

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AT 4:00 PM IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL WORK ROOM LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH

Present: Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion, Council Member Matt Holton, Council Member Ellen Birrell, Council Member Suzanne Hyland (via Zoom), Council Member Shawn Newell

Staff Present: City Manager, Jared Gerber; City Attorney, Shane Topham; Finance Director, Scott Jurgens; Police Chief, Robby Russo; Assistant Police Chief, Chris McHugh; Administrative Services Director, Barbara Higgins; City Recorder, Tiffany Janzen; Community and Economic Development Director, Jim Spung; Planner III, Sheldon Howa; IT Manager, Matt Ervin; Public Works Director and City Engineer, Matt Shipp; Unified Fire Authority, Riley Pilgrim

1.0 WELCOME – Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion.

Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion called the City Council Work Session to order at 4:00 PM.

2.0 REVIEW OF BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA – Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion.

Mayor Bennion reviewed the Meeting Agenda and stated that the Pledge of Allegiance would be led by Council Member Hyland, followed by the City Council Committee Reports and Citizen Comment Period.

Item 5.1 was a Public Hearing to receive input on the proposed Budget Amendments for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. Finance Director, Scott Jurgens, reported that the amendments were predominantly for Fund transfers, including \$400,000 in County Option Sales Tax revenue that would be booked into the General Fund and transferred to the Capital Projects Fund. The additional revenues received from Butlerville Days and the Arts Council play were also included.

Item 6 was the Cottonwood Heights Police Department Quarterly Report, followed by five Action Items. Item 7.1 was Consideration of Ordinance 462, Adopting an Amended Budget for 1 July 2025 through 30 June 2026.

Mayor Birrell reported that there was an error on the announcement for Item 7.2, Consideration of Resolution 2026-12 Making Appointments to the Unified Fire Authority (“UFA”) Board. Council Member Birrell will continue serving on the UFA Board.

Item 7.3 was Consideration of Resolution 2026-13 Approving and Ratifying the Appointments of Members to the Cottonwood Heights Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. Item 7.4 was Consideration of Resolution 2026-14 Approving a Consulting Agreement for Budgetary Matters.

Item 7.5 was Consideration of Resolution 2026-15 Approving an Appointment to the Health in the Heights Advisory Committee. City Manager, Jared Gerber, reported that the appointee was Danielle LeCourt, who has a communications background and can assist with messaging. With the appointment, there is only one open position on the 25-member committee.

The final Agenda item was the Consent Calendar. Mayor Bennion and Council Member Hyland stated that they had forwarded minor changes to City Recorder, Tiffany Janzen. Council Member Birrell remarked that the way things are stated and what is included in the minutes is very helpful.

3.0 REPORTS

3.1 Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District – General Manager Evan Tyrrell.

General Manager, Evan Tyrrell, presented the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (“WFWRD”) update. THE WFWRD operates as an enterprise fund and receives no tax revenue or subsidies. They are actively looking at ways to reduce costs and keep rates as low as possible.

The base residential rate increased to \$26 per month in 2025. Services provided with that rate include:

- Weekly garbage and recycling collection;
- Seasonal Container Reservation Program (“SCRP”) bulk waste collection;
- Landfill vouchers;
- Central glass drop-off locations;
- Container repair and replacement;
- Seasonal services, including leaf bag and Christmas tree collection;
- Education and outreach initiatives; and
- In-house customer service and account management.

Additional services:

- Curbside green waste reclamation: \$12 per month; and
- Curbside glass recycling; \$8.50 per month.

In 2025, WFWRD collected:

- 109,064 tons of curbside garbage;
- 18,410 tons of recycling;
- 5,900 tons of material through the SCR program; and
- Over 1,200 tons of leaf bags.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Hyland, Mr. Tyrrell clarified that the curbside green waste fee is charged all year. The program currently starts in early March and ends in mid-December, but they are considering extending the program to December 31.

Mr. Tyrrell reviewed a chart of the WFWRD service area and collection dates. They service almost 10,000 homes in Cottonwood Heights with a total of 2,320 trash, recycling, green, and glass cans. There are almost 1,800 green waste and 400 curbside glass collection subscribers in the City. All Cottonwood Heights waste is brought to the Salt Lake Valley Transfer Station and Rocky Mountain Recycling Materials Recovery Facility. In 2025, approximately 15,000 tons of materials were collected curbside, not including leaf, scrap, and bulk waste.

Council Member Birrell asked if the WFWRD evaluates per-capita consumption. Mr. Tyrrell stated that they may have conducted that research in the past, but had not done so recently. However, the data they have been collecting will enable them to do so in the future. The number of residences serviced changes each month, but they are starting to evaluate that type of data. In response to a follow-up question from Council Member Birrell, he reported that WFWRD only services approximately 3,000 households in the eastern portion of Murray, not the entire city.

The WFWRD Board of Trustees will be reviewing a cost comparison for the tri-county area at its March 2 meeting. The comparison includes both public and private services in Salt Lake, Utah, and Davis Counties. It is difficult to do an apples-to-apples comparison because each service provider provides different tiers of service. For example, some providers only collect recycling bi-weekly, and others have weekly collection. Disposal processing costs will also be discussed. Tipping costs are higher in Herriman because they utilize the Trans Jordan Landfill facility, which has a higher cost per ton of \$41. By contrast, the Salt Lake Valley Transfer Station cost \$37 per ton, which resulted in a lower total disposal cost for Cottonwood Heights. Millcreek has a high number of green waste and glass subscriptions, which significantly reduces its disposal costs.

Council Member Birrell asked if the number of households that subscribe to green waste and glass recycling correlates with the City's socioeconomic makeup. Mr. Tyrrell did not have that information available.

A chart of 2025 recycling costs through Rocky Mountain Recycling and Waste Management was reviewed. Rocky Mountain Recycling is more centrally located and generally more cost-effective. However, the prices are driven by global commodity markets and can be quite volatile. If cardboard is in high demand, its value increases and processing costs decrease. Composition audits also affect pricing. If a high percentage of contamination (non-recyclable waste) is found during an audit, the price will increase. WFWRD reviews this data regularly and will reroute recycling to an alternate facility if it results in cost savings.

2025 WFWRD revenues and expenses were discussed. Mr. Tyrrell reported that many of the year's initiatives were due to efforts by his predecessor, Pam Roberts, to lower costs and keep rates as low as possible, and he is confident that there will be no rate increases until at least 2027. Revenues came in over budget and expenses under budget as a result of efforts in the following areas:

- Slight reduction in staffing and position reclassification;
- Optimized routing, including using cameras and GPS to reduce the number of "missed can" reroutes. SCRP and landfill voucher program enhancements;
- Vendor negotiations and rate reductions; and

- Purchase of diesel trucks rather than compressed natural gas (“CNG”) trucks as the resale value of CNG equipment is very low while its purchase price has increased dramatically. A new diesel truck costs approximately \$50,000 less than a CNG truck.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Holton, Mr. Tyrrell reported that eight new trucks were budgeted for 2026, but that number will likely be reduced. Council Member Birrell suggested that the City conduct a FlashVote survey to determine citizens’ position on diesel versus CNG trucks from an air-quality standpoint. Council Member Holton stated that the Board discussed the matter in detail but believed that they needed to find ways to save money, and moving to diesel was a unanimous decision. Mr. Tyrrell reported that diesel trucks now have better environmental controls, and their resale value is significantly higher. The current fleet consists of 56 trucks with a replacement schedule of eight per year, so moving to diesel saves a minimum of \$400,000 per year.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Newell, Mr. Tyrrell reported that the industry standard is to replace trucks every seven years, but that depends on the number of hours and miles on each truck. WFWRD typically replaces its side-load trucks at six to eight years of age.

Mr. Tyrrell reviewed Cottonwood Heights specific data and reported that curbside refuse tons decreased from 12,280 in 2024 to 11,557 in 2025. Recycling, green waste, glass, SCRP, etc., remained steady. Service orders for things like replacing cans increased slightly.

Council Member Holton stated that Mr. Tyrrell had a tough job coming into his role and has taken an innovative approach to reviewing and suggesting changes to each program. The Board consists of 15 entities, and most of its decisions have been unanimous. Mr. Tyrrell stated that he has developed a series of priorities, goals, and initiatives for the calendar year, and they will be documenting both the qualitative and quantitative benefits of those programs.

In 2025, Cottonwood Heights diverted 20% of its waste away from the landfill, which is higher than the district average of 18.7%. Along with Holladay and Millcreek, it consistently outperforms other cities in the service area. WFWRD created a new recycling guide on accepted items for each program and is reviewing partner cities’ websites for compliance. The new guide stresses the importance of not bagging recyclable materials as they are considered contaminated and routed to the landfill.

Council Member Birrell asked if consumers need to look at the number on the bottom of plastic items. Mr. Tyrrell stated that plastics are the most complicated item to recycle. Some facilities can recover plastics rated 1, 2, and 5. Rocky Mountain Recycling accepts the other numbers as well and routes them to a waste-to-energy facility. Things like strawberry containers and salad clamshells are rated 1, but they are often not captured for recycling. Council Member Birrell stated that the new guide is helpful, but it does not answer questions about other types of plastic that may contaminate the bin. Mr. Tyrrell clarified that bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs are recovered for recycling, but salad clamshells are not and are considered contamination. Recyclables should be empty, clean, and dry. WFWRD can provide more information and arrange facility tours for interested Council Members.

Youth Council Mayor, Mary Ann Jensen, asked about recyclable garbage bags. Mr. Tyrrell stated that plastic film bags should not be placed in recycling containers. Recyclables need to be loose in the bin, not bagged. Plastic film and bags can be recycled at various retail stores.

Mr. Tyrrell provided updates on the SCRP program. Repeat users were minimized with a new tracking system in 2025. The fee-based trailer rental program was discontinued, and SCRP program capacity will be ramped up to better meet bulk waste demands in 2026. They are also considering revamping the program in 2027. Council Member Holton stated that they are considering curbside pickup and other options. Council Member Newell remarked that previously, the containers were centralized on a street so multiple households could utilize them. Although everyone can still use them, because they are now placed in driveways, other residents are hesitant to do so. Mr. Tyrrell stated that the program was decentralized because people would place items all around the container, which created a lot of extra work. They plan to increase the number of containers per day from 60 to a minimum of 72 in 2026.

WFWRD's 2026 initiatives are designed to identify areas that can be streamlined, maximize efficiency, reduce costs, and delay future rate increases. Their goal is to operate as efficiently as possible by optimizing programs and services without reducing service levels. They will be absorbing increased tipping fees, as well as labor and fuel costs.

The following new fees were planned for 2026:

- A payment transaction fee has been tentatively adopted to cover the cost of credit card processing for credit and debit cards. This will encourage customers to use other payment methods like ACH that cost less to process.
- Late set-out return pickup fee of \$25 per request.
- Recycling contamination fee of \$25.00 after three or more documented occurrences.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Birrell, Mr. Tyrrell reported that each truck has a camera that points into the hopper, and drivers can make note of any significant or problematic items. There is also a quality assurance team that inspects recycling containers throughout the year. If contamination is found, the bin is tagged and documented. They have seen a significant reduction in contamination rates. For example, from 2022 to 2025, the contamination rate in Cottonwood Heights decreased by 8.07%. Residents are educated through their enhanced website and new flyers, as well as community events and the efforts of local City Councils.

Mayor Bennion serves on the Salt Lake Valley Council of Governments Solid Waste Board. She has visited the facility, which they expect to last until 2050 but may last longer if residents continue to reduce waste.

Mayor Bennion introduced Youth Council Mayor, Mary Ann Jensen and reported that she was shadowing Council Member Birrell for the day. Council Member Hyland expressed her gratitude to Ms. Jensen for attending but asked that she refrain from asking questions, as no other citizens can engage in the discussion during work sessions.

4.0 STAFF REPORTS

4.1 Public Safety Firearms Training Facility – City Manager Jared Gerber.

Mr. Gerber presented on the proposed Wasatch Front Regional Public Safety Firearms Training Facility and displayed photographs of other training facilities. The facility will enhance law enforcement readiness, provide live-fire and scenario-based training, and support deescalation tactics and address current threats. Assistant Police Chief, Chris McHugh reported that the manufacturer's parent company, MILO, is well-known for simulator and use-of-force training. The Utah Attorney General's Office purchased their simulator through MILO.

The facility will cover many use-of-force situations, and each simulation evolves based on the officer's reaction. If there is an issue with an officer, they can set up a scenario that mimics what they experienced in the field and retrain them on how they should have responded. It will provide the opportunity for real-world training on events that happened elsewhere in the country. It will also be a firing range as patrol officers must qualify twice yearly on pistols and once on rifles. The only ranges in the area are in Murray and Salt Lake County, and it is difficult to reserve range time. The Murray range is over 20 years old and has been out of service for three months, waiting on parts.

Chief Russo stated that the facility will be similar to the Attorney General's simulator, except the officer can use their own firearms and live fire in the scenarios.

Mr. Gerber stated that the facility will serve the Cottonwood Heights Police Department and up to 20 other agencies in the Salt Lake Valley. Other police chiefs have shown great interest in using the facility, as it is hard to reserve time at the other area ranges.

The facility will be a prefabricated, modular unit and include six 25-yard lanes. It will have both live fire and virtual reality simulations and features OSHA-approved ventilation and ballistic containment. Assistant Chief McHugh stated that old facilities utilized rubberized bullet traps that must be emptied, decontaminated, and cleaned every six months. This facility will funnel bullets into a self-contained lead containment trap that is sealed and picked up by a lead disposal company.

Chief Russo stated that the grant required that the facility have no construction costs, and only two vendors could comply with this provision. Utah-based Action Arms is very expensive and does not offer a combination simulator/range or prefabricated facility. The MILO facility will be approximately half the cost and much more efficient. Mr. Gerber added that the original request was for over \$4 million because they were considering the Action Arms product.

Benefits of the facility include:

- The Cottonwood Heights Police Department will have the first pick of training options.
- Potential monthly revenue of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per month, which will cover operating and maintenance costs.
- Rapid deployment.
- Eco-friendly and compliant.
- Flexible training options.

- Exterior design elements.

Chief Russo remarked that the challenge will not be how to keep the facility booked, but how to allocate the time fairly. He anticipates a high demand from local, state, county, and federal organizations. The City pays Murray \$500 per day to use their facility, and the new Cottonwood Heights facility will be a much better range.

In response to a question from Council Member Birrell, Assistant Chief McHugh reported that Murray has 12 to 13 lanes, but two are not in use. Cities book the entire range. The Cottonwood Heights facility will be in high demand due to the simulator. Utah requires both live-fire and use-of-force training. Chief Russo stated that six lanes is a good number that allows for efficient use of the facility. In response to a follow-up question, Assistant Chief McHugh confirmed that live-fire and simulator training can be conducted at the same time. There is a control room at the front of the facility, two bays per area, and the three training areas are separated by ballistic materials. A full shift of Cottonwood Heights police officers could participate in firearm qualification training or use-of-force training at the same time. Chief Russo added that it is important to train officers in groups so they are prepared for major events where they will arrive together. Civilian school guardians must also be trained and certified, and that training is not currently available anywhere in Salt Lake County.

Council Member Newell asked about public use. Chief Russo stated that it would be a City Council decision, but opening it to the public would have risks. Assistant Chief McHugh reported that there are currently eight firearms instructors on staff, and he intends to send some new officers to training as well. However, to run an open range, a rangemaster must be on-site at all times. Council Member Newell stated that he was not interested in that option due to liability concerns. However, the citizenry is armed, and it would be good for those with permits to participate in firearms training. No training is required for a permit, but it would be advantageous to train residents who are willing to pay a fee for training from a qualified instructor. Council Member Hyland stated that the most impactful part of the Citizens Academy for her was when they went to the range. She was shocked at how effective scenario training can be. Assistant Chief McHugh agreed that many people who carry firearms have not been properly trained.

Mr. Gerber stated that the current focus was on state and federal law enforcement trainings as opening the facility the public would create staffing and liability issues. When the police department goes to a range, it provides its own rangemaster and three to four firearms instructors. Other departments would be trained on operation of the range, and one Cottonwood Heights officer would inspect the facility before and after use.

Council Member Hyland reiterated the importance of the Citizens Academy. The next session begins in two weeks, and anyone interested in participating should contact the Cottonwood Heights Police Department. Council Member Holton recounted a specific training scenario. Council Member Newell remarked on the importance of firearms training.

Mr. Gerber stated the exterior design enhancements that were included in the grant. They initially considered placing the facility at the Public Works building, but determined that there is not sufficient space there. Two possible locations had been identified near the retention ponds at City Hall. The preferred location was adjacent to the Police Department but carried significant additional costs.

Site preparation costs:

- Near the Police Department: \$200,420;
- West of City Hall: \$38,500;
- Concrete pad: \$110,000; and
- Liability insurance: Approximately \$3,500 per year.

Mr. Gerber reported that other entities have expressed a willingness to cover the above costs. Council Member Holton stated that there are enough commitments to fully cover the costs of placing the facility west of City Hall. With direction from the City Council, they can obtain firm commitments to ensure that the costs are covered by donations.

Mayor Bennion asked about concerns with locating the facility near Brighton High School, as well as potential noise or environmental impacts. Assistant Chief McHugh stated that it is self-contained and carries no safety or environmental concerns. The manufacturer has never had a failure, and the facility is built to withstand much higher calibers than will be fired. There is some noise, but it is rated below OSHA standards. Fifteen feet from the building, the noise generated is less than that of a car. They had discussed installing tall shrubs to further block the sound.

The facility also meets all environmental standards as long as the filters are maintained. It is a negative pressure building with two filters at the rear, a pre-filter and HEPA filter. Pre-filters are changed monthly, and HEPA filters are changed quarterly. Action Target will remove and pay for the lead with a credit that can be used for filter replacements. The filter cost is approximately \$15,000 per year, which should decrease to \$4,000 after lead credits are applied. Chief Russo reported that Murray makes enough to also pay for its paper targets.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Hyland, City Attorney, Shane Topham, stated that the City is not legally required to conduct a fee study before setting fees, but it may be advisable if they are competing with other entities. Mr. Gerber stated that the facility can be incorporated into the planned 2027 citywide fee study. Council Member Birrell asked for a fee study as part of a comprehensive business plan, as the City Council needs to study the financial aspects and understand the impact of locating the facility in a residential area.

Mayor Bennion remarked that gun ranges typically need a comprehensive wet cleaning to remove lead particles and dust and asked if this facility would need similar cleaning. Assistant Chief McHugh stated that he would speak with the manufacturer and report back to the Council. In response to a question raised by Mayor Bennion, Assistant Chief McHugh reported that frangible (non-lead) ammunition costs approximately twice as much as lead ammunition. If other agencies brought in lead ammunition and did not notify the City, it would contaminate the facility. However, it can be done. Chief Russo stated that training ammunition typically costs \$40,000 per year. Mayor Bennion indicated that it might be worth \$80,000 per year to avoid lead contamination. Assistant Chief McHugh stated that it might decrease the number of agencies that want to rent the facility, but it would also decrease filter replacement and interior cleaning costs. He used frangible ammunition in the military, and it is comparable to traditional ammunition as long as it is purchased from a reputable supplier.

Mayor Bennion asked about other facilities in similar climates and if the building can handle snow. Assistant Chief McHugh stated that it will need to be on a regular maintenance schedule for things like paint, but other facilities are located in cold climates, and they will have gas heat.

Mayor Bennion expressed surprise that the item was not discussed by the Council in the summer, as it would have been beneficial to have a full discussion at that time. Council Member Holton reported that the grant application was submitted two years ago, but the federal government passed continuing resolutions rather than a budget. All community funding was shelved and applications had to be resubmitted. The application that was submitted in 2025 was exactly the same as the previous application. Council Member Newell stated that it was first discussed in a 2024 Work Session and Council communication, and then again at the 2025 Budget Retreat. Council Member Birrell asked for evidence that it had been deliberated in a publicly cited meeting.

Council Member Holton stated that the appropriation had been awarded, and it was communicated and supported by the City Council and Staff at the time. A program to help public safety across the nation awarded \$2.1 million to the City without a matching funds requirement, and citizens were willing to pay the additional costs to ensure that police officers have proper training without the City expending its resources. He did not believe the decision was made in secret, as it had been discussed in Council meetings and is on the record, and he hoped the Council saw it as a great opportunity.

Council Member Birrell stated that she is in favor of more and better training. The City had a wrongful death suit filed against it for use of force, and there has been great interest in de-escalation training in recent years. She understands that many people are enthused about the opportunity, but they would be taking on an additional building project and need to ensure proper funding for its operation and maintenance. The City is in a budget crunch due to a lack of such planning. She believes the item needs more scrutiny. She asked if the Department of Justice funding can be applied to construction and other elements.

Council Member Holton stated that he did not see how the City's police officers could be provided with better training than this facility offers. The funding is for police equipment only, and the self-contained facility can be purchased with it. He agreed that Cottonwood Heights has a tight budget, but the City does not need to purchase it, and it can be moved if a future Council determines that it is not self-sustaining.

Council Member Hyland reported that a City Journal recap of the 2025 Budget Retreat discussed the facility, so it had been discussed. The Council just did not have the specific details until recently. Mayor Bennion stated that locating the facility so close to City Hall and residences was not discussed. She requested that Staff prepare annual expense and revenue estimates for the facility. A resident who is a former police officer estimated over \$100,000 per year in costs for software, insurance, equipment maintenance, calibration, and lead recovery. She hoped that frangible ammunition would be looked at as a possibility. She fully supports Cottonwood Heights police officers being prepared in every way possible, but they also need to look at all the financial parameters that had not yet been fully discussed.

Assistant Chief McHugh stated that because MILO is primarily a use-of-force training company, software updates are included in the purchase cost. Filters are an additional cost of approximately \$17,400 per year, not including lead credits. Murray funds most of their filters, targets, etc., through lead sales. He does not want the City to be in a situation where they cannot afford something because they had not thought of it. Mr. Gerber reported that hardware upgrades will be necessary at some point. Assistant Chief McHugh stated that rental revenue should be set aside for those costs.

Chief Russo invited a City Council Member join him on a tour of MILO's Las Vegas facility. Council Member Newell stated that he would like Staff to speak with two or three of MILO's current customers regarding their experience. Council Member Hyland will join Chief Russo on the Las Vegas trip. Mayor Bennion asked if the donors would be interested in funding the trip so the funds can be put toward other essential costs.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Hyland, Mr. Jurges reported that the City Council can restrict funds for certain purposes. However, those funds will not be available for other expenses, so they should be careful about restricting too many revenue sources. He recommended that it be a line item rather than a restricted fund. This type of expense belongs in the General Fund budget, but a Profit and Loss statement can be generated based on the activity.

Mayor Bennion thanked the Council for the discussion and expressed her support for keeping the City's police officers fully trained.

4.2 Interfaith Coalition Discussion - Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion.

Mayor Bennion stated that Holladay has had an Interfaith Council for 24 years, and Millcreek started one in 2022. She invited Jerrea Chamberlain, Paul Chamberlain, and Rob Dahle to discuss Holladay's Interfaith Coalition.

Mr. Chamberlain stated that he and Ms. Chamberlain are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and they had been building interfaith bridges by visiting different faith communities in the Cottonwood Heights area over the past several months. They have become friends with members of the Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, and Anglican faiths. Holladay has a great model of a community- and unity-building, service-oriented initiative that can bless any community. The Greater Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable began during the 2002 Olympics, and there are also smaller city roundtables. They hope to facilitate an Interfaith Coalition in Cottonwood Heights. Ms. Chamberlain stated that it is a time of disunity in politics, and the coalition moves away from that. All religions have things in common; they want to be neighborly and love their brothers and sisters, and the Interfaith Coalition can foster that.

Mr. Dahle stated that modern politics purposely divides people, which is not healthy. The interfaith model brings people with different philosophies together to learn about each other. Everyone wants a safe place to raise their family and has similar values, and the discussions help them realize that they have more in common than not. He served on the Holladay Interfaith Council when he was the mayor and formed very close friendships there. He did not know why a city would not want to do it. Holladay did not formalize their group because they did not see the need. Their Interfaith Council includes eight different religions, and they have an annual Thanksgiving service two Sundays before

Thanksgiving. Each service has both a youth and adult speaker who speaks on gratitude. Between 500 and 600 people typically attend. They also have monthly meetings and hold one fundraising event each year.

Council Member Hyland stated that anything that increases understanding and acceptance is worthwhile. However, she was unclear as to what they were requesting. Mr. Dahle stated that the Holladay budget is \$2,000 to cover lunches and some food for events.

Council Member Newell stated that he is a man of faith, but he is also a man of the Constitution. The First Amendment requires separation of church and state and created a clear wall between faith and governance. This would sanction a faith event, which is prohibited by the Constitution. He works with a group that would bring together 70 faith leaders for a safety event at the Thomas S. Monson Center the following week. However, that event is separate from any municipality or his work at the City. He is concerned about having this type of conversation as a municipality. Mr. Dahle stated that the issue did not arise in Holladay. It does not single out a specific faith; all faiths are welcome, as are agnostic and atheist citizens.

Council Member Birrell stated that she is in favor of anything that helps the community be healthier and more connected. She was not opposed to funding an Interfaith Coalition but believed it should begin informally. Everyone is stressed by many factors, and anything that can be done to cultivate a sense of unity, community, and service should be encouraged.

Ms. Chamberlain stated that it could be a community council, not an interfaith council. Mr. Chamberlain stated that their request might be for space for a monthly meeting. It would not need to be sponsored or funded by the City. There is an overlap between the faith and nonprofit communities. Mr. Dahle stated that each year, they highlight a nonprofit. In 2025, they highlighted New Roots, which advocates for people farming their own food.

Council Member Hyland asked what specifically Holladay did for its Interfaith Council. Mr. Dahle stated that it has been active for 24 years, and Holladay provides \$2,000 in annual funding.

Council Member Holton stated that at the 2024 Council Retreat, he brought up the idea of creating or supporting a nonprofit to help residents serve one another. The City Council did not support his idea because there is no fair way to choose which group to support. It must be left to residents to take the initiative to build up the group they want to support and work with one another. The City Council is supportive, but it does not formally engage. He was disappointed at the time, but he understands the reasoning because you cannot choose one group over all the others.

Council Member Hyland remarked that the Emerald Hills Institute in Cottonwood Heights is a similar organization. Mr. Chamberlain stated that he would like to invite their Interfaith Dialogue Director, Zeynep Kariparduc, to join the coalition. Council Member Hyland stated that their mission is to “work with individuals and organizations of all backgrounds and faiths to learn more about each other, cooperate on meaningful projects, and build stronger bonds. Emerald Hills Institute strives for social justice, interfaith cooperation, advocacy for positive change and connections, relationship building,” etc. To Council Member Holton’s point, there is no way to choose.

Council Member Newell stated that if the Council gives the Interfaith Coalition a space for meetings, they must provide everyone else with space as well. They cannot say yes to one organization and justify saying no to others because that is not equitable. Council Member Hyland indicated that the Emerald Hills Institute was charged a fee to hold a banquet at City Hall.

Mr. Chamberlain stated that the Emerald Hills institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and they were trying to create a grassroots community coalition. Mr. Dahle stated that Holladay's Interfaith Council has been very positive for the community and they have never had issues with it.

Mayor Bennion asked Rachel Keeney to introduce herself. Ms. Keeney stated that she belongs to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has collaborated with the Chamberlains. She was inspired by the meeting in Holladay because it was community-building. She saw people of different faiths working together as one body; everyone had equal voices and wanted to hear from each other. She believes an Interfaith Coalition would serve the citizens of Cottonwood Heights. Mayor Bennion asked if she would be interested in building the coalition, and she would be excited to do so.

Mayor Bennion stated that Ms. Keeney could help build the coalition, and it could meet in churches, not City Hall. They would not require funding or any other commitment from the City. Any Council Members who are interested can simply involve any faith leaders they know, and it will be entirely separate from the City. The City Council agreed. Council Member Hyland stated that they are supported and welcome in Cottonwood Heights.

Mr. Chamberlain stated that they hoped to follow the example of Millcreek and Holladay, as they have seen it work well in those cities. However, if it is not the right fit for the City as a government entity, they will still find a way to make it happen.

Mayor Bennion stated that she spoke with Millcreek Mayor Cheri Jackson, who indicated that their Interfaith Coalition is tied to the city through its Promise Foundation. Their coalition was very helpful during the Fall 2025 fire. A coalition can be very helpful for Cottonwood Heights, even if it is not tied to the City. She will be asking Ms. Keeney and Ms. Kariparduc to lead the coalition together.

Council Member Newell remarked that the Faith and Culture Safety and Security Symposium also involves law enforcement. However, local government is not involved in it. He acts as a conduit, and he believes that method may work well with the Interfaith Coalition and will assuage concerns about the First Amendment.

4.3 City Hall Hours Discussion – City Manager Jared Gerber.

Mr. Gerber reported that the City had been on a pilot program where employees could work either five eight-hour days or four ten-hour days. The program has gone well, but management of the varying schedules can be difficult. The front office has tracked how many calls and in-person visits they receive each Friday. An average of seven to eight people come to City Hall on Fridays, at least half of whom have appointments to see specific people. On busy weeks, there are approximately 15 calls. He asked for the Council's input on a new pilot program where City offices are open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed on Friday. If a holiday falls on a Sunday,

the City will be closed on Monday. If it falls on Friday, it will be closed on Thursday. If it falls on Saturday, managers will offer flex time to their staff, but the offices will not close.

In response to a question raised by Council Member Hyland, Mr. Gerber confirmed that remote work would be eliminated. Council Member Hyland stated that she spoke with a Midvale employee who indicated that they went to a four-ten workweek during COVID with the understanding that they would have to go back to a standard schedule if there were a lot of complaints. She is in favor of the trial period as it is a positive fringe benefit that will not cost anything and can attract quality candidates to Cottonwood Heights. Mr. Gerber remarked that the Public Works Department has not received any complaints about being closed on Fridays for the past six months, but they rarely get visitors. Council Member Hyland stated that she would have accepted a lower salary for this type of benefit. Council Member Birrell stood with Council Member Hyland.

Council Member Holton stated that he would like to have someone at City Hall on Fridays. Eagle Mountain works Monday through Thursday, but their clerk is in the office for four hours on Fridays. He understands that it would present an administrative challenge. In response to a question raised by Mayor Bennion, City Recorder, Tiffany Janzen reported that there are usually three to four employees in the front office. It would be difficult to have one employee alone in the office. Council Member Newell asked about having a phone message indicating that the offices are closed on Fridays. Mr. Gerber stated that Staff had discussed having someone on call, but that employee would need to be paid for their time.

Council Member Hyland expressed concern about Mayor Bennion being alone at City Hall for her Friday open office hours. Mayor Bennion stated that she can meet with citizens in the lobby, and the police will be down the hall. Council Member Hyland reiterated her concern in light of the current level of political divisiveness. Mr. Gerber stated that they can discuss security measures. Mayor Bennion remarked that she can move office hours to Thursdays if necessary.

Mayor Bennion stated that its employees are critical to Cottonwood Heights, and the shorter workweek will give them a benefit without additional cost to the City.

5.0 REVIEW OF CALENDAR AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

- 5.1 Senior Bingo at City Hall – Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall.**
- 5.2 Local Business Smartest Artist Lobby Art Exhibit – Monday, February 20 to Monday, March 18, 2026.**
- 5.3 The Jazz Ambassadors of the US Army Field Band – Thursday, March 19 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Butler Middle School. (Tickets required, free event, See City website for additional information).**
- 5.4 Cottonwood Heights City Book Club – Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

6.0 POSSIBLE CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS LITIGATION, PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY, THE CHARACTER AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL, OR ANY OTHER PERMITTED PURPOSE FOR CLOSED MEETINGS UNDER UTAH CODE ANN. 52-4-205 OR OTHER APPLICABLE LAW.

Mayor Bennion reported that a Closed Meeting was necessary to discuss Character and Professional Competence of Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

7.0 ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION.

Motion: Council Member Birrell moved to ADJOURN the Work Session and move into a Closed Meeting to Discuss the Character or Professional Competence of Physical and Mental Health of an Individual. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hyland. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The Work Session adjourned at 6:28 PM.

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AT 7:00 PM IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH

Present: Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion, Council Member Matt Holton, Council Member Ellen Birrell, Council Member Suzanne Hyland (via Zoom), Council Member Shawn Newell

Staff Present: City Manager, Jared Gerber; City Attorney, Shane Topham; Finance Director, Scott Jorges; Police Chief, Robby Russo; Assistant Police Chief, Chris McHugh; Administrative Services Director, Barbara Higgins; City Recorder, Tiffany Janzen; Community and Economic Development Director, Jim Spung; Planner III, Sheldon Howa; IT Manager, Matt Ervin; Public Works Director and City Engineer, Matt Shipp; Unified Fire Authority, Riley Pilgrim; Police Support Specialist Supervisor, Candie Terry

1.0 WELCOME

Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion called the City Council Business Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Hyland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 Committee Reports by Council Member Matt Holton.

Council Member Holton reported that the Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District (“WFWRD”) gave a presentation to the Council during the Work Session, and he encouraged anyone who is curious about how they are working to improve service going forward to review it. There is a bill before the legislature that would allow municipalities to leave WFWRD by a simple council vote rather than a vote by the WFWRD Board. It was passed in the House of Representatives earlier that day and he believes it will also pass in the Senate. There is immense value in the service provided by WFWRD, and it will impact the City if other municipalities leave the district. The WFWRD has moved to monthly billing and has discussed charging a fee to pay by credit card. The trailer program has been discontinued, but the Seasonal Container Reservation Program (“SCRIP”) program is being expanded. He asked anyone with ideas for changes or improvements to contact him.

3.2 Committee Reports by Council Member Suzanne Hyland.

Council Member Hyland reported that she and Council Member Birrell were approached by citizens about spreading the word on senior activities. The newsletter now includes a “Senior Corner” written by those citizens, and the March newsletter will feature a map of local senior centers. There likely

will not be a senior center in Cottonwood Heights in the near future, but there are centers nearby. The City piloted a monthly senior activity, but there was not enough participation to continue the program. However, they will be holding quarterly events. The most requested event was bingo, and it will be held on February 18 at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Council Member Hyland also serves on the Emergency Management Committee. Nothing is happening, which is good, but they try to be prepared. The March newsletter will also include an article encouraging citizens to sign up for Reverse 911. The City currently does not have the software to send a message to everyone in the area in the event of an emergency, but anyone who opts into Reverse 911 will be contacted. The article will also include information on texting 911, which she was not aware was possible. It is still better to call, but anyone in a compromised situation can text.

3.3 Committee Reports by Council Member Shawn Newell.

Council Member Newell reported that he is the Health in the Heights Coalition liaison, and he has been astonished by the number of committee members who are passionate about the health of the community and its young people. They are reviewing data to uncover trends impacting the City's youth. He appreciates their efforts for the community. He is also part of the Canyons Education Foundation. The Canyons Innovation Center in Draper will be a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics ("STEM") facility, and he is looking forward to it opening.

The Arts Council's Lunar New Year event at City Hall was very successful and well-attended. The performers and musicians were highly talented, and his grandchildren really enjoyed stenciling fans at the event. The City does a great job of providing these types of events to bring the community together.

3.4 Committee Reports by Council Member Ellen Birrell.

Council Member Birrell has been very concerned about the unusual weather conditions. It is important for the City to prioritize sustainability and resiliency. She recently helped Staff create a reminder for residents that will be included in the March newsletter. It may be okay to let sod die off during the current dry conditions, but it is important to provide trees with water.

The Collection of Hard to Recycle Materials ("CHaRM") event for unusual, hazardous, and bulk waste items is tentatively scheduled for June 6 at either City Hall or Hillside Plaza.

The Historic Committee has set a theme of "Movement" for the year.

The Utah League of Cities and Towns ("ULCT") Legislative Policy Committee ("LPC") provides strong advocacy for the City. Mayor Bennion and City Council Members attend their weekly meetings to discuss the importance of protecting the municipality from sometimes misguided legislation that can strip the City's authority.

Council Member Birrell is the Council Liaison to the Cottonwood Heights Recreation and Service District. She has been a member for the past 40 years and is enthused to be a part of its board. She reminded citizens to sign up for the FlashVote survey series. She also supports efforts on public

access to trails, and work is being done to realize the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and provide access to United States Forest Service lands.

3.5 Committee Reports by Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion.

Mayor Bennion reported that she serves on the Unified Fire Authority Board, as well as the Benefits and Compensation Board. She wants to ensure that firefighters and police officers are well-paid; they work in difficult conditions and should be able to retire while they are still healthy.

She serves on the Salt Lake Valley Council of Governments Solid Waste Board. Everyone can make an effort to reduce waste and recycle to ensure that the facility continues to operate for many decades. It is planned to function until 2050, but it can last longer if citizens are good stewards of the planet.

Mayor Bennion serves on the Central Wasatch Commission, which recently put out a statement on the proposed Parley's Mill. The request is now down to six acres. However, once a mine is started, it can extend the length of the vein. The Commission must stand up for the values of the community. She serves on their Short-Term Projects Board as well. As Mayor, it is her responsibility to be outward-facing for the City. She is happy to see that citizens are taking advantage of the yearlong review process for the Old Mill demolition. She believes they are making progress in finding a way to preserve the Old Mill, even if just for an adaptive use.

She is also working with Council Member Birrell on open access to trails to benefit both the City and the region.

4.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Bennion opened the Citizen Comment period.

Mike Hanson thanked the City Council for its willingness to create the Citizen Budget Committee. Budget work is not easy, and he appreciates anyone who will step into that responsibility. However, there had not been much dialogue or meaningful public deliberation around conservation measures in the Budget, and no discussions of temporary wage freezes, hiring pauses, or structural efficiency reviews. Early discussions were centered on a potential tax increase. Before residents are asked to pay more, the City owes them a deep and transparent examination of whether it can operate more efficiently first. He challenged the Committee to conduct a conservative deep dive by examining every department, reviewing discretionary spending, evaluating temporary wage freezes, and considering holding more frequent work sessions. In the early years of Cottonwood Heights, the City's financials were extremely tight. The founding Mayor and Council chose a difficult path; wages were frozen, and weekly meetings ran late into the night. Hard choices were made before they considered passing anything on to the taxpayer. He believes that it is a recent, valuable lesson on fiscal discipline, and taxes should be the last tool, not the first.

He also addressed the importance of neutrality, as some members of the Committee were publicly outspoken on political matters. That is their right as citizens. However, once they sit in the Budget Committee, he believes their responsibilities shift as the public deserves recommendations that are based on data, not ideology. If impartiality cannot be maintained, the honorable thing to do is to step

back because they need to represent everybody. Transparency is essential, and he requested that the meeting minutes and Committee contact information be posted publicly. Transparency builds confidence. He believes they need to start with conservation, exhaust internal efficiencies, and honor the set example before considering making residents pay more.

Dennis Magaro stated that as a veteran, he believes in police officer training, especially in deescalation. However, he agrees with Council Member Birrell that a feasibility study is necessary so the City Council knows what the training facility will really cost and how much revenue it will bring in. He did not know about the facility until a week ago, although he understands that the Council discussed it in 2024. He disagrees with the location but understands that they may be stuck with it.

Chester Frantz thanked the Council for their work on the trails. The skate park and pickleball courts are great facilities. He spoke about the Net Zero by 2050 initiative. A total of 190 countries have committed to this goal. When carbon is added to the atmosphere, the Earth's temperature increases. If that trend continues, humanity will be in a difficult situation. Net Zero by 2050 means no carbon after 2050, and that includes cars, trains, planes, buildings, and agriculture. He asked the City Council to consider continuing as part of Utah Renewable Communities ("URC"). It will only cost between \$3 and \$4 per month and can bring residents' carbon footprint down to zero. A typical electric bill carries \$41 in external costs to the environment and public health. If someone wants to offset their carbon now, they can join the BlueSky program, which costs an average of \$14 per month. URC is a much more cost-effective way to offset carbon. Humanity is digging a climate hole for its children, and taking these low-cost steps is the least we can do.

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

5.0 PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Public Hearing to Receive Input on the Proposed Budget Amendments for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year – Introduction by Administrative and Fiscal Services Director Scott Jurges.

Finance Director, Scott Jurges reported that the proposed Budget Amendments were all revenue neutral.

General Fund adjustments:

- State of Utah DUI, EZ Check, and Click-It police overtime reimbursements: \$11,393;
- Restitution reimbursement: \$850;
- Event overtime reimbursements for CHPD: \$64,609;
- Evidence gun sale: \$3,970;
- Sister City donation: \$1,000 ;
- County Local Transit Tax: \$400,000 (transfers to the Capital Projects Fund);
- Wellness Council grant: \$400;
- Rocky Mountain Power Light the Heights contribution: \$2,500;
- Rocky Mountain Power Historic Committee monument contribution: \$3,500;

- Additional revenue and expenses related to Butlerville Days and Arts Council Play: \$46,654;
- Justice Assistance Grant from the Utah Division of Public Safety: \$5,916; and
- Total revenue General Fund adjustments: \$540,792.

Capital Projects Fund:

- Transfer of County Local Transit Tax: \$400,000

Mayor Bennion opened the public hearing. There were no comments. The public hearing was closed.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 CHPD Quarterly Report – Chief Robby Russo.

Police Support Specialist Supervisor, Candie Terry, reported on January 2026 statistics.

Calls for service: 1,298, a slight increase from 1,295 in 2025.

Response times:

- Priority 1: 02:11
- Priority 2: 04:17
- Priority 3: 04:07

Crime: There were 61 total crimes, an increase from 50 in January 2025 due to an increase in both thefts and assaults.

- Assaults: 12
- Burglaries: 1
- Thefts: 47
- Stolen auto: 1

Arrests: 58, a decrease from 69 in January 2025.

Traffic:

- Citations: 385
- Warnings: 263
- DUIs: 4

Accidents:

- Property damage: 23
- Injury: 11

Police Chief, Robby Russo, stated that the downward trend in accidents can be attributed to the traffic unit's enforcement efforts.

Animal Control / Code Enforcement: A new officer is being trained so most hours were devoted to training. There were 24 total calls for service and 6 citations issued.

Deaths: Two attended and one unattended death.

Ms. Terry reviewed the three-month averages, property crime reports by district, and citation reports, as well as total bookings for the County. Chief Russo stated that Cottonwood Heights makes far more arrests than similar communities, and he is proud that CHPD officers are solving crimes and bringing people to justice.

Ms. Terry reported that the heat map feature of the records management system was broken, so that information was not available. There were a total of 70 property crimes in January, including trespassing, property damage, and theft.

Chief Russo reported that two massage parlors were closed after an investigation by CHPD. Approximately \$5,000 was seized. Both businesses were owned by the same person, and the women involved are suspected to be victims of human trafficking. The owner has not been apprehended. Other communities have similar businesses but choose not to go after them. However, it is a quality-of-life issue to Chief Russo, and he will address the issue quickly if it arises again.

CHPD and UFA responded to an overdose call. The victim had overdosed on his own product, and as a result, \$30,000 and one kilogram of cocaine were seized. Mushrooms and LSD were also seized. There was no fentanyl, and Chief Russo reported that they have not seized any fentanyl recently. A photograph of tainted candies was displayed, and Chief Russo cautioned that children may believe they are candy and accidentally ingest them.

CHPD is pleased with the successful effort to secure \$2.1 million in funding for the live-fire and scenario training facility, which will be an important facility for the department. The facility will be expensive, but not having properly trained police officers is also expensive and can get an officer killed.

Chief Russo stated that the City Council had been discussing the issue with three-man UFA crews and provided three examples of why the understaffing issue must be addressed.

1. The dry weather will lead to fires. Almost an entire block was lost in the Banbury fire, and it is difficult for three-man engines to fight these fires.
2. An accident at Highland Drive and Creek Road trapped a driver under a delivery truck. A three-man Sandy crew responded as UFA was unavailable. The woman was badly injured and all three crew members were needed to stabilize her, so they had to wait until more help arrived before she could be extricated.

3. A quadriplegic resident of District 4 was trapped inside her home by a fire. The three-man crew that arrived could not rescue her. Instead, they staged at her bedroom door and fought the fire until help arrived and she could be removed from the scene. A fourth firefighter could have removed her without putting the other crew members in more danger.

New police officer, Kayla Manning, was first on scene at a heart attack call and began performing CPR, which is very fatiguing. She kept working on him until firefighters were able to get him in the chest compression device. Officer Manning was awarded the UFA Life-Saving Award for saving his life. CHPD officers do things like this every day.

Ms. Terry reported that the 2026 Citizens Academy would begin the following week, and residents wishing to sign up should contact the records department. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. through April 29. In response to a question raised by Council Member Birrell, Ms. Terry stated that children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

The CHPD safety message was on the most common forms of domestic violence. The City's victim advocate is Yesenia Escobar, and there are other resources available for those who need assistance. Chief Russo remarked that the criminal justice system can be overwhelming for victims of violent crime. Ms. Escobar walks victims through the process, assists them with getting to court, and explains their options and available resources.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 **Consideration of Ordinance 462 Adopting an Amended Budget for 1 July 2025 through 30 June 2026. (The Utah State Treasurer suggests that Utah cities amend their budgets at least quarterly to reflect any necessary changes since the budget was adopted. This ordinance will approve an amendment to the city's current [2025-2026] budget).**

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

MOTION: Council Member Newell moved to APPROVE Ordinance 462 , Adopting an Amended Budget for 1 July 2025 through 30 June 2026. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hyland. Vote on Motion: Council Member Birrell-Yes; Council Member Newell-Yes; Council Member Hyland-Yes; Council Member Holton-Yes; Mayor Bennion-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- 7.2 **Consideration of Resolution 2026-12 Making Appointments to the Unified Fire Authority Board. (By this resolution, the council will approve the appointments of Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion, as the regular member, and Councilmember Suzanne Hyland, as the alternate member, to represent the city on the Unified Fire Authority Board).**

Mayor Bennion reported that she serves on the UFA Board, and the alternate member is Council Member Birrell. Council Member Hyland stated that the posted agenda had her name as the alternate member, but it should have listed Council Member Birrell.

MOTION: Council Member Hyland moved to APPROVE 2026-12 Making Appointments to the Unified Fire Authority Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Holton. Vote on Motion: Council Member Birrell-Yes; Council Member Newell-Yes; Council Member Hyland-Yes; Council Member Holton-Yes; Mayor Bennion-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

7.3 Consideration of Resolution 2026-13 Approving and Ratifying the Appointments of Members to the Cottonwood Heights Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. (By this resolution, the council will approve and ratify the appointments of the members of the city's citizen budget advisory committee).

Council Member Hyland stated that there was a list of requirements to participate in the Committee including having a willingness to act in an advisory capacity to review and comment on the Budget, being able to attend regular meetings, possessing the ability to collaborate with Committee members and put putting aside personal to special interests for the betterment of the City, and represent the needs of the community as a whole. She and Mayor Bennion sit on the Budget Committee and will be part of the meetings, and they are committed to ensuring that those requirements are adhered to.

In response to a question, Mr. Gerber reported that all Citizens Budget Advisory Committee meetings are public, and minutes and recordings will be posted as available.

MOTION: Council Member Hyland moved to APPROVE 2026-13 Approving and Ratifying the Appointments of Members to the Cottonwood Heights Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Birrell. Vote on Motion: Council Member Holton-Yes; Council Member Hyland-Yes; Council Member Newell-Yes; Council Member Birrell-Yes; Mayor Bennion-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Bennion addressed the comment heard during the Citizen Comment Period and reported that a staff vacancy had not been filled, and further cuts were being made due to budget constraints.

7.4 Consideration of Resolution 2026-14 Approving a Consulting Agreement for Budgetary Matters. (This resolution will approve the city's entry into a consulting agreement whereunder Kerri Nakamura and Associates will provide services in connection with the city's FY 2026-27 budgetary process).

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

Council Member Hyland stated that the agreement will help the City navigate the difficult budget process and leave no stone unturned.

Council Member Newell abstained from the vote due to his relationship with the contractor.

MOTION: Council Member Hyland moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-14 Approving a Consulting Agreement for Budgetary Matters. The motion was seconded by Council Member Birrell. Vote on Motion: Council Member Holton-Yes; Council Member Hyland-Yes; Council Member Birrell-Yes; Mayor Bennion-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

7.5 Consideration of Resolution 2026-15 Approving an Appointment to the Health in the Heights Advisory Committee. (This resolution will approve the manager's appointment of Danielle LeCourt to the city's Health in the Heights advisory committee).

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

MOTION: Council Member Holton moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-15 Approving an Appointment to the Health in the Heights Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Newell. Vote on Motion: Council Member Hyland-Yes; Council Member Newell-Yes; ; Council Member Holton-Yes; Council Member Birrell-Yes; Mayor Bennion-Yes. The motion passed unanimously.

8.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

8.1 Approval of the Minutes for the City Council Work Session and Business Meetings of January 20, 2026, and February 3, 2026, along with the Mayor and City Council Retreat of January 24, 2026.

MOTION: Council Member Hyland moved to APPROVE the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Council Member Holton. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

9.0 ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

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

The City Council Business Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Cottonwood Heights City Council Work Session and Business Meetings held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____