

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE WORK SESSION HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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 Mike Peterson, Council Member Scott Bracken, Council Member Douglas Petersen, Council Member Tali Bruce, Council Member Christine Mikell

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

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

Mayor Mike Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 Lobbyist, Mr. Brian Allen, and Ms. Chantel Nate.**

City Lobbyist, Brian Allen presented a Legislative Update and stated that both of the Billboard Bills failed to pass on the Senate second reading calendar. It was believed that the two Bills will not return. Representative Paul Ray’s Bill on building permits was negotiated by the League of Cities and Towns (“ULCT”) and Mr. Allen indicated that it has the greatest impact on the cities that lag behind.

Senate Bill 164 regarding affordable housing was next discussed. Mr. Allen indicated that the substitute Bill looked acceptable. He passed along Community and Economic Development Director, Mike Johnson’s comments concerning the definition of income thresholds. The ULCT has sent that concern to the Council who will continue to conduct research to ensure consistency.

Mr. Allen reported that Senate Bill 113, Local Government Leasing of Vehicles, is being worked on intently. He reported that another Lobbyist with an interest met with Senator Bramble and they had yet to hear the outcome of that meeting. Mr. Allen reported that his first approach will be to remove language from the Bill completely and if unsuccessful, he will try to get it down to two years and 40,000 miles. Those involved are realizing that the solution is not right and he hoped that a better solution would be worked toward for the next year.

City Manager, Tim Tingey expressed concern with State Bill 113, which specifies that local government may not lease a motor vehicle for less than three years. He believed this would cause problems with the City’s leasing program. Mr. Allen confirmed that the fiscal note indicated that it would potentially increase the cost for local government. It was a hastily drafted amendment

pushed through at the last minute on a third reading and received no public comment or input. He believed the amendment does not solve the problem and has actually made the problem worse. Mayor Peterson indicated that every Public Works and Parks and Recreation Department across the State during the summer months often needs to lease a piece of equipment for a short period of time.

City Attorney, Shane Topham recognized that the problem does not exist and is a solution in search of a problem. The Bill defines a lease as an exchange of a right of possession of a motor vehicle for an undefined length of time in return for financial consideration.

Mr. Allen reported that House Bill 244 is in the Senate. He believed it will make it through the process but was not sure what it will look like in the end.

City Lobbyist, Greg Curtis reviewed the long-awaited infrastructure Bill 433 and reported that it came out with 10 days left. The Bill has received input from the Senate but was primarily drafted on the House side. Amendments and substitutions were being considered. He confirmed that Senator Cullimore will be directly involved and is supportive of language pertaining to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. He indicated that there are large grants that go directly toward natural resources, one of which is for \$4 million to the Office of Outdoor Recreation. The Bill has bonding authorization for \$1.4 billion and spends nearly \$800 million in one-time cash. It was created from the House side because there is no one in majority party leadership from Salt Lake County. He indicated that \$621 million was appropriated for projects with only one being located in Salt Lake County for \$40 million. \$581 million was appropriated in the other areas of the State.

Mr. Curtis stated that House Bill 244 was subbed in Committee and Cottonwood Heights received an additional \$50,000 ongoing for 15 years bringing the total to \$350,000.

Council Member Bracken asked if the infrastructure Bill included FrontRunner. Mr. Curtis confirmed that there is \$1.1 billion allocated to accelerate the projects program by the Transportation Commission, \$300 million for Frontrunner double-tracking, Midvalley BRT completion, and \$621 million in unprioritized road projects.

House Bill 75 was next reviewed. Mr. Allen stated that there has been discussion in Committee and this Bill is not without controversy. It is out of the House but still needs to go through the Senate. One of the biggest arguments on the Bill questions whether it will make voting more confusing. Since it is viewed as a voluntary pilot type issue, the general consensus was if they do not give it a try, they will never know what works. The second substitute had been published and may include further changes.

Council Member Bruce voiced her support for the Racism as a Health Crisis Bill.

Council Member Mikell joined the meeting. Mr. Curtis gave a brief overview of House Bill 433.

The ADU Bill was discussed. Mr. Allen noted that the ULCT is neutral at this point and the less favorable Bill has been set aside. A short-term rental Bill was dropped by Senator Anderegg that

would allow an owner-occupied short-term rental with no real regulation. He believed it would not make it through the process.

**3. Adjourn.**

**MOTION:** Mayor Peterson 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 9:30 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 25, 2021.*

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes  
T Forbes Group  
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 16, 2021