

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD
HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK ROOM LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL
BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH**

Members Present: Mayor Mike Weichers, Council Member Shawn Newell, Council Member Suzanne Hyland, Council Member Matt Holton, Council Member Ellen Birrell

Staff Present: City Manager, Jared Gerber; City Attorney, Shane Topham; Deputy City Recorder, Maria Devereux; Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson; Unified Fire Authority Assistant Chief, Riley Pilgrim; Police Chief, Robby Russo; Administrative and Financial Services Director, Scott Jurges; Public Works Director/City Engineer, Matt Shipp; Culture Director, Ann Eatchel; Senior Staff Engineer, Ben Nelson; IT Manager, Matt Ervin

1.0 WELCOME

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

2.0 VALLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ("VECC") - Mr. Ivan Whitaker, Executive Director.

Mayor Weichers reported that VECC is the City's 911 dispatch service. Present was Executive Director, Ivan Whitaker who shared his background. He has worked in public safety for 26 years beginning as an Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") and eventually moving onto 911 dispatch. He worked on the consolidation of 13 dispatch centers that were consolidated into one. He later moved to Salt Lake City with the top wholesaler of 911 protocols in the world. He worked as an Executive Director implementing 911 technologies across 56 countries. He was pleased to now work with VECC which processes approximately 1.1 million calls per year, which makes them one of the busiest dispatch centers in the country. Of the calls received, there are 660,000 emergencies processed each year. Their disciplines are medical, fire, and police and they serve 15 agencies.

Mr. Whitaker presented the timelines for answering and stated that they must answer 95% of calls within 20 seconds. Over the past four months, they have done that consecutively. Their processing time is currently among the best in the nation. Over the next few years, they will be focusing on population growth. In 2032, there will be approximately 4 million people living in the State of Utah and more than one million in the Salt Lake Valley. Across the country, there has been an increase in 911 call volume of about 3% every year. As a result, they will be faced with implementing initiatives to deal with that call volume and growth. With regard to mental health, there is a 911 perspective that requires them to be poised to handle all types of situations. They are preparing to implement initiatives to educate emergency dispatchers on how to handle those calls and implement the necessary protocols. Mr. Whitaker reported that citizens are living longer

and in 2035, for the first time, they will see that people aged 65 and older will outnumber those 18 and younger. That means that more 911 calls will be coming into the Dispatch Center.

Mr. Whitaker reported that about 2% of the calls that come into the 911 center are high crisis or high emergency. About 66% of calls are low acuity and 17% can be treated by some other means. Most patients can be treated within three to five days. The number of low acuity calls is increasing so they need to be prepared to manage them.

Mr. Whitaker noted that they will be working with the Board of Trustees over the next three to five years staffing being based on call volume and the technology that should be implemented. He described a program that was implemented in Atlanta called the Year Up Program where they went into high schools and worked with students about possible career paths after graduation. They are able to get members certified so that when they graduate, they can find work with VECC or other dispatch centers throughout the state. They have begun to work on the program locally and do not expect to have staffing issues moving forward. In response to a question raised, Mr. Whitaker stated that in terms of the certification program, they are looking for funding sources.

Mr. Whitaker named agencies he has worked with that had improved outcomes as a result of some of the initiatives offered. He noted that VECC is recognizing employees in different, more robust ways. The importance of pre-arrival instructions was stressed. Council Member Birrell shared a personal experience where the pre-arrival instructions were helpful when her two-year-old grandson choked while in her care.

Mayor Weichers reported that representatives from Cottonwood Heights have served on the board and are working on a pilot program for a non-emergency number that will allow the City to alleviate calls going to the priority switchboard. Mr. Whitaker stated that it will involve a non-emergency line where citizens can reach out and get help. They are working to implement Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) that can provide citizens with immediate information and keep the workload off of cities at the local level. If a caller cannot be helped by AI, they would be prompted to another number.

Council Member Newell directed Mr. Whitaker to contact the Canyons School District which has a new Innovation Center that will open in 2026 in Draper. They are also looking at programs through the CTE Program.

It was reported that due to the number of 911 calls going to the non-emergency number, there was a delay. It was recognized that steps have been taken to alleviate this. A pilot program was suggested where banding numbers will be provided that can be advertised specifically for Cottonwood Heights. Specific call takers will specifically answer those lines. Mayor Weichers commented that it was supposed to be implemented last year but was not. He expressed interest in considering it further. Mr. Whitaker stated that their new hires start by handling non-emergency calls. They could begin allocating those phone lines accordingly.

Concern was expressed with citizens being routed to an AI line. Mr. Whitaker explained that there are certain times when they are inundated and they would want citizens to have access to it. In the

event of a non-emergency situation, he should be able to get results without talking to someone. AI is just one option they are considering to keep costs down and ensure quality service.

3.0 SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY BOND PRESENTATION - Salt Lake County Council Member Ann Granato, Salt Lake County Human Services Director Kelly Colopy.

Salt Lake County Human Services Director, Kelly Colopy, reported that she has experience working in Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice. She reviewed the bond process, what it includes, and how it fits with the County's plans moving forward. She reported that on August 13, the County Council approved moving forward in a bipartisan direction to place the Public Safety Bond on the November ballot. The goal is to balance Public Safety and Human Services needs, realign the County Jail and Human Services systems, and integrate the systems so that there is better success across them all. The hope is to also create structured and secure environments for those with repeat offenses. Many are rotating through the system. The bond funds the critical missing piece and is focused on infrastructure and replaces outdated infrastructure and treatment programs at the jail. They have been looking at where the intersectionality of Human Services, particularly behavioral health services, homelessness, and the criminal justice system.

Ms. Colopy reported that they began looking at it a number of years ago with a focus on how to look at that intersection. There have been partnerships at the state and local levels and moving forward with purpose, partnership, and urgency. The overall vision across all systems is that homelessness is brief, rare, and non-reoccurring. They went through a systems map showing where capacities are limited and where there is capacity. They came to realize that supportive housing is a major need. When people do not have a place to live it is difficult to show up at court appointments and function well. Treatment providers are also finding that people are staying in jail longer because there is no housing to meet their needs. They are focusing on supportive housing as part of the overall system. They estimated that approximately 1,000 people are living unhoused on the streets currently.

A question was raised as to whether the proposed supporting housing need is government-built and owned or reimbursement for existing housing. Ms. Colopy explained that they are looking at how many of the 1,000 living on the streets with severe mental illness could live if their mental illness was managed but with additional support. They are currently looking at 300 group home units and there are partnerships in place with Medicaid to help pay for operational costs. Non-profit providers will be providing support systems with the units being rented. The goal is to open 100 by the end of the year. They are also looking at supportive housing models for the remainder in partnership with builders, providers, and government.

They are also working with criminal justice and law enforcement challenges. Ms. Colopy reported that in downtown Salt Lake there is a Fentanyl crisis and many who are in jail and unhoused have mental illness. Existing gaps were identified. She commented that research shows that if people cannot operate on their own while in housing, their lives become increasingly difficult over time. The desire is to integrate people into communities. Group homes are for those with severe mental illness with support systems in place. Permanent supportive housing is for people who want to live in the community but cannot afford it and may need additional support.

The Action Plan focuses on expanding housing units and looking at criminal justice reform with a focus on Crisis Intervention Training (“CIT”), situations pertaining to mental health, and systemic gaps. Ms. Colopy reported on the Justice and Accountability Center, expanding and improving mental health services, and supporting an increased presence of the Drug Enforcement Agency (“DEA”) in Salt Lake County as a result of the fentanyl crisis. The Public Safety Bond focuses specifically on building out the Justice and Accountability Center and improving the jail situation. The Justice and Accountability Center is for people who are interacting with the criminal justice system and have nowhere to go. As a result, they have not been able to work with them to provide support and case management. What is proposed is 280 beds of housing stabilization and a mental health substance use treatment system residential provider within that space. There will also be case management services and a structured, stable environment with on-site security. There are approximately 1,200 people in the pre-trial and probation systems who are housing unstable and have difficulty getting to court and meeting the requirements.

Ms. Colopy reported that they have a behavioral health stabilization unit that deals in both mental health and substance use that are co-occurring. These types of people are seen frequently in the system. They want to be able to provide housing, job training opportunities, access to treatment, and all that is needed for someone to enter society with a better opportunity for success. The jail currently has two buildings consisting of Oxbow and the Adult Detention Center. Oxbow is past its prime and they would like to recreate the 500 beds at Oxbow and bring them to the main County Jail site as part of a campus. In addition, they will double the mental health unit in the jail and increase from 88 to 160 beds.

Ms. Colopy commented that they do not want the jail to become a de facto mental health space; however, if people need to be in jail because of criminal activity, they want to make sure they have an opportunity for recovery. With regard to a community reentry step, many are released to the streets and often have one change of clothes and no financial resources. For those who have been in jail for a longer period of time, the intent is to create a Community Reentry Center that allows them to leave during the day, engage in their community-based treatment, find a job, look for housing, and come back to the jail to ensure that they can effectively reenter the community.

Mr. Colopy explained that the bond is intended to cover the total anticipated cost of \$607 million with \$100 million set aside by Salt Lake County to address jail deferred maintenance and updates. The Oxbow property will be sold bringing the overall amount to \$507 million. The anticipated cost is less than \$5.00 per month for the average household across Salt Lake County and just under \$9 a month for the average business in Salt Lake County going forward. The cost is based on average property values being \$600,000.

The bond language specifies that the County would acquire and construct the Justice and Accountability Center, combine the two County jails, build increased capacity, and complete any other necessary capital maintenance or existing correctional facilities and needed renovations and remodeling.

County Council Member, Ann Granato, reported that the bond was supported by the County Council with an 8-to-1 vote. She explained that this is not a new development and the County has

been looking at issues associated with the jail for several years. She serves as the State's Director of Case Management and Fraud Investigation for Medicaid and has a lot of personal experience. Several years ago there was a nationwide need for integrated health. It made sense based on the drug and substance abuse that is taking place. The need for housing also became evident. She explained that a person cannot apply for Medicaid or a job without a home address.

Over the past year, the State has obtained approval for Waiver 1115 and the County Jail is running the pilot program for that waiver. In addition to the system being built within the jail, there will be added resources. When someone is released from jail, the new program will put them into the Medicaid system 90 days prior to their release date. This will provide coordinated mental health and create a situation where their medications are managed. They will also receive counseling, access to mental health treatment, and mental health medications. They will leave the jail with a minimum of 30 days of medication, contact with a primary care provider, contact with a mental health provider, and help with housing. She explained that they are building an integrated program that will interject care at every level where there have been problems in the past. The County Council looked at the situation with extreme scrutiny.

In response to a question raised by Mayor Weichers about whether the State still operates a mental hospital, he was informed that there is one in Utah County that is beyond capacity. Ms. Granato explained that it is an older facility and they have been unable to hire enough people to staff it. It is also inadequate for those who need permanent treatment. The State Hospital is for individuals who cannot function within the community due to mental illness. Those with mental health issues need treatment and the jail should not serve as a way station to keep people off the street. Ms. Colopy reported that those who are admitted to the State Hospital go through a civil commitment process and mental health assessment. Mental health and substance use providers determine the level of care needed. The varying degrees of severity were described. Council Member Granato explained that civil commitment is a significant legal issue.

Council Member Birrell asked about the number of offenses an individual might be given in the criminal system and at what level someone would be considered to participate in the integrated system described. Ms. Colopy stated that they are identifying people who are rotating through the most and low-level offenses. They will also focus on people coming out of jail who may not yet have housing. She reported that the New Receiving Center near the County Jail will open in March or April. At that time, law enforcement can take someone there to stabilize. If the individual needs further stabilization and case management, the Justice and Accountability Center will be an option.

Council Member Granato explained that there are civil rights issues. Currently, a person cannot be forced to stay in a substance abuse treatment center. An individual can go into a facility and receive treatment for up to one year. The Odyssey House, for example, has a number of facilities that offer in-patient treatment but it is not a lockdown facility and patients can leave at any time. For that reason, stabilization is of utmost importance. The continuity of treatment offered beginning at the County Jail will be a huge help in getting people into care once they are out of jail. It was noted that there are demonstrated outcomes.

Council Member Granato reported that one of the issues is the inability to hire trained staff. She commented that there is a lack of trained mental health staff in the community. The County has done things to help augment the staff that they have by offering a tuition support waiver.

Ms. Colopy reported that they have spent a lot of time looking at the data to understand who is showing up and how often. Those who are in-house spend far longer in jail than those who have housing. More than 50 people in the jail at any time have severe mental illness and 25% of the population in the jail does not have a known address. In that population, addressing underlying conditions reduces interaction with the criminal justice system. It was noted that it is far more expensive to have people in jail. Until the Justice Waiver becomes available, they are paying for every dollar of mental health, substance use, physical health treatment, and prescriptions. The Justice Waiver will reduce costs much more effectively. Council Member Granato reported that statewide there are more than 155,000 Medicaid users on Tam that are either due to substance abuse adjudicated through the system or chronic homelessness. There is a huge gap in those requiring these services.

Council Member Newell saw this as a positive due to predetermined factors such as homelessness. He noted that the gap can be filled with resources, which makes a significant difference. He recognized that it is a serious issue.

4.0 REVIEW OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA - Mayor Mike Weichers.

The Business Meeting Agenda was reviewed.

Mayor Weichers reported that per City Attorney, Shane Topham, it is important for public hearings to take place as close to the notice time as possible. Going forward, public hearings will take place after the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrative and Financial Services Director, Scott Jorges reported that the City Council is putting forth an action to vote for or against a General Obligation (“GO”) bond in the amount of up to \$30 million with up to a 20-year repayment schedule for the purpose of developing the open space and the City-owned parcels of land related to the Hillside Plaza Shopping Center and potentially other areas in the immediate vicinity. The finished project will benefit the City by serving as a town center and includes street improvements and parking. Mayor Weichers reported that the public hearing is specific to the bond.

There were three legislative items to be considered. The first was Consideration of Resolution 2024-62 approving a Performance Contract and Addendum for the 2024 Holiday Show. Culture Director, Ann Eatchel, reported that the Arts Council is going to hold a performance on Friday, December 6 at Butler Middle School. It will be a free event. The band Eclipse 6 will be performing at 7:30 p.m. for 90 minutes. The contract amount is \$4,600.

The next agenda item was consideration of Resolution 2024-63 approving and ratifying an Interlocal Agreement for Election Services with Salt Lake County. This is done every other year. City Manager, Jared Gerber, reported that the contract is for the Special Election for the bond.

The last item was Consideration of Resolution 2024-64 approving a Consulting Agreement with H.W. Lochner, Inc. for the 2300 East Fort Union Boulevard Traffic Analysis.

5.0 STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Butlerville Days and "Beauty and the Beast" Play Wrap-Up - Culture Manager Ann Eatchel.

Ms. Eatchel reported that this was the Arts Council's 14th musical. She is the producer because it is a large production and would otherwise require a full-time volunteer. She has a Program Manager who will work directly with the City Council Member who will serve as a Liaison. This year Laura Garcia has served as Chair. The Arts Council put \$40,000 toward the musical. It was slightly more than the previous production because *Beauty and the Beast* is complicated to put together with numerous costume changes. The cost ended up being \$39,000 with revenue of \$37,000. Grants made up the difference. Attendance was 3,200, which is the largest they have ever had. The theater holds 1,100 but after removing the front seats it can accommodate 800. Ms. Eatchel was pleased that they broke even since and stated that they kept costs down by offering tickets for \$10 for seniors and children and \$12 for all others.

Ms. Eatchel reported that a total of 81 people were involved with 29 in production and a cast of 30. The orchestra included 22 people. She noted that there was a drawback with the mics that need to be replaced for \$25,000 to \$30,000.

The actors were very professional and a question was raised as to whether any were compensated. Ms. Eatchel stated that they were not compensated but received a shirt and were fed. The production team spends more time than the actors and receives a stipend. The comment was made that this emphasizes the importance of what the Arts Council does. The Council thanked Ms. Eatchel for her efforts. Ms. Eatchel recognized Kate for her efforts as well.

Butlerville Days was next discussed. Ms. Eatchel stated that she sets a budget each year and noted that the float is paid for two years. She expected to spend \$127,000 this year, which is \$20,000 more than the previous year. She noted that with inflation, costs have increased. Currently, she is \$1,000 under her current estimates. With regard to revenue, last year she received \$19,100 from sponsorships and the carnival generated \$28,621. This year the carnival generated \$37,983. In total, last year they brought in \$59,000 and this year they generated \$74,000. She commented that her goal has always been to pay for Butlerville Days in full.

Ms. Eatchel reported that a change was made to the Parade time of 9:00 AM and that the wrap-up day for Butlerville Days is October 3. She received positive feedback but invited feedback from the Council.

Council Member Birrell asked what parades the Cottonwood Heights float appears in. Ms. Eatchel reported that it appears in South Jordan, Herriman, Murray, West Jordan, Sandy City, Draper, Bluffdale, Cottonwood Heights, and Salt Lake City. Mayor Weichers received a lot of positive feedback about the Parade and it seemed there was better attendance. He thought the change made was positive. Ms. Eatchel also believed there was better attendance based on the crowd sizes. Council Member Newell noted that the Parade time allowed people to enjoy the rest of the day.

Ms. Eatchel reported that there were approximately 130 cars at the Car Show. Not everyone registered, so it was difficult to have an accurate number, but there were a lot of cars there for people to look at and enjoy. The Drone Show also went well. She asked for feedback on the fireworks. Council Member Holton enjoyed the Fireworks Show and stated that his family had an excellent time. Mayor Weichers noted that a lot of residents enjoyed seeing the fireworks. Ms. Eatchel explained that a new company was used and there was close coordination with them. There was discussion about the high turnout for the Drone Show and the Fireworks Show.

Ms. Eatchel asked for feedback about the food that was offered. Council Member Holton liked the food last year a little more than this year but recognized it is difficult to control. Ms. Eatchel reported that there are normally 40 or 50 applications submitted, so different options can always be considered. She received positive feedback on the lobster that was available.

Mayor Weichers asked that appreciation be passed along to those who participated in Butlerville Days. It is a three-day celebration that benefits the community. It is wonderful to hear that two-thirds of the cost was covered by the revenue. Council Member Holton suggested that advertising be done earlier next year on the All You Can Ride passes. It was noted that individual rides can add up in terms of cost.

Police Chief, Robby Russo liked that the Parade took place earlier in the morning and stated that it went well. The struggle for the Police Department was with the Fireworks Show. He pointed out that after the Fireworks Show, the carnival was still running. The officers focus on dispersing the crowd and moving vehicles out of the area but people stay behind in the park since the carnival is still running for another 30 minutes or so. During that time, fights tend to break out because parents often return home after the Fireworks Show, and young people stay behind. He requested that next year when the Fireworks Show ends, everything close at the same time. He was not sure how much money was made in the last half hour of the carnival but it can become dangerous. Ms. Eatchel reported that one year remains on the contract for the existing hours. After that, they can readjust the hours of operation for the carnival. She noted that there has been some difficulty setting the date for next year, so the contract might become void. If that is the case, the City can look at the hours of operation further.

Council Member Holton believed the quality of the rides this year was better than before. Ms. Eatchel reported that there are only a few carnivals the City works with. She reiterated that there has been difficulty with the date next year. The operator offered the weekend prior, which is also Draper Days. The play would need to be canceled if the weekend was changed. She offered to come back with additional information in the future.

5.2 Wasatch Front Regional Council Surface Transportation Program City Council Project Selection - Public Works Director / City Engineer Matt Shipp.

Public Works Director and City Engineer, Matt Shipp, shared information about the Wasatch Front Regional Council's ("WFRC") Surface Transportation Program. He introduced Senior Staff Engineer, Ben Nelson who has been with the City for approximately 10 months and interned with the City a few years back. Mr. Shipp explained that this is the final discussion on the Surface Transportation Program selection, which has been discussed at previous meetings.

The City Council will make final decisions on projects where the desire is to submit Letters of Intent. He reminded the Council that the Letters of Intent is an acknowledgment to the WFRC that the City plans to apply for at least those projects with a final application. It does not mean the City has to do so, however, if the Letters of Intent are not submitted in December it is not possible to file the final application for the project. The Letters of Intent are used by WFRC to assist with categorization and add clarity about what kind of budget is contemplated.

Mayor Weichers' understanding was that the City could submit as many applications as desired. Mr. Shipp confirmed that was the case and stated that generally, a call will be received from WFRC who will ask if there is any prioritization. A priority list has not been formally submitted by the City, but normally, the WFRC will ask about prioritization. He explained that there could be future Council discussions about it. There is no limit on what can be submitted and Staff resources are limited.

Council Member Birrell asked if it would make sense to prioritize the items tonight. Recently, the City Manager suggested that the Council do some prioritization. She did not believe it had been done but was prepared to offer her thoughts on prioritization. Mr. Shipp confirmed that it can be done tonight if desired by the City Council. Council Member Birrell understood that the projects do not need to be submitted to WFRC in a prioritized manner but it would be useful to have that knowledge on an internal basis.

Mayor Weichers asked about the Danish Road Project and the ability to submit it separately. Mr. Shipp discussed the Transportation Alternatives Program and explained that if a particular project is selected by the City Council, it would be submitted as a Transportation Alternative Program project. It is possible that a call could be received from the WFRC stating that it fits better in the Surface Transportation Program as there is communication throughout the process.

Mr. Shipp explained that the City Council is not considering the cost of the projects at this time. He asked the City Council to think about the individual projects and what there is a desire to see. Staff will work through the cost estimates and additional detailed information. Council Member Holton noted that during the last City Council discussion two items seemed to have majority support consisting of the Highland Drive Project and the crosswalk at Mountview Park.

Mayor Weichers asked if 2300 East can be submitted for the Transportation Alternatives Program. Mr. Shipp explained that 2300 East would be a difficult sell because it is single-use. It is for the City and it is localized. As a result, it will be more difficult to obtain. If the idea is multi-use and interconnection, it might be appropriate for the Transportation Alternatives Program. Mayor Weichers suggested that 2300 East and Danish Road be submitted under the Transportation Alternatives Program. Support was expressed for taking that approach.

Mr. Shipp noted that there have been several ideas shared for Danish Road. He asked for specificity about what there is a desire to see. He explained that with a Regional Transportation Plan, there is identification of a multi-use trail on Danish Road. It was confirmed that it is a continuous multi-use trail from Creek Road to Alta Hills Drive. Mr. Shipp explained that it would necessarily be on both sides of the road and could be on one side or the other. It simply mentions

a multi-use trail, which is typically a 10-foot trail that bicyclists and pedestrians can share. There is some sidewalk on the west side but he noted that there are gaps on the west side that need to be filled. He did not believe they would be filled with Federal aid money. There will likely be a need for City funds and other grants.

Mayor Weichers asked if the multi-use trail would be similar to the Big Cottonwood Canyon Trail on Big Cottonwood Road. Mr. Shipp confirmed that was the case. He offered to review the Regional Transportation Plan for additional clarity about what was listed for Danish Road. Council Member Birrell believed there would have to be road widening for what is currently being discussed. That is a very different proposition from the one described, which included the preservation of the tree canopy. Mayor Weichers asked if she would prefer to handle the needs in the area with a sidewalk rather than a trail. Council Member Birrell believed so since the residents in District 4 want a speed limit of 25 MPH and do not want vehicles traveling 35 to 40 MPH. Mayor Weichers noted that because it is designated as a trail on the Regional Transportation Plan, there might be a better chance of the project moving forward with a trail rather than a sidewalk.

Council Member Birrell suggested that during the Retreat there be discussion about using funds to address the two small strips where a continuous sidewalk is needed and determine ways to calm traffic in the Danish Road area. Slowing down speeds there will meet the needs of both bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Shipp agreed. Other projects might be better suited to the WFRC process, particularly projects that are more regional in nature and mentioned in the Regional Transportation Plan.

Mayor Weichers understood the concerns expressed by Council Member Birrell and wondered if Mr. Shipp believed there would need to be widening if there is a 10-foot multi-use trail. He did not want to miss out on obtaining additional funding. Mr. Shipp stated that there is a current right-of-way where much of the sidewalk is missing. Parts of the road were built over time, so there is a four-foot section of sidewalk and some that is five feet. As for a potential 10-foot trail, he was not sure he believed the City would be willing to take it out to put something else in. He suggested finding a way to move forward with the sidewalk elements but did not suggest that Staff resources be spent on applying the request.

Mayor Weichers noted that there are not as many homes on the east side. Council Member Birrell reported that she has spoken to nearly all of the homeowners in areas where there is no sidewalk. The homeowners are interested in seeing something move forward. She encouraged the City to work with the community. She commented that it is possible to preserve the character there and reduce traffic speeds. She acknowledged that speeding is a serious concern for her constituents.

Council Member Hyland reported that she drove Danish Road this week to refamiliarize herself with the area. She observed that there are areas where there is and is no sidewalk. She suggested the project be simplified to focus on sidewalks. As a pedestrian on that road, she has always felt unsafe around the curves and believed it would be the same cyclists. Council Member Birrell asked that the Council consider the uniqueness of the area and preserve the tree canopies. She felt it was possible to find a solution and slow down vehicles where appropriate. Mr. Shipp identified the right-of-way location on the west side. On the east side, there is a mix of ownership. There was discussion about the east and west sides of the road. Council Member Birrell mentioned the

steep conditions in the area and stated that the topography needs to be considered. Some challenges can be addressed through various mechanisms. Mayor Weichers believed the preference is to not submit the project to the WFRC and to address it further at the upcoming Retreat. Mr. Shipp agreed that that would be the best approach.

Mayor Weichers reported that 2300 East will be submitted as a Transportation Alternative Program Project. There was discussion about the other projects suggested including 1, 2, and 4. Council Member Hyland believed the Council needs to consider how many people will be impacted by each project. The Highland Drive Project will likely have the biggest impact with a tie between Mountview Park and Bengal Boulevard. She felt that Mountview Park was further along whereas Bengal Boulevard would require additional study. Mr. Shipp considered the Bengal Boulevard Project to be an important one. Mayor Weichers asked if there is something other than the Surface Transportation Program grant that would work for that. Mr. Shipp stated that it is an ideal Surface Transportation Program project. There is money the City would need to spend for stormwater but this is a worthwhile project. Various features have already been discussed.

While Bengal Boulevard would be eligible under the Transportation Alternatives Program, it would not necessarily function well under that. If the City Council chooses to submit the Bengal Boulevard project, Mr. Shipp believed it would be better to do so as part of the Surface Transportation Program. Council Member Holton asked about potential feedback from the WFRC. Mr. Shipp explained that the WFRC may contact the City and ask for a prioritization list. The priority list does not need to be known before the Letters of Intent are submitted to the WFRC. Mayor Weichers believes the project costs are one factor that should be considered in the priority list.

Council Member Birrell noted that the majority of the City Council has voiced a desire to advance the additional lane on Highland Drive. However, she was opposed to that addition. She wondered if it would be possible to phase the project work. She noted that Council Member Hyland suggested that it be implemented to determine whether it alleviates some of the congestion. That could be done before the third lane is contemplated further. Council Member Holton did not believe it would alleviate congestion but agreed that it is key for safety. It could be done in conjunction with the other work rather than independently.

Council Member Hyland noted that a phased approach might include an option due to the cost. Mr. Shipp explained that the phased approach would be to put a median but it would not be a funded project. The WFRC will entertain the intersection improvement and the other items. By packaging the work together, there is a possibility of obtaining Federal funds. By separating everything, certain elements of the project would not be appropriate to submit for funding. It was determined that the project will be on the list for a lane addition to improve the intersection function with the median. There was discussion about traffic and how the median could impact the current traffic patterns.

5.3 2300 East and Fort Union Boulevard Traffic Study – Public Works Director / City Engineer, Matt Shipp.

Mr. Shipp shared information about the 2300 East and Fort Union Boulevard Traffic Study. The Lobbyist was able to secure \$1.5 million for the improvement of the intersection at 2300 East and Fort Union Boulevard. He noted that the City purchased that corner for the Town Center area. There was an awareness that there are some issues and there is a desire to have pedestrian-friendly access through the area. The Town Center is intended to be something people will use regularly.

The Traffic Study is centered around 2300 East and Fort Union Boulevard. It spreads out east, west, north, and south. The intention was to look at configurations for the intersection as well as other nearby areas. The idea is to understand the outcomes if there are some generic changes made to the intersection. This study will look at possible scenarios and show what happens with each one of them. For example, traffic modeling to show where the traffic will move and potential impacts on neighborhoods and other areas. Before the design is moved forward, the Council needs to discuss certain impacts based on the traffic numbers. From there, the design work can start. Council Member Newell liked that there will be a few different options to consider.

Council Member Birrell suggested the Council consider what residents have stated there is interest in. She reminded Council Members that residents have stated there is interest in transportation alternatives, traffic calming, and walkability. With the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) Five-Year Service Plan, there have been discussions about Fort Union Boulevard and whether the service there should be increased to every 15 minutes rather than every 30 minutes. If the Council anticipates there will be more high-density housing with affordable housing mixed into the area along Fort Union Boulevard, then it is important to think beyond the car-centric view.

Mayor Weichers noted that what is currently before the Council is a contract for a Traffic Study. He understood the concerns expressed by Council Member Birrell but pointed out that it is not relevant to the current matter. Council Member Birrell pointed out that several months back, there was a Traffic Study conducted for Fort Union Boulevard. It established the Level of Service (“LOS”) and the 85th percentile rule. If the Council only seeks out certain types of data, there will only be results that are focused on car-centric information. Mayor Weichers appreciated the comments. Council Member Birrell asked that it be noted that she was interrupted and was unable to share her full comments. She felt it was important for the Council to be able to deliberate on the studies.

5.4 Budget Revenue Review - Administrative and Financial Services Director, Scott Jorges.

Mr. Jorges was present to review the budget revenues. He would first discuss the sales tax data and make comparisons to the County and State. Based on the sales tax data received, the City was slightly under the budget and slightly under the projections for the year.

The year ended at \$9,069,125, which was \$18,000 less than what was received in 2023. In recent years, there were extreme increases seen in both the 2021 Fiscal Year and the 2022 Fiscal Year. However, the numbers have dropped slightly since then. It was projected that there would be

\$9,300,000, and the budget was \$9,500,000. That means it was missed by approximately \$230,000 off of the projection and approximately \$430,000 off of the budget. The budget for the current year is \$9,700,000, which is likely set a little too high based on the fact that a little less than \$9.1 million was received the year before. There is an expectation that there will be a rate decrease and there could be another later in the year. This is something the City will need to pay attention to and watch over time. The projection for sales tax will likely be decreased to around \$9,400,000, but the City will wait until data is obtained before that line item is determined. Mr. Jurges shared information about City population numbers and stated that this can impact sales tax.

Mr. Jurges reviewed some of the Salt Lake County data for comparison. There was a small decrease in population, though some cities are increasing in population. The sales tax numbers for the County were \$378,643,069 in 2023 versus \$388,645,585 in 2024. Despite the increase, that is down in terms of the percentage, as it is only 2.64%. He next shared information from the State of Utah. In the State, the population increased by 42,825. However, in the State, the sales tax has decreased. Along the Wasatch Front, there are no reductions like that seen in the sales taxes. The tax base is being maintained in the area, but throughout the State, there is a reduction being seen.

Revenue information was shared. Mr. Jurges explained that he would focus on the main revenue line items where there were variances in the 2023/2024 budget year. He highlighted the original budget, the adjusted budget, the preliminary actual, the projection, the over/under budget to actual, and the over/under projected to actual. On the property tax, the number is down nearly \$300,000. Mr. Jurges explained that the City will always receive the property tax, but a property owner can choose not to pay the property taxes and treat it like a short-term low-interest loan. Within five years, the money will be received. It is usually sooner rather than later, but there is some uncertainty about when it will all be paid. Mayor Weichers asked what the penalty is from the County for paying late. Mr. Jurges could not recall but noted that it is off of the PTIF rate with an escalator. He reiterated that it is a timing issue and that the City will eventually receive the money that is shown.

Mr. Jurges referenced the fee in lieu of the property tax line item. He explained that the funds are distributed based on the property tax distribution overall. The Council discussed the number of vehicles per household. Council Member Hyland believed it used to be based on value, but that is no longer the case. As for energy sales and use tax, the City budgeted \$2.3 million. \$2.6 million was projected and a little under that was received. Though the number was slightly under the projection, it was over the budgeted amount by \$221,000. Mr. Jurges discussed Class C roads and explained that this has been performing well. There is \$1,570,385 as the preliminary actual on a budget of \$1,400,000 and a projection of \$1,450,000. Mr. Jurges explained that with all of the revenues taken into account, the City was \$2,862 better than the budget, so the budget was met.

Council Member Hyland asked if this was an informational item or if there was some sort of action the City Council could take. Mr. Jurges explained that it is mainly informational, but the more population that is accurately recognized within the City, the better the City will be overall. Mayor Weichers reported that some population increases will be seen in the next little while.

6.0 REVIEW OF CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

- a. **September City Hall Lobby Art Exhibit – Artists: Deborah Day and Jack Khachatryan.**
- b. **Block Party at Hillside Plaza will be Monday, September 30th from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Hillside Plaza (Tentative Time).**
- c. **Arts Council Hallo-Ink will be Held from October 1st through the 31st. This is an Online Social Media Pen and Ink Daily Drawing Tutorial.**
- d. **Mayor’s Town Hall will be Tuesday, October 8th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cullimore Room.**
- e. **Council Member Birrell's Town Hall to Discuss the Upcoming General Obligation Bond for The Heights will be Thursday, October 10th from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cullimore Room.**
- f. **Monster Mash will be held Friday, October 25th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center, located at 7500 S. 2700 E.**
- g. **November Elections: Early Voting: October 29th through November 1st from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cullimore Room.**
- h. **Election Day: November 5th from 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cullimore Room.**
- i. **City Council Meetings for November will be held on Tuesday, November 12th and 19th starting at 4:00 p.m.**
Light the Heights will be on December 2nd from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cullimore Room.
- j. **Arts Council's Holiday Show, Friday, December 6th at Butler Middle School from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.**

The calendar items were reviewed and discussed. It was noted that September 26, 2024, will be the Annexation Town Hall Meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This will be an Open House and there will be petitions to sign and Staff will be available to answer questions.

7.0 POSSIBLE CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS LITIGATION, PROPERTY ACQUISITION, AND/OR THE CHARACTER AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

There was no Closed Meeting.

8.0 ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION.

MOTION: Council Member Hyland moved to ADJOURN the City Council Work Session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Holton. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The Work Session adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT RENEWAL AGENCY (“CDRA”) MEETING HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, AT 6:45 PM IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH

Members Present: Mayor Mike Weichers, Council Member Shawn Newell, Council Member Suzanne Hyland, Council Member Matt Holton, Council Member Ellen Birrell

Staff Present: City Manager, Jared Gerber; City Attorney, Shane Topham; Deputy City Recorder, Maria Devereux; Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson; Unified Fire Authority Assistant Chief, Riley Pilgrim; Police Chief, Robby Russo; Administrative and Financial Services Director, Scott Jurges; Public Works Director/City Engineer, Matt Shipp; Culture Director, Ann Eatchel; Senior Staff Engineer, Ben Nelson; IT Manager, Matt Ervin

1.0 WELCOME – Chair Mike Weichers

Chair Mike Weichers called the Community and Development Renewal Agency (“CDRA”) Meeting to order at approximately 6:45 p.m. As Mayor of Cottonwood Heights, he serves as the Chair of the CDRA with Members of the City Council. He noted that there is one Action Item.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Consideration of Resolution 2024-03 - Approving Entry into an Independent Contractor Agreement with Mountain West Commercial Real Estate for Real Estate Brokerage Services.

Mayor Weichers reported that the above item pertains to an Independent Contractor Agreement with Mountain West Commercial Real Estate for real estate brokerage services. Board Member Birrell asked what criteria were used to select this particular brokerage firm. City Manager, Jared Gerber, reported that there were three proposals. Two were from Mountain West from two different teams. The criteria were mentioned in the Request for Proposals (“RFP”). Ultimately, it was determined that Mountain West had the best team and the most experience in this area.

MOTION: Board Member Holton moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-03 – Approving Entry into an Independent Contractor Agreement with Mountain West Commercial Real Estate for Real Estate Brokerage Services. The motion was seconded by Board Member Newell. Vote on Motion: Board Member Holton-Aye; Board Member Hyland-Aye; Board Member Newell-Aye; Board Member Birrell-Aye; Chair Weichers-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of this meeting will be approved through the following process: The Agency’s Secretary promptly will circulate a draft copy of the Minutes to the Board Members, who

then will have three business days to provide any proposed corrections to the Secretary. The Secretary will then circulate a revised draft of the Minutes to the Board Members, and the same review process will continue until such time as no corrections to the draft Minutes are received within the three business days review period, whereupon that draft of the Minutes will be deemed approved and will become the final Minutes of the meeting.

4.0 ADJOURN

MOTION: Board Member Newell moved to ADJOURN the CDRA Meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Holton. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

The CDRA Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, AT 7:00 PM IN THE COTTONWOOD
HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL
BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH**

Members Present: Mayor Mike Weichers, Council Member Shawn Newell, Council Member Suzanne Hyland, Council Member Matt Holton, Council Member Ellen Birrell

Staff Present: City Manager, Jared Gerber; City Attorney, Shane Topham; Deputy City Recorder, Maria Devereux; Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson; Unified Fire Authority Assistant Chief, Riley Pilgrim; Police Chief, Robby Russo; Administrative and Financial Services Director, Scott Jurges; Public Works Director/City Engineer, Matt Shipp; Culture Director, Ann Eatchel; Senior Staff Engineer, Ben Nelson; IT Manager, Matt Ervin

1.0 WELCOME

Mayor Mike Weichers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by IT Manager, Matt Ervin.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING – Introduction by Administrative and Financial Services Director, Scott Jurges.

3.1 Public Hearing to Receive Input from the Public with respect to (a) the Issuance of Approximately \$30,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds and (b) the Potential Economic Impact that the Improvements, Facilities, or Properties to be Financed in Whole or in Part with the Proceeds of Said Bonds will have on the Private Sector.

Mayor Weichers reported that the public hearing on the Business Meeting agenda relates to General Obligation Bonds. Administrative and Financial Services Director, Scott Jurges, reported that the bonds will be utilized in the Hillside Plaza area for the open space, public improvements, street improvements, land, and possible parking improvements.

Mayor Weichers opened the public hearing.

Randy Whitehead commended the City Council for their willingness to listen to Cottonwood Heights residents. He was pleased that this project would help strengthen the financial viability of the City. Mr. Whitehead thanked the City Council and was excited about what was to come.

Gordon Walker also commended the City Council for taking this on and having a vision. More than one year has been spent thinking about this area, working through details, and having discussions. He knows that there has been a lot of conversation, as he has spoken with some Council Members individually. He considered this to be an opportunity for Cottonwood Heights to create a thoughtful plan for the future. He noted that GO Bonds are the most challenging of all bonding activities for elected officials. The City Council has spent a lot of time on this and empowered a citizens group to discuss the matter. The timing of the GO Bond is important and he suggested that Cottonwood Heights residents support this particular bond effort through the vote. This is a challenging year because there has been a lot of talk about inflation. However, this is the time to move forward. Mr. Walker asked the Council not to rush through the process and to continue the thoughtful process that has taken place so far. He expressed support for the bond.

Mike Hanson commented that a lot of work has been done by the Hillside Plaza Citizen Advisory Committee. He spent a lot of time speaking to people in District 3 and the neighbors who reside around Hillside Plaza. This is a process that will be of value to the community. Mr. Hanson encouraged the City to educate residents as much as possible so all of the information is known.

Dan Mills noted that Salt Lake County has experienced a lot of incorporation over the last 30 years. It is a unique phenomenon in an area that is largely built out. There is an opportunity here to take a piece that has been through the 40-year lifecycle of a building and bring it back to what it was. He was grateful for the direction from the City Council and City Staff. Mr. Mills does not generally prefer bonds but in this case, what is contemplated will promote economic development in the City. He shared information about the first few iterations that the property owner entertained before the City purchase. At that time, it looked a lot like Sugar House. The reason he was voting for the bond is because he is not interested in five to seven stories of wall-to-wall units with maximum density. He loves the idea that the City is choosing to take a positive step forward.

Jim Whitehead reported that he moved to Cottonwood Heights 35 years ago and has loved that the community has been thoughtful about the decisions made. He supported the bonding effort for the Town Center. It is a treasure in the making and there is an opportunity to provide something in the heart of the community where residents can gather. Everyone he has spoken to about this project has expressed their support. Mr. Whitehead reiterated his own support for the bond.

City Manager, Jared Gerber, reported that three written comments were submitted in support of the bond and the project. Those comments were forwarded to the City Council and the Mayor.

There were no further comments. The public hearing was closed.

4.0 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS.

4.1 Committee Reports by Council Member Matt Holton.

Council Member Holton reported that he serves on the Historic Committee, which is a community volunteer committee. He also serves on the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District Board and the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District Board. Council Member Holton clarified that he serves on the Historic Committee not as an active member but as a Liaison to the

City Council. The Committee is focused on putting together comments regarding the Old Mill and what people in that area would like to see happen. Those interested in sharing input can reach out. Formal comments will be submitted to the Council with their recommendation.

The weather is starting to cool down so the number of mosquitos should begin to decrease. There have, however, been more severe illnesses in Salt Lake County, so if there is any standing water, residents are asked to address that. As for the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District, residents can share comments with him about the pick-up and reservation process and he can pass those along.

4.2 Committee Reports by Council Member Suzanne Hyland.

Council Member Hyland reported that she serves as the Liaison to Emergency Management in the City. There are amazing volunteers, including those associated with the Cottonwood Heights Amateur Radio Club (“CHARC”). CHARC is a group of dedicated volunteers who conduct drills to prepare for emergencies. Some will be held in October to prepare as a community.

Council Member Hyland also serves on the CH2 Committee, which is a Liaison opportunity with the Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center. Multiple events are done in conjunction with the group. She highlighted events that are planned, including the Block Party at Hillside Plaza on September 30, 2024. It resulted from a suggestion from a resident who wanted the community to preview what it would be like to have a community space should the GO Bond be approved. The Block Party will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There is also the Monster Mash on October 25, 2024, at the Recreation Center. In addition, the 40th year of the Thanksgiving 5K will occur this year. Registration was open now and normally sells out.

Council Member Hyland commended the Arts Council and community for the recent production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She noted that there are a lot of resources and volunteers associated with that effort. 3,200 attended and the production was very successful. She thanked all involved.

4.3 Committee Reports by Council Member Shawn Newell.

Council Member Newell reported that he serves as the Liaison to the Arts Council. The previous day there was an opportunity to participate in a Ribbon Cutting at the new mural at Mountview Park. A local artist was commissioned for the mural and artists from other communities came to assist with the project. He also noted that the Pollinator Garden is located there and it is impressive. Something else the Art Council has been working on is covering utility boxes with murals. Permission has been granted to do this on a number of different utility boxes in the City to beautify the community.

Council Member Newell also serves the Canyon School Foundation. On September 23, 2024, at Herriman High School, the Unified Sports program will hold an event. Unified Sports is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition. The teams are made up of equal numbers of people who do and do not have intellectual disabilities. The event was to take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He encouraged those interested to attend the event.

4.4 Committee Reports by Council Member Ellen Birrell.

Council Member Birrell reported that the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) has chosen to erect a 30-foot high pole that will hold a variable messaging sign for the benefit of ski motorists. The City of Holladay received one of these signs as did Sandy City. The Cottonwood Heights sign is located north of where Bengal Boulevard intersects SR-210. Many residents have approached her with concerns about how it will impact the view from their homes. She arranged a meeting with Project Managers from UDOT, the Mayor, and the City Manager. They conveyed the concerns from members of the community but the location of the sign has not been changed. At the meeting, she emphasized the importance of motorists being directed to the forthcoming intermodal hub, which will be built in the gravel pit on the north side of Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Council Member Birrell shared information about the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) and the ski bus service. Route 953, which used to run from Big Cottonwood Canyon south and take passengers to Snowbird and Alta, has been discontinued for the last few years. UTA will be reinstating some services. It will not be identical to the previous service but she met with UTA executives the previous week and looked promising for residents to be able to have bus service without driving north to the 6200 South Park and Ride or the Park and Ride in Sandy. Council Member Birrell reported that she serves as the Liaison for the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee. The Committee was a factor in the Pollinator Garden. She encouraged those present to visit Mountview Park and enjoy everything that is there.

Council Member Birrell works with the Youth City Council which has working to support the various projects and events taking place in the City. Most recently, there was a community project commemorating 9/11. It included beautifying the intersection on Bengal Boulevard and 2600 East. She thanked those who came and led the project.

Council Member Birrell reported that she plans to attend the Connected Communities Conference in Provo next week being led by UDOT and Bike Utah. On September 27, 2024, the Executive Director of Strong Towns will give a presentation at Jordan Commons. It will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Council Member Birrell continues to work on sustainability and supporting the City mandate to look at ways the City can advance sustainable practices.

4.5 Committee Reports by Mayor Mike Weichers.

Mayor Weichers thanked the City Council for their investment in the City and the residents. He recommended that people visit Mountview Park to see the mural. Any time art can be added to the community is beneficial. The City Council is invested in things that make the City more beautiful. It is also worthwhile to visit the Pollinator Garden that has been created.

5.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Weichers opened the Citizen Comment period.

Runar Boman stated that he lives in District 3 and expressed appreciation for the Pollinator Garden. He noted that there was a discussion at a previous City Council Meeting about Bywater Park and the crossing. There was a comment at that time that residents did not want to walk on the south side of the road because of exposure to the heat and sun. He noted that the City Council is interested in promoting walkability in the community and there has been a lot of discussion about adding sidewalks in various areas. Adding sidewalks is wonderful but will result in residents being exposed to the sun. Walking in the heat can be unpleasant. He suggested that the City Council consider the addition of trees and the creation of a canopy to provide shade to pedestrians.

Mr. Boman stated that Utah has hot summers and cold winters. If there is a desire to create a walkable environment, there are some challenges that need to be taken into consideration. It is not pleasant to walk along the sidewalks in the sun, heat, and cold. Some decisions need to be made. Simply adding in sidewalks will not necessarily lead to the sidewalks being utilized.

Nancy Hardy shared comments about the Old Mill. She does not live near the Old Mill and is not impacted by the decisions made there but has an appreciation for it and its history. It seemed like the right thing to do to save the Old Mill. She asked if there was a way to save it and keep the current zoning. Ms. Hardy believed that every option should be explored. It sounded like keeping a memorial is a possibility rather than what is there. She has attended some of the Open Houses and residents of District 3 are very passionate about the Old Mill. It is important to think about who could appropriately represent residents at the events with Think Architecture.

Mike Hanson noted that there are a lot of wonderful things that happen in the community. Butlerville Days was a successful event and the budget was appropriate. He appreciated that the City Council and Mayor care about gathering the community together. Mr. Hanson also expressed appreciation for the Police and Code Enforcement Officers for their efforts.

Shannon Haley acknowledged that a lot is going on in the City and it is the commitment and care that makes Cottonwood Heights such a wonderful place to live. She reported that there is a group of concerned citizens who will speak after she does about a desire to protect the trails that are east of Top of the World Drive. Approximately 200 residents attended the recent Town Hall from inside and outside the City where concerns were expressed about protecting trails. As leaders of the community, she knows that the City Council cares about this matter. Recently, there was a lock on the gate that was used to access trails in that area. This has spurred a lot of concern about whether the City Council is pursuing efforts to protect access to the trails. Mayor Weichers reported that the City was made aware of the lock that went on the gate. Efforts were made to find out who was responsible and found that it was the landowner. The City is in the process of scheduling a conversation with him but that conversation has not occurred yet.

Jim Weigel reported that Utah prides itself on providing access to undeveloped lands. There are well-worn trails that can be accessed by the church that were likely there before development occurred. There now seems to be a challenge with access to the wilderness area. 1,300 feet from the gate is a Federally regulated wilderness area. Some properties are used to access those wilderness areas. With all of the recent signage, it felt like many landowners were trying to slowly restrict access. It seemed that landowners ultimately wanted to remove the recreational opportunities on the Federal lands. Mr. Weigel did not have a problem with the gate but thought

it should allow for foot traffic access. If the lands are developed, the community needs to think about how to include easements so residents still can access them.

Bryna Weigel loves the trails and has spoken previously about a desire to see a trail easement and access to Deaf Smith. She was now present to speak about this other location. Many residents were unaware that this gated-off land is owned. It was simply seen as a place to discover nature and create adventure. Ms. Weigel reported that one of the property owners shouted at her to get off of his property. She did not know until that point that it was controlled land and stressed the importance of maintaining open spaces for residents.

Emily Weigel stressed the importance of having outdoor space available to young people. She noted that her family has lived in Cottonwood Heights for a decade and they have two school-aged children. She is a 4th grade teacher at Canyon View Elementary School. Ms. Weigel explained that she has concerns about the locked gate at 8100 South Top of the World Drive. It is important to be mindful and keep this area as beautiful as it is currently. As a teacher, it is vital for people, especially young people, to have unstructured time outdoors. It is important to care for the community and to care for nature. People of all ages need to feel welcome to enjoy open spaces.

Miles France reported that he has climbed the trail many times and knows at least 40 young people his age who have gone there for sledding and hiking. Recently, a lock was put on the gate. He asked the City Council to protect that land so it is possible to continue creating positive memories.

Casey France is 11 years old and has hiked the trail her whole life and it is special to her. Whenever she has gone sledding in the winter, at least 10 other children are sledding there at the same time. It is fun to hike the trail and spend time in the area. When the lock was added, she was upset that the area was closed off to residents.

Chester France stated that his children spend a lot of time in the area. He thanked the City Council for listening to the comments and making an effort to protect the open space that is there.

Robert Kunz lives on Top of the World Drive and his property backs up the property mentioned. He was in favor of the locked gate and appreciated the landowner who locked it. Mr. Kunz noted that there were comments about there being open access there before but this happens every four or five years. He has access to the gate and property to access his back lot as part of a legal easement. The land there has No Trespassing and Private Property signs. It is a dangerous area and he has seen children slide through the fence into the church parking lot and be hurt. He has seen senior citizens fall down the mountain because the trails are not maintained. There is also garbage dumping taking place as well as dirt bike use and even vandalism on his property. Regardless of whether the gate is locked, it is important to remember that it is private property that is being discussed. In this case, until something can be worked out with the landowner, the gate should remain locked.

Pat Dennis, a Top of the World Drive resident, stated that her property backs onto the land in question. She has seen at least 10 different incidents related to the use in the area. In the past, there have been vehicles blocking the gate, which creates access issues. She acknowledged that it is a beautiful place to hike but she respected the right of the property owner to have it closed off.

While she understands the reason people want to be in that area, visitation has impacts. It also takes away from her ability to enjoy peace and quiet on her property. She appreciated that the gate was currently locked.

Lola _____, an 11-year-old, stated that she and her friends like to sled there every winter. When she first saw that the gate was locked, she and her friend cried. There are other entrances to the property but from where she lives, it is much easier to access. She has made a lot of fun memories there. Her family likes to hike there with their dog when it is accessible.

Eric Horsley reported that he has lived in the area for six years and has five children. He understands the concerns expressed by those who abut the land. However, there needs to be some sort of compromise. To shut off access for the entire neighborhood is unnecessary. He reminded the City Council that there are Federal lands there. He stressed the importance of compromise so that access can still be provided to those who enjoy the use of the Federal lands.

There were no further comments. The Citizen Comment period was closed.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Consideration of Resolution 2024-62 - Approving a Performance Contract and Addendum for 2024 Holiday Show.

Mayor Weichers reported that the above item was discussed during the Work Session.

MOTION: Council Member Holton moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-62 – Approving a Performance Contract and Addendum for the 2024 Holiday Show. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hyland. Vote on Motion: Council Member Hyland-Aye; Council Member Newell-Aye; Council Member Birrell-Aye; Council Member Holton-Aye; Mayor Weichers-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

6.2 Consideration of Resolution 2024-63 - Approving and Ratifying an Interlocal Agreement for Election Services with Salt Lake County.

Mayor Weichers reported that above the item was discussed during the Work Session.

MOTION: Council Member Newell moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-63 – Approving and Ratifying an Interlocal Agreement for Election Services with Salt Lake County. The motion was seconded by Council Member Holton. Vote on Motion: Council Member Hyland-Aye; Council Member Newell-Aye; Council Member Birrell-Aye; Council Member Holton-Aye; Mayor Weichers-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Consideration of Resolution 2024-64 - Approving a Consulting Agreement with H.W. Lochner, Inc. for the 2300 East Fort Union Boulevard Traffic Analysis.

Mayor Weichers reported that the above item was discussed during the Work Session. Council Member Birrell expressed concern with the scope described in the Consulting Agreement. She believes what is proposed is car-centric. She did not feel it was in the best interest of the residents to have a study that is car-centric in its orientation as it will likely yield data that will not support the kind of complete streets that are needed in the main area of Fort Union Boulevard.

MOTION: Council Member Holton moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-64 – Approving a Consulting Agreement with H.W. Lochner, Inc. for the 2300 East Fort Union Boulevard Traffic Analysis. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hyland. Vote on Motion: Council Member Hyland-Aye; Council Member Newell-Aye; Council Member Birrell-Nay; Council Member Holton-Aye; Mayor Weichers-Aye. The motion passed 4-to-1.

7.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

7.1 None.

There was no Consent Calendar.

8.0 ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING.

MOTION: Council Member Newell moved to ADJOURN the Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hyland. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Work Session, CDRA, and City Council Business Meetings held Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____