that would allow the City to put all permitting events on a website with QR Codes to notify residents of events. Mr. Allen was uncertain of the outcome.

Council Member Birrell raised a question regarding SB-2 and the \$150 million designated to transportation in Cottonwood Canyons.

City Lobbyist, Greg Curtis, reported that SB-185 pertaining to the Creation of Trail Programs, will include ongoing annual funding of \$45 million with an additional jumpstart of \$45 million the first year. The project includes paved trails connecting communities while allowing transportation without having to interact with traffic. The Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) will have latitude when building up the program with an implemented ranking process. He noted that it is a new program that is part of the Governor’s initiatives.

Council Member Birrell expressed enthusiasm for SB-185 and felt it was important to connect to neighboring cities. She believed that continuing to fund more lanes and fast arterials and collectors throughout the communities will create fractures between cities. Mr. Curtis stated that the use of funds is not yet available as it will be administered by the Transportation Committee and appropriated through UDOT. There are restrictions within the Code with regard to imminent domain for trails. Details on how the prohibitions will shape out have not yet been provided. He understood that a number of trails will be dedicated areas adjacent to highways or roads. Locations were discussed.

Mr. Curtis responded to Council Member Birrell’s concern regarding SB-2 and stated that it would include \$100 million in State money with \$50 million going to the Cottonwood Canyons. Potential projects in the City were discussed.

Council Member Birrell requested an update on HJR-17, a proposal to amend the Utah Constitution to require 60% votes on initiatives. Mr. Allen believed HJR-17 passed but would confirm the status.

HB-527, a Mining Operations Amendment, received significant pushback and died.

City Manager, Tim Tingey reported that after the close of the 2023 Legislative Session, the City Lobbyists will present a Legislative Summary during a future Work Session.

Mayor Weichers thanked Messrs. Allen and Curtis and Ms. Nate for their efforts representing Cottonwood Heights.

### **3. Adjourn.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Birrell moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Newell. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The Work Session adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Legislative Work Session held Thursday, March 2, 2023.*

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes  
T Forbes Group  
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: April 18, 2023