

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE WORK SESSION HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AT 9:00 AM 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 Suzanne Hyland, Council Member Shawn Newell, Council Member Ellen Birrell

Staff Present: City Manager Tim Tingey, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, Administrative and Financial Services Director Scott Jurgens, Community and Economic Development Director Michael Johnson

City Lobbyists: Brian Allen, Chantel Nate, Greg Curtis

Excused: Council Member Matt Holton; Police Chief, Robby Russo, IT Manager, Matt Ervin; Public Works Director/City Engineer, Matt Shipp

1. Welcome – Mayor Weichers.

Mayor Mike Weichers called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and welcomed those present.

2. Legislative Update and Discussion – City Manager, Tim Tingey and City Lobbyists Greg Curtis, Brian Allen, and Chantel Nate.

City Lobbyist, Greg Curtis, presented the Legislative Session update. The following Bills were discussed:

- HB-488 – Transportation Funding Modifications Bill. It was reported that \$1.5 million of funding was designated for the Fort Union Boulevard and 2300 East area. The proposed language allowed the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) to use 2% of the Cottonwood Canyons Fund for Public Safety in the Canyons. The bill creates an Infrastructure Loan Fund in counties of the first class. Upon repayment of the funds, 20% will go toward a Transit Mobility Hub on property north of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The Bill passed the House in a completely different form and went to the Senate Committee earlier in the week. There was a substitute bill with a second substitute bill that included technical changes. It must pass the Senate and return to the House for concurrence.
- Council Member Birrell asked if the Salt Lake County Council was supportive of the Transit Mobility Hub at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Mr. Curtis reviewed the bill with Mayor Wilson with one portion causing concern. He spoke with the Lobbyist for the Canyons who stated that it takes the cap off of the \$20 million Cottonwood Canyons Fund allowing for sales tax growth. He emphasized that sales tax growth could potentially be utilized to fund the Phase I Mobility Center. If it can be demonstrated that Phase I is successful, he questioned why funding for a \$1 billion gondola would need to be considered. He noted that Mayor Wilson was agreeable to working with those who are in

opposition to the gondola and explaining the issue while demonstrating that there is another solution.

- Mr. Curtis reported all Gravel Pit bills and their machinations are dead. He noted that Senator Cullimore played a significant role in following those through. City Lobbyist, Brian Allen reported that Senator Cullimore was extremely helpful in killing the Gravel Pit Bills and the Study Bill was the only one remaining. All other gravel pit items have been shelved.
- SB-185 – Inspection Bill, Senator Evan Vickers. Mr. Allen understood there were no House Members who supported the bill in its current form. The House Sponsor was uncomfortable with the bill himself and wanted to negotiate to a position where the cities agree to the terms. They hope to provide language that would specify that after three days, the contractor would be required to refer to a random list of Building Inspectors who are paid for by the cities as opposed to selecting their own. Doing so would eliminate any conflict of interest. Negotiations would continue.

City Manager, Tim Tingey, reported that there was pressure from the Utah League of Cities and Towns (“ULCT”) to all members who were in opposition to SB-185. He thanked Mr. Allen for working on the issue. Mr. Allen reported that SB-185 appears to be the one bill remaining that may be problematic. All other bills that were of concern have died or been fixed. He would continue to monitor the bills and potential substitutions over the last two days of the Legislative Session.

Council Member Birrell asked for updates with regard to HB-449, HB-345, and HB-201. Mr. Allen provided the following updates:

- HB-449 – Bicycle Safety considered in street design. It passed out of the Senate Committee and is currently in the Senate Rules Committee. The bill would require prioritization by the House. Mr. Allen did not foresee any controversy in its passing.
- HB-345 – Increasing the fine for speeding in construction and school zones, has passed.
- HB-201 – Speed cameras being used in intersections. There has been some controversy with this bill. His understanding was that it would not get out of the House.
- The Annexation Bill had a substitute. The communities of Granite and White City were concerned with how the bill was initially written, which would require them to be annexed. There was an effort to create a substitute bill to allow them to self-determine. The unannexed communities would be given until 2027 to determine if there was a feasible way to self-determine. The bill was currently in the Senate Rules Committee.
- The Bill that would require a separate hearing for Officer Compensation Amendment Increases was at a tolerable place and had been circled on the House calendar. It had yet to be voted on.

- The Beekeeping Bill was in the Senate Rules Committee and has yet to be put on the board.

Mr. Allen believed that generally, it has been a good year for cities. The ULCT has worked tirelessly on housing issues and he expressed shared appreciation for their efforts.

Mayor Weichers reported that Ray Ward from Bountiful, appeared antagonistic toward cities. Mr. Allen was familiar with Ray Ward, who works as a Physician. He would discuss the Mayor's concerns with him.

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 9:25 AM.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Legislative Work Session held Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 19, 2024