

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE WORK SESSION HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY, WITHOUT A PHYSICAL LOCATION DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND AS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER DATED 18 MARCH 2020

Members Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Scott Bracken and Council Member Christine Mikell

Staff Present: City Manager Tim Tingey, City Attorney Shane Topham, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, Community/Economic Development Director Michael Johnson, Finance and Administrative Services Director S. Scott Jorges, Senior City Planner Andrew Hulka

Excused: Mayor Mike Peterson, Council Member Douglas Petersen, Council Member Tali Bruce, Police Chief Robby Russo, Assistant Chief Fire Chief Riley Pilgrim, Public Works Director Matt Shipp

1. Welcome and Determination – Mayor Peterson.

In the absence of Mayor Mike Peterson, Mayor Pro Tempore Scott Bracken called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and welcomed those listening. He read in its entirety the declaration giving the Council the authority to hold the meeting via Zoom, pursuant to Utah Code Annotated §52-4-207(4).

2. Legislative Update and Discussion with City Lobbyists Mr. Greg Curtis, Mr. Brian Allen, and Ms. Chantel Nate.

City Lobbyist, Greg Curtis provided a Legislative update and stated that the focus was on current Bills, Committee Hearings, and the completion of base budgets. He attended a meeting regarding Representative Dunnigan's Bill for quarter appropriation where another Senator disagreed with the discussion and left the meeting prematurely.

City Lobbyist, Brian Allen reported that the Legislature is dealing with multiple Bills. House Bill 17, a Utility Permitting Bill would prohibit cities from banning natural gas. Mr. Allen spoke with Representative Handy and shared Cottonwood Heights' concerns. Representative Handy added an amendment that would allow cities to offer incentives to use alternative energy and would not prohibit them from advertising or educating the public on alternative fuels. The Bill would not prohibit the City from using alternative fuels in their own municipal buildings. He confirmed that it is now in the hands of the Senate and will likely pass.

Mr. Allen reported that House Bill 82, which is carried by Representative Ward, is moving forward while continuing to work toward a more favorable resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Bracken expressed concern with ADU parking and residency. Mr. Allen explained in the substitute Bill held by Representative Ward and includes a requirement for one off-street parking space. Basic safety requirements were discussed. Based on feedback received from staff, it was suggested that a one-time inspection with a fee of less than \$100 be included to allow issues to be corrected.

The Firearms Preemption Bill was still in the works and being led by Representative Maloy. Mr. Allen stated that Representative Thurston amended the Bill to remove the local government and it now only applies to the State. The Bill has passed the House and is currently in the Senate.

Mr. Allen reported that they continue to work with the League of Cities and Towns and negotiate with the sign companies regarding Senate Bill 61, the Billboard's Bill, and Senate Bill 144. The Ordinance has been sent to the League and suggested it be looked at as a template to get it to a better place. The sign company lobbyist is amenable to language similar to Cottonwood Heights' Ordinance and believes it works well and is a good Statewide policy. Council Member Mikell asked if lumens differ depending on the time of day or daylight savings. Mayor Pro Tem Bracken confirmed that it is not set by time, but by lumens. City Attorney, Shane Topham confirmed that brightness can be adjusted from the command center in Logan.

Mr. Allen next discussed Senator Riebe's Bill on mental health crisis outreach. He confirmed that questions were answered allowing it to get out to Committee, where it is currently pending.

The Property Tax Bill was next discussed. Mr. Allen reported that the Property Tax Bill was negotiated down to a \$25,000 threshold rather than the original \$50,000. The Bill still has a revenue impact on the City but less than the previous amount.

Multiple law enforcement Bills were being reviewed, most of which are positive. Mr. Allen confirmed that they will continue to watch those and address any that may be problematic for the City. The Concealed Permit Bill that allows carry without permit over the age of 18 and in good standing has passed the House, is in the Senate and is likely to pass. He confirmed that Governor Cox has indicated that he will sign it. The Legislature believes it would be less disruptive to the public order to allow a firearm concealed carry keeping it from public view making fewer people nervous. Council Member Mikell recommended educating the public and continuing to fight against this issue. Mr. Allen explained that law enforcement has been very vocal about their opposition to this Bill, as has the City, but it appears that no one is listening.

3. Adjourn.

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

The Work Session adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Legislative Work Session held Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 2, 2021