

**MINUTES  
CITY OF FALLON  
55 West Williams Avenue  
Fallon, Nevada  
September 8, 2020**

The Honorable City Council met in a regularly scheduled Council meeting on the above date in the Council Chambers, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada.

**Present:**

Mayor Ken Tedford  
City Councilman, James D. Richardson  
City Councilwoman, Kelly Frost  
City Councilwoman, Karla Kent  
Police Chief, Kevin Gehman  
Deputy City Attorney, Leonard E. Mackedon  
Chief of Staff, Robert Erquiaga  
Deputy City Attorney, Trent deBraga  
City Clerk-Treasurer, Sean C. Richardson

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tedford at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Tedford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tedford requested a Moment of Silence for Sparks Mayor Ron Smith; he passed away on August 19, 2020.

Mayor Tedford inquired if the agenda had been posted in compliance with NRS requirements.

Chief of Staff Erquiaga advised that the agenda was posted in compliance with Governor Sisolak's Emergency Directives, the agenda and the supporting materials were posted on the City's website and the State of Nevada's public notice website on or before 9:00 a.m. on September 2, 2020.

**Public Comments**

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments. He noted that comments are to be general in nature, not relative to any agenda items. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

Mr. Geof Knell of 261 Serpa Place extended an apology to the City staff that he had spoken to last Friday. He stated that he was disgusted with our government – the federal, state and local governments. They have severed ties with the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ used the word ekklesia 15 times in the Word of God. As translations have changed, the word ekklesia

went from congregation to church. Jesus used the word ekklesia, which is a political word, it was done by the Greeks and accepted by the Romans, so Jesus Christ used the word ekklesia. What it means is to go to the King through the leader and listen to how they want to run the government and be the judge. He wanted the Council to imagine a bar of boxes: Jesus Christ, King, the Lawgiver, and the Judge. Romans Chapter 13 talks about how He appoints people in the government. So, you have the executive, the legislation, and the judicial. But since 1947, with the separation of church and state, so our government by trickery through the judicial system, has developed the separation of church and state. The churches did very little but back in the early days, the Christians of the early times, they stood up to the government and they turned the government and kingdoms upside down. They made the government officials accountable but that is not happening today. We are allowing state power and mob rule to dominate – to allow the killing of the unborn, promote sexual impurity, promiscuity, depravity, and debauchery. They have changed the moral laws of this country. We are supposed to be following the King's authority – he is the law giver. He was very disappointed. He was at the Labor Day Parade yesterday and he was assaulted, and he was spat upon. Right now, in the City, we are allowing things to happen like Satanism, Wiccan, and witchcraft, which is so prevalent in this City. He has been calling in the streets to call the City to repentance. But he needs help from the government to come back to God and stand up for righteousness and not allow unrighteousness to dictate the morality of this City. It is important for everyone else. Our churches have become so weak, they take on sensationalism and only follow parts of the Bible; they do not go outside their four walls and preach the Good News, the Kingdom of God, and offer salvation. Hebrews Chapter 5 talks about immaturity. When you grow in the faith, your senses are increased to define the difference between good and evil. He called on the Council, as the higher authority. He noted that the Declaration of Independence states that we are endowed by our Creator, he is the ruler over the governing party, and you are appointed by God and ordained by Him to stop the unrighteousness. To stop this immorality that is killing human life, it is perverting the minds of children and adults. The world is full of anger and bitterness. He preached in Reno last year and he prophesized that City Hall was going to burn and that is what happened recently when BLM came in. They are still working on that building. People need to wake up because he has authority over God, and He has authority over you. You better listen to Him because he has heard personal testimonies, and prayer in capitols and counties, and He kills people who hate Him. That has really happened. Thank you.

Mayor Tedford thanked Mr. Knell for his comments. He apologized how Mr. Knell was treated at the parade; that is not normally how people in the City of Fallon are.

### **Approval of Council meeting minutes for July 20, 2020 and August 17, 2020**

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes for July 20, 2020 and August 17, 2020.

No additions or corrections were noted.

Councilwoman Kent motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes for July 20, 2020 and August 17, 2020 as submitted, seconded by Councilman Richardson and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

## **Approval of Warrants**

- A) Accounts Payable
- B) Payroll
- C) Customer Deposit

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any comments regarding the accounts payable, payroll and customer deposit warrants.

No comments were noted.

Councilwoman Frost motioned to approve the accounts payable, payroll and customer deposit warrants and authorize the Mayor to sign the same; seconded by Councilwoman Kent and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

## **Public Comments**

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments.

Mr. Geof Knell of 261 Serpa Place stated that he wanted a four-way stop at North Broadway and Serpa Place. He has been preaching on the street and sees the rudeness of people; they are selfish and self-centered and do not care about any human life, they do not care about themselves. There was a study done a few years ago by two predecessors and they put counters down there and they said that 37% of the ones are being illegal and the rest are not. It should be reduced to at least 2% but that is not enough. It is the ones who are selfish and self-centered. Driving is a privilege, not a right, but it is dangerous. He reminded that he and his wife were almost run over in the crosswalk – which needs to be repainted by the way – and he took it personally. People are still going 30, 35, and even faster down the street because they use it as a shortcut. It is unsafe and unwarranted. He understood that there was a plan but when you have the materials – it should not take such a long time. He offered \$200 to put in the till to buy a stop sign and a pole. Just two of them, \$45 or \$50 for the pole and the sign is like \$25. He stated that he would pay for it. Safety is the issue here. Thank you.

Mayor Tedford advised Mr. Knell that his argument is with him, as the Mayor. He appreciated the apology at the beginning of the meeting today because to come into City Hall and disparage two employees and to call one of them incompetent and to get in a loud manner is not acceptable to him. You can get a lot accomplished here when you act with respect and in a professional manner and when you do not do that, you do not get anything accomplished. The plans for how to handle this neighborhood sit on his desk. He has been doing this a long time and whenever anybody wants a stop sign or some traffic control, we usually run a cart over there to see what the speed and timing of the cars are. When we did it over there, there were some that had a high rate of speed. *Mr. Knell made comments from the audience that were not clear on the recording.* Mayor Tedford reiterated how we act in City Hall. We act in a professional manner, we act quietly, we do not disparage employees in the offices at City Hall. He appreciated the apology for Mr. Knell's behavior last Friday afternoon. It was totally unacceptable, and it was totally unacceptable to him. We just do not do that here. All that gets you is exited out of City Hall by the Police Department. That is not the way he has operated City Hall in his entire tenure or Mayor Erickson's tenure. We just do not do that. To call someone that this Council has appointed as incompetent was beyond the scope of his comprehension. That is to call the citizens of the City of Fallon all incompetent because that is who put us here; and that is who put

him here to appoint and the Council to confirm. Yes, we looked at a stop sign and that whole pattern through that whole neighborhood; and staff within the City developed a plan and put it on his desk and that is where it sat. The Police Chief placed his traffic control device there and the numbers did not show everybody going 35 by Mr. Knell's house. They actually did not show the majority of traffic there going over 15 by Mr. Knell's house. There will be outliers of some going higher – some going 50 – not just 35. But he knew that, in our history, if they put up a stop sign by his house, they next things he would complain about were people screeching their brakes at all hours of the night at the stop sign. Then we get people complaining about people taking off quickly and revving up their engine at all hours of the night by their house when we put in stop signs. He has been doing this awhile, and that is why it sits on his desk. He is worried about the whole plan that we could put in the whole neighborhood, not just Mr. Knell's stop sign. He also knew that when we do a traffic plan like this, we have to think of spending several thousand dollars because we need to do a traffic study by an engineer before we just let staff's plan go into effect. At the time it was placed on the Mayor's desk, he did not really want to ask the Council to spend several thousand dollars. Now, we may do that, and he may take the risk of putting a 4-way stop there and run the risk of having people screech up to that stop sign and take off from that stop sign and create a lot of noise. He was advising Mr. Knell of the risk of a 4-way stop sign there; he was not saying it was not a risk they should run because of his concerns. It is not a dead issue of putting a stop sign there. We very well may do it. It was on the Mayor's desk, it was not Chief of Staff Erquiaga's fault and it was not the City Engineer's fault and it was not the Police Department's fault; it was his fault. The buck stops with Mayor Tedford in the City and this particular issue really stops with him because the whole plan is on his desk. Some things have been put to the side due to COVID-19 and that has taken planning priority; every day we are fighting numbers of whether this City is going to close down or stay open or whatever. That is what he and Chief of Staff Erquiaga work on every day. We have been a little tardy in answering Mr. Knell's concerns, but he wanted it to be clear that it was not that his concerns would not be answered, and they could be answered in the very near future. He gets concerned about what happens when a stop sign gets installed. He has known people that did not want a stop sign because they do not want what comes when you have one because of the stopping and starting of cars instead of people just smoothly going through the intersection. He is also weighing in the safety factor and Mr. Knell's concern about getting hit crossing the street. We are not ignoring it. His father used to have a saying that you catch more bees with sugar and Mr. Knell needs to remember that.

Mr. Knell stated that he would like to respond.

Mayor Tedford reminded him to be careful how he responds.

Mr. Knell stated that he cares for human life. His blood pressure was high, and he was very passionate and frustrated. He apologized. He has lived in his home for almost 22 years and he has complained since he moved in. It is the dragging on of it that is frustrating.

Mayor Tedford stated that he was not sure that this has been a problem as Mr. Knell sees it for that long of time. We have seen it more recently than in the past. He thought Mr. Knell should leave it at that.

Mr. Knell stated that he disagreed. He wanted an update on the progress.

Mayor Tedford stated that it was on his desk and he might see something sooner than later. He thought that we would need to have a traffic study performed before all these things are put into place.

Mr. Knell stated that the previous conclusions were that it was not worth it.

Mayor Tedford asked Mr. Knell to clarify.

Mr. Knell described the previous tests by the two predecessors with cables on the road and everything; they came to the conclusion that it was not worth it.

Mayor Tedford stated that was not performed by an engineer, that was just counting.

Mr. Knell stated that the City Engineers did them.

Mayor Tedford stated that was done internally; he would not get into it.

Mr. Knell stated that since the Diamond Creek subdivision was created, more people are taking it as a shortcut instead of going through downtown.

Mayor Tedford advised that Mr. Knell would not teach him anything about this subject; he knew it well.

Mr. Knell stated that he was not teaching, he lived there. The Mayor lives on a different street and the Council lives on different streets.

Mayor Tedford stated that people speed by his house and he is not trying to put stop signs all over. We have to work the process. He was done explaining. He said the process is working, there may be something sooner than later, and that was all he could tell him at this point.

Mr. Knell referred to the comment about him calling everyone incompetent. He was not saying they were incompetent; he was asking them to rely on Him for direction.

Mayor Tedford advised Mr. Knell that he was talking to the wrong person about who he relies on. Please do not try to bring that up. We need to move on.

Mr. Knell stated that they would all be hearing from him in the future.

Mayor Tedford advised Mr. Knell that he expected that, and he would hear from us too.

### **Council and Staff Reports**

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any Council or staff reports.


No Council or staff reports were noted.

### **Executive Session**

Mayor Tedford tabled the executive session, as it was not needed at this time.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Tedford adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Attest:   
Sean C. Richardson, City Clerk-Treasurer

  
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Mayor Ken Tedford