

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION HELD MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH

Members Present: Mayor Mike Weichers, *District 1 (Vacant)*, Council Member Scott Bracken, Council Member Shawn E. Newell, Council Member Ellen Birrell

Staff Present: City Manager Tim Tingey, City Attorney Shane Topham, Records, Culture, and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, Human Resources Manager/Deputy City Recorder Maria Devereaux, Police Chief Robby Russo, IT Manager Matt Ervin

Candidates: Boyd Tuttle, Matt Holton, Cami Hostetler, Mark Lentz, MacKenzie Lipps, Susan Ryser, James Farley, Jennifer Cottam, Jesse Curtis, Heather Anderson, Ira Boyer, Catherine Burns, Michael Smith

1. WELCOME – Mayor Weichers.

Mayor Mike Weichers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

Mayor Weichers reported that this is a Special Work Session for the Cottonwood Heights City Council with the intent to interview District 1 candidates to replace the late Doug Petersen. In preparation, Mayor Weichers was reminded of how sad he and the Council were with the loss of Council member Petersen. In considering the process, he believed it is time as a functioning City to name a replacement.

The response for the District 1 seat has been overwhelming. Mayor Weichers reported that they have received a large number of comments from many sharing their amazement with the City having 19 applications submitted. He thanked the applicants for their willingness to serve and be involved in the process. It was noted that there has been minimum discussion between Council Members other than having reviewed the process. He stated that in his mind, the District 1 seat was won by Doug Petersen who was voted in by the citizens for a four-year term. He desired that this process honors his name.

Mayor Weichers commented that the political aspect of a City Council seat begins in two weeks where a resident can file to run for this seat in the fall. He requested the Council make it as unpolitical as possible and remember Council Member Petersen in the process.

2. District 1 Candidate Interviews.

Mayor Weichers reported that each candidate will be asked the same questions and select a number to determine their order. There will not be any public deliberations by the Council following the interview but a vote will be taken during the Special Business Meeting to be held May 16 at 4:00 p.m. The appointed candidate will be sworn in at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular Business Meeting.

It was noted that Matt Holton would join the meeting later.

Question 1: Mayor Weichers:

When making decisions, how would you determine what is in the best interest of the City, particularly land use and zoning, while considering their own District versus the City?

Boyd Tuttle: Mr. Tuttle stated that it would be best to examine the facts based on available information and consider the needs and sentiments of the constituents. It was his opinion that the constituents are the City and the balance between residents and the needs would be taken into account with a vision of the City's overall goals. He grew up in Cottonwood Heights and knew Doug Petersen 40 years ago from Brighton High School and had been a friend ever since. He believed the determination was finding the proper balance as there will be pressure from both sides and resonating with the vision of the City by elected officials representing their community.

Michael Smith: Mr. Smith stated that Doug Petersen was a very good friend and will be missed. He had no desire to be in the position of trying to fill his shoes. To determine the best interest of a question that will come before him as a member of the City Council, he will review the information and expand his view by gathering input from the community to make a fully informed decision. He understood that zoning issues and mandates come into play when determining the most appropriate way to use the land. He will do his best to protect the character of the City. He believed it was important to maintain an open door and communicate that to the community. With regard to a decision that might affect District 1 and may not be favorable to the rest of the City, his responsibility would be to represent the City while speaking for residents of the District.

Susan Ryser: Ms. Ryser stated that having helped Doug Petersen in his election, no one expected they would be in this position. She felt that these types of decisions are never easy and are learned through Zoning and Planning. It is important to remember that the City is the people and businesses. It is important to help residents understand this is about the community and provide education when sometimes the City's hands are tied with State and Federal Law. She was pleased with the City being proactive in future planning while providing clarity. It was her opinion that the most important focus is keeping the people feeling that it is their City and that the elected officials are doing their best to represent them while being compliant with the many issues that arise.

James Farley: Mr. Farley stated that the Mayor brought up an important fact about the current Council having been elected and going through the campaign process. He believed that the goal of the person who fills the seat is to understand District 1 constituents because they have not been vetted through the campaign process. He believed that between now and January 1, 2024, there should be as much input as possible from District 1. He stated that if he represents the City, where he will get the majority of his input, he will use judgment in terms of what is communicated through department heads. Ultimately, he would ask if the decisions he is faced with will help those that live in the City thrive. He believed the government should promote an environment in which businesses, residents, and schools are successful. He considered safety to be important and making sure that as a community, they are great both today and tomorrow.

Cami Hostetler: Ms. Hostetler thanked the City Council for allowing the candidates to participate and stated that she met several of them at a previous small business luncheon. She was pleased the City is small and business-friendly and desires to keep a thriving economy. She believed the most important issue is talking with residents and having them communicate their reasons for liking Cottonwood Heights and what makes them thrive and feel safe. Being out in the community and talking to residents, businesses, and professionals were a priority. Looking at the overall picture, she believed gathering more information is important.

Mark Lentz: Mr. Lentz stated that when making difficult decisions, he would get as much constituent feedback as possible through social media and being out in the public to determine where the citizens stand on these issues. His priority for land use was particularly access based and he would question whether their decisions impact access to the different green spaces or roads. His priority would be to consider access as a primary factor when making decisions and prioritize the preservation of neighborhood character when considering zoning. As a newcomer, he was interested in how the government is run and as Cottonwood Heights continues to grow, balancing growth with character must be considered. When considering the City versus the Districts, he did not see a deep division between neighborhoods. As a team player on the City Council, he hoped to maintain equitable treatment for all in Cottonwood Heights.

Jesse Curtis: Mr. Curtis stated that in making City Council decisions, he would determine the best interest of the City by examining the facts and getting as much information as possible regarding specific scenarios. He believed that listening to the constituents and receiving voter feedback was important. The Council Members not only consider what is best for their District but will be making decisions for the City as a whole and would question if his decisions impact the City or residents and do they align with the goals. He reiterated that he would examine details, listen to constituents, and use his best judgment.

Ira Boyer: Mr. Boyer offered his thanks to the City Council for their organization of this event. When making decisions, he would go to the zoning situation and talk with residents in District 1. He felt that the property on 2300 East and Fort Union Boulevard should be a green property and the City should not go commercial with six parking places where parents can bring their young children. He would continue the policy of no high-rise buildings in the City and establish a fair policy for skiers to rent bedrooms. He noted that there is an upcoming issue regarding fiber optics where he will establish fair procedures. He would like to ensure that the City and its residents are treated fairly and keep taxes as low as possible. He believed that a City Council Member should have the patience to hear all sides of an issue, analyze and arrive at a solution, and always show respect to elected officials and residents of Cottonwood Heights.

MacKenzie Lipps: Mr. Lipps stated that this is his first City Council Meeting and as a Council Member he believed that an important aspect of making fair decisions in the best interest of the City is counseling with other Council Members. Should he be selected to serve in this position, he would represent the best interests of his District while counseling other Council Members to ensure that those interests do not impede those of other District members throughout the City. He believed that a guiding principle will be fairness and making consistent decisions to ensure that his constituents are aware that he is not taking their concerns lightly and is considering all options.

Jennifer Cottam: Ms. Cottam stated that when thinking about Doug Petersen as a Council Member, the core value he represented most was accessibility. If selected, she would be accessible to businesses and single-family residences of all income brackets. She believed that as a Council, each issue is analyzed to determine the zoning goals and strategies for planning. Strategizing is a priority and being able to take the work of City Staff and implement it into their decisions is important. She would take the information, disseminate it, make a decision, and move forward. She felt that the roundabout was an example of successful planning.

Catherine Burns: Ms. Burns reported that she has worked in Human Resources and recently retired. Growing up, her mother served on a City Council and she felt it was time to step up and take responsibility for the community she lives in and loves. She has been a resident for 20 years and has contributed in her own way. She feels safe in the City and appreciated the police presence. With regard to land use, she would first consider the 30,000-foot view and communicate with constituents.

Heather Anderson: Ms. Anderson stated that many residents knew Doug Petersen and felt that being here was a testament to him as he allowed everyone to have a voice. In terms of making decisions regarding zoning and land use, she felt Staff is very educated and provides opportunities through surveys allowing resident input. She believed it was important to take the information and honor their position by listening to those voices while considering what is best for the City as well as the constituents.

Matt Holton: Mr. Holton was not present.

Council Member Bracken suggested an increase in time from two to three minutes. Council Member Birrell supported the change and stated that there are times when there are more things to be said.

Matt Holton joined the meeting.

Mayor Weicher repeated Question #1 for Mr. Holton.

Matt Holton: Mr. Holton apologized for his late arrival. He stated that he looks at the long term and being inclusive. When considering land use, he believed the City maintains the identity of what the residents feel is important and how it is perceived. He suggested working generationally while ensuring that the City is an inclusive community. He questioned the right decision that would allow Council Members to look back and be grateful for tough decisions and proper planning to ensure that the City is in a good position in the future.

Question 2: Council Member Birrell:

Whereas the Utah Physicians for Healthy Environment indicate that moderate to poor air quality ratings are detrimental to the overall health of children as well as adults, and City government is responsible for protecting public health. Please describe a time or effort you were involved in where you demonstrated your contribution or support of cleaner air quality.

James Farley: Mr. Farley stated that air quality is a sensitive subject and with four young children, he is always considering how to create the most safe, sanitized environment while allowing them to be children. When considering the design of the valley, inversion is when air quality feels the worst. He felt that there was much that should be done by a City Council when considering how much they can control as a City versus the State versus the Federal level. He would focus on what can be done as a City to contribute while speaking out to the Federally Elected congressmen and senators. He has contributed personally by purchasing a plug-in hybrid car and believes that the solution goes beyond what they drive as residents. As the next generation takes over, the focus should remain on maintaining clean water, ground soil pollution levels, and understanding what can be done and implemented as a City Council. He shared the importance of being a loud voice to the State Legislature and Senators.

Susan Ryser: Ms. Ryser stated she believes cities have a great influence on this issue but are not totally responsible. She is an advocate of recycling and when reviewing this issue as a City, it is vital that they separate fiction from fact. She would consider what can be done, what makes a difference, and where their time and dollars are best spent. When lobbying for the American Dental Association in Washington D.C., much of what was discussed pertained to health and environmental issues. She believed that to make a difference they must speak up and be willing to make a call or write a letter to those involved. Her position was to see where a difference can be made, find out what will make the difference, and ensure it is valuable while involving citizens.

Cami Hostetler: Ms. Hostetler stated the preservation of farmland is a priority and development should be considered as cities grow. She has personally strived to drive less, stay closer to home, work from home, plant trees and gardens, and preserve farmland.

Mark Lentz: Mr. Lentz has been a Utah resident for 10 years and has suffered from asthma since that time. He has personally installed solar panels, purchased a Tesla, takes the train to work in Utah County, planted trees, and often walks to the grocery store. He believed Cottonwood Heights' enforcement and regulatory abilities as a city are limited and they must incentivize, encourage, enable, and enforce necessary behaviors. It should be possible to bike within the City and walk to the grocery store without fear of crossing the street. Idling cars was a concern and he suggested there be minimal enforcement. He believed that the City could take a leadership role in terms of cleaner air.

MacKenzie Lipps: Mr. Lipps had personally taken time to walk to nearby locations rather than drive his car. He believed it not only benefits his personal carbon footprint and air quality but sets an example for others. Although his home has air conditioning, he prefers to use an existing swamp cooler to reduce his energy bill and usage. As a Council Member, they are in a position to encourage residents to appreciate their environment and the City they live in. He stated that public service announcements on billboards would be a beneficial way to notify citizens of air quality problems.

Heather Anderson: Ms. Anderson reported that she originally was opposed to the roundabout and after changing her opinion, she posted on the City website that she believed Council Member Bracken was right and she was wrong. She has lived in Cottonwood Heights for 26 years and as improvements are made they have remained conscientious with what they are replacing. She now

has LED lighting in her home as well as a more efficient furnace. They also chose to keep the existing swamp cooler. She believed it was important to mitigate the effects of bad pollution and supported the expansion of the pollinating garden at Mountview Park, participating in the tree planting event, and continuing to be an example to residents. Idle-free zones are active, and she felt that the City Council was doing an amazing job with meaning what they say and following through.

Matt Holton: Mr. Holton stated that when he was at Rio Tinto/Kennecott, he was part of a team that shut down the power plant, took the transmissions out of the valley, partnered with Rocky Mountain Power, and purchased green credits to help others participate in the program. While working at the Utah Manufacturers Association, they partnered with Hanko who are leaders for clean air. Charging stations were distributed to manufacturers around the valley. He stated during the last Legislative session, he worked on HB-113, which set new parameters for the State when in terms of lithium attraction from the Great Salt Lake. He has worked with multiple projects that have focused on this issue with the main theme of leading by example. He is the father of two and his mother immigrated to the United States where she joined the U.S. Army in the hopes of providing a better future for her children. He emphasized that not everyone can buy a Tesla or pay for power to their home and believed there is a place for everyone while having transition and balance. He was in favor of having discussions regarding a better way while inspiring people to change.

Ira Boyer: Mr. Boyer stated that he has always maintained his vehicles to limit pollution and has encouraged others to do the same. He believed the tree and green programs should continue and remain active in limiting pollution from new companies coming into the City.

Boyd Tuttle: Mr. Tuttle reported that he spent his first 20 years in Cottonwood Heights and then moved to New York where he was with a Fortune 500 company for 25 years while living in Japan for five. Those experiences gave him a broad perspective on ways the government can enhance the quality of life. With regard to air quality, he felt there is relatively little they can do to have a major impact and must think long-term to determine what they can do currently that will have the best impact for the future. He believed many decisions being made today on a broader governmental level are foolish and short-sighted. Windmill turbines are piling up in landfills with electric car batteries taking a tremendous amount of heavy metals that are mined. He stated that there are unintended consequences that come from these decisions. While in Japan, they were very effective in taking recycled garbage to an efficient clean-burning operation. While working with Xerox, they strived to reduce ozone emissions that come out of copy machines.

Jesse Curtis: Mr. Curtis commented that he has contributed to combating air quality issues and emphasized the need to be educated. He understood that two of the biggest contributors to poor air quality are carbon emissions from personal use vehicles as well as wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. He felt that within the State, action begins with individuals as self-education. With respect to City government, he believed it was difficult to mandate individuals. He was not in favor of placing restrictions. He hoped to see the City educate citizens on air quality and the contributing factors of air pollution while making personal changes when possible.

Jennifer Cottam: Ms. Cottam reported that she is a Chemical Engineer and has conducted bloom analyses nationally, internationally, and for local governments. If there is a particulate matter of 10 microns or less, it causes inflammation from nasal passages into the lungs where microns of 2.5 and less do not only affect your lungs but get into the bloodstream. This is a serious issue and is often recognized. She is xeriscaping her yard and emphasized the need to be educated. She suggested driving less, researching solar panels, and riding your bike.

Michael Smith: Mr. Smith appreciated the question and was impressed by the quality of the candidates present. He is a Physician by profession and has spent his career promoting health and his approach to children. As a Psychiatrist, promoting physical exercise supports positive mental health. He believed they can be a good example and set expectations individually as contributors while making conscientious decisions. He has always encouraged walking in those he has influence over.

Catherine Burns: Ms. Burns reported that she has installed solar panels on her home and planted over 100 trees and can visibly feel the oxygen levels. She has served on an Environmental Quality Advisory Commission (“EQAC”) with Salt Valley Health Department where air quality is often discussed. She rides her bike and strategizes her car trips. While remodeling their home, she has been sensitive to the windows and items purchased. She recycles and has very little grass.

Council Member Birrell was not necessarily asking what the candidates have done personally, although appreciated and was listening to find out what they may have done on a larger scale.

Council Member Bracken appreciated the candidates’ answers. If he were answering the question regarding something he has seen through to the end, it would be the roundabout. He was supportive of the project as it has removed 100.5 hours of idling per day.

Mayor Weichers commented that he wrote down the candidates' contributions and believed it adds up and eventually matters.

The Meeting was adjourned for a Dinner Break at 5:27 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 6:02 p.m.

Question 3: Council Member Bracken:

Quite often Council Members need to get or provide information to Staff. How do you view an elected official’s role in the City’s organization in directing Staff to accomplish a goal?

Mark Lentz: Mr. Lentz commented that he believes there needs to be a written emphasis on clear, written communication and establish what needs to be done if there is a deadline. With regard to having a positive environment, Council Members should understand their role within an organization, their responsibilities, and how much responsibility and authority they will have in directing Staff members. He believed that tone and a culture of civility are important so that when direction is given, it comes from somebody they are already on good terms with.

Susan Ryser: Ms. Ryser has found that the way she thinks is not always the way others, including Staff, think. She felt that the most important thing is for Council Members to review the Staff packet and address questions prior to the meeting. She suggested writing things down and taking the initiative to request or share concerns in advance. She believed that it is the responsibility of the Council person to stay in direct contact.

Catherine Burns: Ms. Burns remarked that time must be spent getting to know people. Although there are differences in thinking, a good relationship is important. She felt they should be aware of how Staff would prefer communication and ensure that they understand what is being asked with a possible timeline for completion.

Jesse Curtis: Mr. Curtis stated that his interaction with other Staff members and City government will be done in a friendly manner. This will take place in a work environment and he felt that no one is more important than someone else and should defer to their department to better understand a situation. He stated that whoever is appointed will be put in a position where they are new. If re-elected, their interactions should be receptive and done with an open mind. There will be disagreements and he felt it was important to communicate their appreciation for the issue and differences in opinions.

MacKenzie Lipps: Mr. Lipps is a Certified Public Accountant (“CPA”) by profession and manages different-sized teams while working with people who do not understand financial terms. He believed it was important to have respect and understanding as they work together to accomplish a similar goal through communication and encourage solutions. There should be an understanding of their “why” and what is needed allowing them to feel a part of what takes place.

James Farley: Mr. Farley stated that interactions with the City Council, Mayor, and Staff are second only to an elected official’s relationship with his or her constituents. He felt that this was the difference in a well-run City. In his line of work, he deals with different municipalities and has seen City officials that do not have a good working relationship with City employees. He believed that to work well as a team, they must come from a position of care, respect, and partnership and listen and learn to apply sound judgment. He felt that the ability to listen and learn with constituents and City officials to better understand the issues is vital while earning their trust. It was his opinion that leadership needs to come from behind. To understand implementations and solutions to accomplish a goal, he believed he would need to be on the ground with them.

Jennifer Cottam: Ms. Cottam believed people want to be seen, heard and understood. When first meeting someone, she tries to get to know them, understand their workings and learning style to allow them to progress. She referenced a saying that we are born with two ears and one mouth allowing us to listen twice as much as we speak. As a new Council Member, she stated she would have a lot to learn while gaining knowledge and analyzing items with which they interact. She felt it was important to set deadlines and circle back when working together to make things better.

Cami Hostetler: Ms. Hostetler stated that in business, people buy from those they know they can trust. As a direct communicator, she has had to soften her approach and has learned that everyone communicates and understands differently. She believes in taking the approach of getting to know people and their needs and working as a team with Council Members while communicating that

to others. Respect and encouragement are important and she likes to encourage, motivate, and inspire through spoken or written communication. She felt it was important for people to feel like they are heard and that there is a connection.

Ira Boyer: Mr. Boyer stated that as a Council Member if an employee has a complaint, he would first ask if they have spoken to their Supervisor. If their communication is difficult, he would talk to the Supervisor and would call the Mayor. He would not try to correct the problem with that individual as he has his or her own boss and believed that is how the process should work.

Heather Anderson: Ms. Anderson stated that people do not always like who they work with, which can make things difficult. She felt there can be common ground and it is important to create good relationships, be straightforward and forthright in who you represent, and have common respect. Staff is the lifeline of the Council and they do the heavy lifting to provide the information needed to make important decisions. She believed it was important to make sure that questions are directed to the correct person and that it is within the scope of their position while understanding how those you work with like to communicate and that they are not only clear but concise. She stated that if one Council Member has a question, the rest may have the same and it may be beneficial to forward that information to eliminate Staff receiving a repeat of the same questions.

Michael Smith: Mr. Smith has been an observer in Cottonwood Heights and did not see any problems between elected officials and City Staff. He has served on the Planning Commission and been the beneficiary of the support from City Staff. He believed they can look beyond the City and see examples of where elected officials are doing the bidding of the bureaucracy that is behind them rather than the people that elected them. The first obligation of City Council Members is to those that elected them. They have a moral obligation to maintain good relationships and treat each other with respect, kindness, and civility. He has experience serving on Republicans for Civil and Informed Participation and hosted a variety of candidate nights and political events with a focus on promoting civility.

Matt Holton: Mr. Holton stated that the room is full of very capable people that he would support as their success is also that of the City. He believed that working with Staff is a team effort and the City is bigger than any individual. Cottonwood Heights is diverse and recommended taking those backgrounds and experiences and sharing that knowledge. His background over the last 15 years has included working with various levels of government and he is currently working on a \$3 million appropriation for Carbon County focusing on diversifying them away from coal. He felt that his strength would be focusing on interacting with the Federal delegation, and others at different levels of government, and determining that type of support in Cottonwood Heights.

Boyd Tuttle: Mr. Tuttle agreed with the impressive number of candidates and would be happy to allow any one of them to be his representative. He stated they are talking about leadership style and would draw on his 25 years of experience in the corporate world and 13 years as an entrepreneur. His most unusual experience took place when working in Japan alongside those from different countries and languages while managing a \$300 million budget for parts acquisition. He discovered it worked well when he refrained from micromanaging which leads to backfiring implications and disempowered people. He alongside his wife had an opportunity to serve as Public Affairs Director for the LDS Church in New York for four years. He worked with Muslims,

Jewish, and Christians of different types and was able to do amazing things together while creating a bond and unity that came from listening and understanding. Many friendships were made through that experience and would draw on that when working with Staff when working on a common goal. He stated clear communication and setting expectations are vital while empowering people to get the job done.

Council Member Bracken stated that there is a balance when it comes to working as a Council whose job is to set policy, and actually directing Staff. He appreciated the reference to micromanaging which can be very detrimental when working and having everything go together. He thanked the candidates for their answers.

Question 4: Council Member Newell:

What knowledge or attributes will you bring to the City if selected to fill the vacancy of Council District 1?

Cami Hostetler: Ms. Hostetler stated that the knowledge and attributes she would bring to the City would be a voice for the people. She would focus on being a leader by example while having grit, determination, and perseverance when overcoming issues. With her own experience, she would not only encourage and empower other officials but the community at large to bring them together. She would bring her positive attitude to the community while empowering others to use their strengths while keeping an open mind.

Heather Anderson: Ms. Anderson stated that in deciding whether she should apply for the Council Member position, she did some soul searching as she had a career in banking, had her own business, and raised two children. Her priority was integrity and being someone people can trust and feel safe enough to share their voice. She considered service to be important and when people know they are cared for, they will open up and join in as this is a job that cannot be done alone. She stated that communication is key and must have trust in relationships knowing hard decisions can be made with sharing mutual respect.

Susan Ryser: Ms. Ryser has spent many years in planning, both in the County and the City, while serving on the Planning Commission during its incorporation. She also served as Chairman of the Little Cottonwood Creek Community Council. She has tried to be a doer and believes that when something needs to be done, you go to work, get busy, and get it done. While serving as PTA President at Hillcrest High School, she started the first All Night Grad Night because she was concerned about the seniors having a safe environment. She has served on the Butlerville Days Committee and felt she was able to keep the big picture in mind and not get lost in the details. She believed in the importance of listening to people and then making them feel valued and respected.

Catherine Burns: Ms. Burns stated that if selected, she will have much to learn about City policies and will listen and talk to as many as possible bringing herself up to speed. She has tried to surround herself with those with greater knowledge and those that can step into her shoes. She believed she has good follow-through and ensures that things get done. She prefers to ponder issues prior to making a decision and having been an HR Director and Manager she was always the one directed to take care of the angriest customers. She does not fear confrontation and likes

to find out why people think differently than she does. As a dog owner, she believed there are no bad dogs, only bad owners, and as a leader, if things are not happening as desired then it is most likely because of yourself, not the others.

Jesse Curtis: Mr. Curtis stated he brings an eagerness to learn and is extremely passionate about public service. He teaches his students about civic engagement and the importance of being involved. He wants to serve and ensure the same quality of life that he has experienced and the benefits of living in Cottonwood Heights. Although he does not know a lot about the different responsibilities of the City Council, he would take a significant amount of time to research and was determined to learn in order to make the best-informed decisions for the City.

Michael Smith: Mr. Smith stated that his professional background as a Psychiatrist includes serving for years with the University of Utah where he was part of the Executive Committee in the Department of Psychiatry. He participated in the Quality Assurance Committee for the hospital, was a member of the Ethics Committee for the Utah Psychiatric Association, and was the In-Patient Medical Director. He has spent over 30 years listening to all types of people from different backgrounds and his most recent job was working at the County Jail, which afforded him increased appreciation of all types of people. He has been involved in the community as a Precinct Chair, County and State Delegate for various conventions, and is a father of three sons and eight grandchildren and wants to see the world be a better place for them.

Matt Holton: Mr. Holton is a fan of Pioneer Day and when he was younger, he was inspired by Council Member Randy Horiuchi who participated in the Parade. His first Internship was in Washington D.C. where the Horiuchi family gave him a scholarship to pay a portion of his expenses and set aside a fund to help other Asian American Students. He believed there is a strong disconnect between immigrants feeling like they are included in participating in the local government. It was noted that he is the only Asian American in the Legislature and others should be encouraged to be engaged and involved. He felt strongly that what made Utah feel like home was when a neighbor reached out to welcome them to the neighborhood. Connectivity is a priority and he urged others to show love and compassion.

James Farley: Mr. Farley reported that he had a National Government Professor at the University of Utah, Dan Jones, who would get emotional when discussing government and the American experiment. He challenged his students to get involved and make a difference. He then ran unsuccessfully for the State Legislature and promised his wife there would be no more politics until his children were grown. When he received the Council Member application, he submitted it and felt it was Mr. Jones who encouraged him to get involved and do something in one way or another. Mr. Farley works in many economies and over the last 16 years, all have faced individual challenges. The most important thing to him is being a father of four and a husband who wants to see the City thrive and continue to be the envy of the Valley. Although he felt his qualifications were less than others, he vowed to bring energy, a listening ear, integrity, and willingness to serve the constituents of Cottonwood Heights.

Ira Boyer: Mr. Boyer is a Licensed Professional Electrical Engineer by profession in six states and although retired, he believed a positive relationship with those he works with is important while having mutual respect. He has had experience working with personnel and people in the

area for several major industrial projects, notably Kennecott Copper. He felt his experience when problem-solving and understanding individuals from different backgrounds would be beneficial as a Member of the City Council.

Jennifer Cottam: Ms. Cottam was raised in Tennessee with her home on a dirt road, she drank from a well full of iron, and had electricity most of the time. She emphasized her passion for infrastructure and believed it is meaningful to a society to enrich and empower residents. Her strength was her deep concern for keeping infrastructure and the City running well while continually moving forward. She believed a connecting community is vital to the health of a society. She expressed excitement about the bond Cottonwood Heights has for the Hillside Plaza and the opportunity to connect and make this an even better place to live. She has worked with the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center for 17 years and loves the community.

Mark Lentz: Mr. Lentz has realized that many of the traits he wishes to highlight for himself are present in his fellow candidates. His approach to the City Council would not just represent District 1 but bring perspectives that will add complexity and viewpoints, particularly for someone who is a newcomer bringing a new view and strong suits. As someone who skis, bikes, and rock climbs, he has realized that Cottonwood Heights is the best community and he wants to ensure that as a Council Member that is preserved. His traits come from being a public educator at the University level and he urged the Council to defend the strong schools in the City. He felt that the character trait he has developed is presenting ideas to strangers with public education being subject to increased accountability.

MacKenzie Lipps: Mr. Lipps stated that as a CPA, he has worked in the financial sector and would bring knowledge of planning and fiscal responsibility while allocating and budgeting resources. He worked as an Auditor in risk mitigation determining what types of processes and procedures are in place to mitigate the risk ensuring effective operations. He felt that those attributes can be brought to the City Council and government making the City the best possible for residents. His attributes include optimism and the belief that we are all human doing the best we can while trying to make the City a better place. Collaboration was another trait he would bring to the Council along with a willingness to serve as a volunteer in Cottonwood Heights.

Boyd Tuttle: Mr. Tuttle stated that his love for Cottonwood Heights will be brought to the Council as he was born and raised in the City. After returning to the City 13 years ago, he has seen six of his nine children graduate from Brighton High School and participate in various activities. He currently serves as the President of a small regional company, Digital Legend Press, and teaches science on the side at South Valley Leadership Academy to middle and high school students. If selected, he would bring the concept of a town square as he was able to experience it when living in small New England towns representing the three essentials of life. He stated that faith, family, and country all exist in those areas and he sees not just a sprawling suburb of Salt Lake City but an established sense of community. While working for the Xerox Corporation, a study was conducted depicting brand loyalty. It was found that the two items included the elimination of strangeness and personalization of communications.

Mayor Weichers invited feedback from the Council.

Council Member Bracken appreciated the opportunity and comments provided. He loves serving on the Council, being involved in the community, and communicating with residents. He looks forward to working with whoever is seated on the Council.

Council Member Newell expressed gratitude to the candidates and the opportunity to serve and show his passion for the community. He has lived in Cottonwood Heights for 32 years and expressed excitement for the interest shared by the candidates. He believed it is critical to have passionate individuals serving to stay on the path as a community. Although not always easy, he found his service to be enjoyable and to know that they are connected to those around them.

Council Member Birrell felt that each candidate has exemplified a service mentality. She felt privileged to participate while hearing and listening to the wonderful panorama of candidates. She looked forward to continuing to work in the community together.

Mayor Weichers stated that the past week provided him the opportunity to go to Butler Middle School where the sixth graders were learning about civics and community. He taught four different periods and tried to impress on the students that City Government is where the decisions of the Council impact the lives of citizens. There were times he got emotional and believed Doug Petersen would be proud of any one of the candidates to take his place on the Council. He thanked the participants and noted that although this is a difficult decision, the Council will do its best.

3. ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING.

MOTION: Council Member Birrell moved to ADJOURN. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bracken. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Special Work Meeting held Monday, May 15, 2023.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: June 6, 2023