

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY,
AUGUST 10, 2010, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present: Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Councilman Scott Bracken, Councilwoman Nicole Omer, Councilman Gordon Thomas, Councilman Tee Tyler

Staff Present: City Manager Liane Stillman, City Attorney Shane Topham, City Engineer Brad Gilson, City Recorder Linda Dunlavy, Community and Economic Development Director Michael Black, Police Chief Robby Russo, Assistant Chief Mike Watson, Victims Advocate April Ryce, Public Relations Specialist Stephanie Archibald, Sergeant Chris Gebhardt

Others Present: Gene Peterson, Ted Neff, Nancy Dahill, Robin Bateman, *Valley Journal* Reporter Katherine Cusumano

1.0 **WELCOME/PLEDGE/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

1.1 Mayor Cullimore opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those attending.

1.2 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bracken.

2.0 **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

2.1 Gene Peterson indicated that he attended previous meetings and commended the council for working well as a group. At a previous meeting he listened but did not fully understand the tax situation. His primary understanding was that there would not be a tax increase; however, he received a tax notice several days later showing an increase. Citizens were also informed that the city will receive \$6 million per year, while a recent article reported that the city will actually receive \$7 million. Mr. Peterson was concerned about the various discrepancies identified. He remarked that Cottonwood Heights is not a large community and many city jobs, with the exception of the Fire Department, could likely be handled by part-time volunteers. He was concerned that without moving in that direction there will be problems. He was concerned about rising taxes and hoped something would be done.

Mayor Cullimore addressed Mr. Peterson's comments and confirmed that there was no tax increase in Cottonwood Heights this year. If Mr. Peterson's taxes increased over the last year it was the result of a valuation issue. He explained that the county sets the tax rate and if taxes are to be increased, a Truth in Taxation hearing is required. The city accepted the rate assigned by the county which means there was no tax increase. The Mayor explained that the set rate is dependent upon an average valuation city-wide which generally dropped by an estimated 10 to 15 percent this year. He noted that if Mr. Peterson's property valuation did not drop by that amount, he is paying more than his fair share. The Mayor invited Mr. Peterson to bring his tax statement in to the City Office for review and clarification. He noted that in the event it is determined to be a valuation issue, it can be appealed by the property owner.

2.2 Ted Neff commended the Mayor for his newsletter article on taxation, which he found to clearly explain a difficult issue. He thanked the city for paving Fort Union Blvd. and removing the island. He understood that the job was completed under budget and a local contractor was used. Mr. Neff's wife asked that he thank the city for the wheelchair cutouts on 2300 East making it ADA accessible. He commended them for being transparent and open. With a background in

law enforcement, Mr. Neff was very pleased with the job the police department is doing and commended them for their work.

Mr. Neff had one concern but stated that it doesn't truly affect Cottonwood Heights because it is someone they contract with. Recently he was on Butler Hills Drive while the crack sealing was being done. He watched the crews do about half the street from Brighton High School to where Butler Hills Drive curves toward 2300 East. It appeared that only a fair job was done on the crack seal portion. He was also concerned with the quality of the hot tar. About 60% of the cracks were sealed while 40% were missed. As president of his homeowners' association, they recently repaved their street. The contractor who performed the work was called back to redo the areas that were missed. Mr. Neff hoped the same would be done in this case. City Engineer Brad Gilson agreed to follow up.

3.0 REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Standing Monthly Reports

3.2.1 July Police Report – Sgt. Gebhardt.

- 3.2.1.1 Sergeant Gebhardt presented the Police Report and reviewed the statistics for the month of July. He noted that although there were increases in call volumes, response times remained low. Priority 1 response times were 4 ½ minutes, which is lower than the same time the previous year. There was an increase in priority 3 response times but they are still in line with the previous year.

Sgt. Gebhardt reported that Priority 1 calls involve lives in jeopardy such as an aggravated assault in progress, a domestic incident in progress, or any type of call where life is in jeopardy. Priority 2 calls involve situations where property is in jeopardy such as a burglary or robbery in progress. Priority 3 calls don't rise to the same level. In addition there are Priority 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 calls which are less serious and typically have longer response times.

Sgt. Gebhardt reported on property crimes and stated that there has been an increase in thefts. The data presented shows that crime is seasonal with regard to thefts. Most thefts involve vehicle burglaries where a sharp increase was seen. Councilwoman Omer asked Sgt. Gebhardt what circumstances contribute to the increase. Sgt. Gebhardt stated that it is weather related and people tend to leave their windows down and doors unlocked more often, which invites crimes of opportunity.

Citations, warnings, and DUIs were all up in July and the number of injury crashes was higher than the previous July. A previous request was made for a map showing where traffic crashes are occurring. The requested map was included in the council member's packets with DUI's overlaid on the map.

- 3.2.1.2 Victims Advocate April Ryce reviewed the victim advocate information for the past quarter. She reported that the majority of victims served are primary victims. In response to a question raised about the age range of victims, Ms. Ryce imagined it was most likely related to domestic violence crimes. She explained that the average domestic violence victim does not report abuse. It takes some time for violence to escalate and typically seven to nine instances occur before a victim leaves the abuser.

Ms. Ryce reported that they have a new volunteer by the name of Greg, who has agreed to stay on through the next semester. The intent was for Greg to complete the rape crisis training in order to better serve victims.

3.2.1.7 Ms. Ryce stated that they are in the process of applying for DI vouchers that would be provided to displaced victims who are in need of household items and clothing. If the grant is approved, credits will be given in \$20 increments, as needed.

3.2.1.8 Ms. Ryce reported on a new law that went into effect on July 1. It affects court appearances for individuals who are arrested and jailed on no contact orders. She planned to offer training to officers on August 13 and 20. The law was expected to go into effect in the city's court the following week. Councilwoman Omer asked to be provided with the specific details via email. Ms. Ryce reported on the various conferences and trainings she attended the previous quarter.

3.2.2 **Monthly Public Works Report – City Engineer Brad Gilson.**

3.2.2.1 City Engineer Brad Gilson presented the Public Works Report and stated that Cottonwood Heights has more than 20 signals, which is about 2% of the 650 across the valley. Very few signals have been updated since 1998. Cottonwood Heights is the first city to update all signal turning plans, which is significant because coordination is paramount to reducing the amount of time spent at signals. On August 30 every signal in the city will be adjusted.

Mr. Gilson reported on a storm drain project to be done on Kings Hill Drive where there is a sink hole. It was noted that the sink hole was a result of recent flooding.

4.0 **ACTION ITEMS**

4.1 **Consideration of Resolution Number 2010-45 Approving Entry into an Amendment to an Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County for Public Works Services**

4.1.1 Mayor Cullimore reported that one of the only services the city obtains from the county is a portion of public works functions.

4.1.2 City Attorney Shane Topham indicated that last year the county decided to remove paving services from the remaining public works contract. There are now two contracts; one for public works exclusive of paving services and the other for paving, slurry seal, and similar services.

Mayor Cullimore noted that the above resolution addresses non-paving services.

4.1.3 **MOTION:** Councilman Tyler moved to adopt Resolution Number 2010-45. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

4.2 **Consideration of Resolution Number 2010-46 Approving Entry into an Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County for Overlay, Chip Seal and Slurry Services**

4.2.1 Mayor Cullimore indicated that the above resolution addresses the road maintenance portion of the contract at a cost of \$860,000. He clarified that city funds are used to pay the county to complete the work. City Manager Liane Stillman explained that the County collects the funds and then issues them back to the city based on the number of road miles in the city.

4.2.2 **MOTION:** Councilwoman Omer moved to adopt Resolution Number 2010-46. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bracken and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

5.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

5.1 **Approval of July 27, 2010 Minutes**

5.1.1 Approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

6.0 **ADJOURN BUSINESS MEETING AND RECONVENE WORK SESSION IN ROOM 250**

6.1 **MOTION:** Councilman Thomas moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bracken and passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

6.2 The business meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.