

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
HELD TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021, AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL WORK ROOM LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD**

Members Present: Mayor Mike Peterson, Council Member Tali Bruce, Council Member Douglas Petersen, Council Member Mikell (remotely)

Staff Present: City Manager Tim Tingey, Police Chief Robby Russo, Assistant Fire Chief Riley Pilgrim, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, City Attorney Shane Topham, Finance Director Scott Jurges, IT Technician Jill Cohen, Network Administrator Matt Ervin, Senior City Planner Andrew Hulka

Excused: Council Member Scott Bracken

1. Welcome – Mayor Peterson.

Mayor Mike Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Circles Salt Lake County – Mr. Wes Long, Client Support Specialist.

Mayor Peterson introduced Wes Long with Circles Salt Lake County.

Wes Long, Client Support Specialist for Circles Salt Lake County reported that their research shows that low-income families must have social, capital, and human connections across class lines to improve their economic situation. Their program is designed to empower people to leave poverty systems in their lives and facilitate systemic change to the areas that can block a person's stability. He explained Circle leaders set the meeting agendas, make their own goals, and follow through on action steps. After training, they are matched with two allies from middle or upper-income levels to provide assistance who then support their Circle leaders for the duration of the program, which typically lasts around 18 months. Graduates of the program achieve roughly a 71% income increase. Overall, their goal is to find expanded support networks and reach 200% above the poverty guideline. They are a 501(c) non-profit with 80 Chapters around the United States and Canada. They require everyone in the program to receive a background check prior to being admitted and since they are not a crisis service provider, those experiencing severe mental illness, addictions, or mental illness must also be receiving professional treatment.

Mr. Long reported that Cottonwood Heights can offer support by providing referrals, volunteers, and members of their resource teams. Resource teams consist of a Circle leader serving in a Co-Chair capacity to work with members of the community for specific tasks. They are dedicated to logistics, researching available services in the County, developing working relationships with employment and educational sites, outreach to the community, and organizing a monthly forum to interact and become better informed on the experience of poverty.

Council Member Bruce reported that she has attended a Circles meeting and believed they do great work.

Mayor Peterson appreciated the concept and passion shown through their service. He asked if the Circles Program is a part of the County's Community Development Funding. Mr. Long reported that they are working with those involved in the program and he was hopeful that they could do more. Mayor Peterson considered the mentoring provided to be invaluable and has witnessed it working in numerous situations. He asked to be provided with a hard copy of the information presented so that can be included in the newsletter.

3. Little Cottonwood Environmental Impact Study – Project Update – Mr. Josh Van Jura, Project Manager with the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”).

Josh Van Jura, UDOT's Little Cottonwood Environmental Impact Study Project Manager presented a project overview and reported that the project purpose is to substantially improve transportation-related safety, reliability, and mobility along Highway 210. He reported that the estimated travel time in 2050 roughly 50 days per year will quadruple from the present-day time of 21 minutes. When the study was introduced, it included the following five alternatives:

- Enhanced bus with no widening;
- Enhanced bus with peak period shoulder lanes in the Canyons;
- Gondola A from the existing park and ride at the mouth of the Canyon;
- Gondola B from North Little Cottonwood Road near La Caille; and
- Cog rail from North Little Cottonwood Road near La Caille.

Mr. Van Jura explained that the options were narrowed down to two preferred alternatives. The first alternative was the enhanced bus, which best meets the mobility goal, and Gondola B, which best meets the reliability goal. The safety component is met equally met by both alternatives. A rendering depicting the five alternatives was displayed. With the enhanced bus leaving every five minutes, the fear of missing the bus is eliminated. Costs will include \$510 million in capital costs and \$11 million in operation maintenance with a travel time of 36 minutes. Gondola B will allow for 1,500 parking at the base station with additional parking at the gravel pit and the mobility hub with a travel time of 55 or 59 minutes. He explained that this will come at a cost of \$592 million and \$7.6 million in operation maintenance costs. The overall life cycle costs are very close for these two alternatives. He explained that it will have the highest visual impact in the canyon but a lower impact on wildlife and the watershed.

Commonalities along Wasatch Boulevard were next discussed. Mr. Van Jura reported that UDOT chose the five-lane alternative as the preferred choice. With a phased approach, they will build the in-balance lane alternative and preserve the right-of-way for the five-lane alternative if the level of service reaches a specific threshold value. He noted that this will move the shared-use path along the east side of the road farther from traffic lanes. Although they are not at the final design, the Wasatch Boulevard aesthetics and Master Plan shows how some of the concepts will be integrated into the final roadway design. Mr. Van Jura explained that the peak period shoulder lane will be utilized as a bike lane and a shoulder used for queuing and bus access. Public comment was extended from the original 45 days to 70 days beginning June 25, 2021, and ending

September 3, 2021. He expected a draft revision based on the comments received and will have a Final EIS and Record of Decision in the winter of 2021-2022.

Mayor Peterson thanked Mr. Van Jura for his presentation and transparency. He commented that there have been previous discussions regarding speed along Wasatch Boulevard and he understood that the EIS does not take a position on speed as it is based on road design. He asked if the EIS can take a position on design with speed as the desired outcome. Mr. Van Jura confirmed that speed is set by UDOT and controlled by the Legislative Code and administrative rules. There is a process to evaluate and potentially change speed limits but is outside of the EIS process. Planted medians, park strips, and shortening crossing distances were all items that can be considered. They will work with Cottonwood Heights when they get to the final design stage.

Mr. Van Jura reported that tolling is a part of all of the alternatives and is anticipated they will toll roughly 50 days a year in 2050 with the traffic growth. Tolling hours would be from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Preliminary studies have shown that tolls could potentially be \$20 to \$30 with variables.

Council Member Petersen commented that there are concerns with a parking structure and asked if the ski resorts plan to be part of this contribution. Getting patrons across Wasatch Boulevard was also of concern. Mr. Van Jura explained that the Wasatch Master Plan includes crossing bridges. Getting the trail to the proposed location is difficult due to the Utah Open Lands parcel. The multi-use trail runs from Big Cottonwood Canyon to the High-T currently and does not extend further south.

City Manager, Tim Tingey, believed it would be beneficial to discuss any Council concerns prior to the September 3 deadline. The Council could then meet in a Work Session where a draft could be presented and final authorization to move forward could be granted.

Council Member Mikell encouraged a meeting with the Governor to discuss Wasatch Boulevard and believed it was fair to say that there has not been much interest from their Governor's Office to meet. She considered Wasatch Boulevard to be important to economic development as it relates to recreation with 5,000,000 visitors per year. She suggested extending an invitation by way of the Central Wasatch Commission to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to visit the corridor.

Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson, commented that they have been focusing on the elements that directly affect the City and the local impact. Their approach will be reviewed in the EIS and the Wasatch Master Plan to identify issues or concerns and work toward the alternative that compares more favorably. He believed from a public comment standpoint that it will be better to specify one choice over the other with the rationale for their decision. He felt there were items in the EIS that could be worded more strongly to provide a long-term commitment to work with UDOT on aesthetics and design.

Mayor Peterson emphasized the importance of being sensitive to unintended consequences from either of the alternatives, specific to the City. He commented that he would like to ride the gondola but was concerned with it making two stops.

Mr. Johnson reported that the 30-year time frame is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plans from the Wasatch Front Regional Council while anticipating levels of service and traffic volumes.

Mayor Peterson stated that his vision was for a boulevard rather than a highway with medians. If designed properly, it will include traffic calming devices, an east side shared use path and transportation hubs. Access issues were discussed.

4. Review of Business Meeting Agenda – Mayor Peterson.

Mayor Peterson reviewed the Business Meeting Agenda. It was reported that Police Chief, Robby Russo, will conduct a Sergeant’s Promotion for Sergeant Ken Eatchel.

Mr. Tingey reported that the action item involves entering into an Agreement with Zions Public Finance for Financial Advisor Services. Staff went through a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) process in March. Two proposals were submitted and evaluated by a committee consisting of representatives from the City Recorders Office and the Finance Department who selected Zions Public Finance. He reported that Zions will help with issues related to bonding and prepare a Debt Structure Analysis. Staff and City Attorney, Shane Topham recommended approval.

5. Staff Reports.

a. Butlerville Days Introduction – Ann Eatchel, Culture Manager.

Culture Manager, Ann Eatchel, reported that they placed the Butlerville Day box out that morning and had residents waiting to participate. The Arts Council painted 93 rocks with the hashtag #Butlervilledaysrock and hid them at the nine of the City’s various parks. She confirmed that food booths will arrive on Thursday and the Field opens at 5:00 p.m. Activities will include Painting in the Park, Bingo, and Yoga with Yogurt. They will have 14 food vendors on Friday and Saturday with the field and stage opening at 4:00 p.m. Utah Pro Scooters will be performing and handing out prizes and *Crudes New Age* will be shown at Movies in the Park.

Saturday activities will include the Parade at 11:00 a.m., High Fitness aerobics on the stage sponsored by Trader Joe’s, the Car Show, and a Historic Walking Tour. Entertainment will include the Hot Hawks Birds of Prey show, Hales Family Music, Learn to Line Dance, a City Council presentation, and Charlie Jenkins. The park will open at 2:00 p.m. and there will be a fireworks display. The City Council’s role in the Parade was reviewed.

Assistant Fire Chief, Riley Pilgrim, confirmed they fire personnel will be present to support the fireworks.

Council Member Petersen commended Ms. Eatchel for her efforts and involvement in the community.

b. Open Space Master Plan Discussion – Community and Economic Development Director, Michael Johnson

Mr. Johnson presented the staff report and stated that they have been through an extensive process thanks to the efforts of former City Planner, Matthew Taylor, and Senior City Planner, Andy Hulka.

Senior City Planner, Andy Hulka shared his excitement working on the Open Space Master Plan, which can be viewed on the City website. The full draft plan documents and an interactive map were displayed. He explained that this is a long-range vision for Parks, Trails, and Open Space for Cottonwood Heights and staff has received extensive public feedback. The City conducted its own survey, held two formal open houses, and staff has worked extensively with the Committee and the Planning Commission, both of which unanimously recommended approval.

The goals were to maintain and improve the existing Parks, Trails, and Open Space and create a connected network benefiting the health and quality of life in the City while also providing a financial benefit. Individual maps were displayed. In addition to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and others, the Council may be aware of, there are new ideas that include the Little Cottonwood Trail with various alignment options and a loop that will run from Big Cottonwood Canyon through the Corporate Center to Crestwood and end at Fort Union Boulevard. Mr. Hulka directed the public to the City’s website to comment or review additional details regarding the Open Space Master Plan. Council Member suggestions were encouraged.

6. Review of Calendars and Upcoming Events.

a. July 19-24 – Butlerville Days.

7. Possible Closed Meeting to Discuss Litigation, Property Acquisition, and/or the Character and Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

MOTION: Council Member Bruce moved to close the Work Session and open a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition. The motion was seconded by Council Member Petersen. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The City Council was in a closed session from 6:23 p.m. to 6:49 p.m.

8. Adjourn City Council Work Session.

The Work Session adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD**

Members Present: Mayor Mike Peterson, Council Member Tali Bruce, Council Member Douglas Petersen, Council Member Christine Mikell (remotely)

Staff Present: City Manager Tim Tingey, Police Chief Robby Russo, Assistant Fire Chief Riley Pilgrim, Records Culture and Human Resources Director Paula Melgar, City Attorney Shane Topham, Finance Director Scott Jurgens, IT Technician Jill Cohen, Network Administrator Matt Ervin, Senior City Planner Andrew Hulka

Excused: Council Member Bracken

1.0 WELCOME

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed those present.

2.0 PLEDGE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pledge was led by Council Member Tali Bruce.

3.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3.1 Sergeants Promotional Announcement – Chief Russo.

Police Chief, Robby Russo introduced Sergeant Ken Eatchel and reported that he recently participated in a promotional examination set forth by the Department that included 16 participants. The process consisted of a written exam, a presentation, and oral interviews. Sergeant Eatchel emerged as the number one candidate. Chief Russo stated that this is a pivotal position as they set the culture for success and mentor while helping control the ethics, policy adherence and community relations. Sergeant Eatchel is a Master K-9 Trainer and has trained military K-9 handlers in Iraq and was recognized by the State Department. Sergeant Eatchel has worked in the civilian field traveling the nation working for high-profile political and sporting events and is a leader in explosive and substance protection. Sergeant Eatchel expressed his love for the community and the administration.

Mayor Peterson thanked Sergeant Eatchel for his service and his fellow officers.

4.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jamie Nazaro asked the City Council to work with local schools and health departments to enact a school mask mandate for this school year. She explained that with COVID cases increasing in the area, children should return with masks especially when many are ineligible to be vaccinated. She stated that masks save lives, keep schools open, and prevent missed days due to quarantines.

She noted that both the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) and the Academy of Pediatrics have stated that masks should be worn by all individuals at school whether they are vaccinated or not. Ms. Nazaro has two children who are ineligible to be vaccinated and she was worried about their safety, especially with the knowledge that one-third of children who are infected with COVID will have long-term symptoms. She is a Veterinarian by profession and stated that the Coronavirus in animals is dangerous, especially to cats. She emphasized the importance of a mask mandate being implemented for the upcoming school year.

Mayor Peterson reported that he read an article that stated that 83% of all new COVID cases are the variant. He considered it to be a serious issue and would convey Dr. Nazaro’s concerns at the next School Board Meeting.

Runar Bowman reported that he resides in District 3 and shared a safety concern with the area between Fort Union Boulevard and 7120 South. He and his family frequently cross at that location where there is no crosswalk and cars pass at high rates of speed. He questioned the double yellow line near Walgreens being crossed in order to turn into the shopping center.

David Berry identified himself as a resident of Cottonwood Heights and reported that he recently attended the UDOT meetings. He asked if anyone from the City is a stakeholder. He believed that Cottonwood Heights is being utilized as a transportation pass-through with no concern for those who live there. He encouraged participation to ensure that it remains a livable City.

Mayor Peterson indicated that they are not a stakeholder but are heavily involved. The Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan emphasizes the desires and needs of the City and their opposition to its use as a highway. The City has expressed interest in boulevard traffic calming, lower speeds, a parallel trail system, and pedestrian sensitivity and will continue to fight for those issues. He confirmed that they have until September 3, 2021, to formalize the comments.

Mr. Berry referenced the green line on the Planning Commission Open Space Map and Little Cottonwood Creek becoming a trail. He lived there prior to the City’s incorporation and expressed opposition to a trail. Further discussion was suggested allowing everyone along the creek to share their concerns.

Robert Jacobs reported that he attended the EIS meeting and raised concern with travel time increasing from 21 minutes to 84 minutes by the year 2050 and a potential toll of \$20 to \$30. He believed that the Gondola B Transportation Option only benefits Snowbird and would have to transport 35 people every two minutes to accommodate everyone. He preferred the bus option allowing a designated bus for each ski resort and eliminate the need to stop at the other. He was opposed to parking at La Caille and believed it would only cause further congestion.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Consideration of Resolution 2021-33 Approving Entry into an Agreement with Zions Public Finance for Financial Advisor Services.

Mayor Peterson reported that the above resolution approves entry into an Agreement with Zions Public Finance for Financial Advisor Services. City Manager, Tim Tingey, described the Request for Proposals (“RFP”) process for a Municipal Financial Advisor, which is a Consultant who would assist with needs related to bonding, debt structure analysis, and debt issuance among other issues related to the City’s finances. A committee was formed that went through criteria and evaluated the proposals. Ultimately, a selection was made. Staff recommended approval of the contract with Zions Finance to serve as the City’s Municipal Financial Advisor.

Council Member Bruce suggested pushing for more applicants in the future.

MOTION: Council Member Bruce moved to approve Resolution 2021-33. The motion was seconded by Council Member Petersen. Vote on motion: Council Member Mikell-Aye, Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Mike Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

6.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

6.1 Approval of the City Council Work Session and Business Meeting Minutes for July 6, 2021.

MOTION: Council Member Bruce moved to approve the City Council Work Session and Business Meeting minutes for July 6, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Petersen. Vote on motion: Council Member Mikell-Aye, Council Member Bruce-Aye, Council Member Petersen-Aye, Mayor Mike Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING.

MOTION: Council Member Petersen moved to adjourn the City Council Business Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bruce. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Work and Business Meetings held Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: August 3, 2021