

**MINUTES
CITY OF FALLON
55 West Williams Avenue
Fallon, Nevada
October 5, 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
Public Works Director, Brian A. Byrd
Deputy City Attorney, Trent deBraga
City Engineer, Derek Zimney
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 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 at City Hall, on the City's website, and the State of Nevada's public notice website on or before 9:00 a.m. on September 30, 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 stated that he wished to bring an explanation of the morality in our City. It is getting crazy out there with COVID-19. He suggested bringing in more community service opportunities such as going into schools to spread the message about not littering and stopping anger and bitterness. He also suggested training on how to ride a bicycle, including safety rules and obeying the rules of the road. More community involvement

will get people inline with righteousness. The government is supposed to control the chaos, not let chaos continue. If you think it is not chaos – he is out there and he sees it. He notices a lot of littering. People are selfish and it is frustrating. He suggested seeking funding through the State to change community standards to righteousness, and not what we are living today. He referred to the influence of communism and reminded that Christ is The King, He is the law giver, and He is the judge. We are the executive and legislative and judicial and you work for us and we keep you accountable for what is going on. We need to step forward in faith and stop this righteousness of promiscuity, perversions, all this kind of stuff. Our State leadership is being dominated by a political party and in our sample ballots they are changing the Constitution to allow people to marry trees and beaches. They want to allow sexual perversion to pollute marriage. He fully supported the fire department and Question 1, but he did not support any others because they are changing the righteousness to unrighteousness and it continues to bring this nation down. He again referred to the influence of communism and read a list of steps toward communism:

1. Take God and prayer out of the education system.
2. Reduce parental authority over children.
3. Destroy the traditional Christian family structure.
4. If sex is free, make divorce legal and easy.
5. Free people from the concept of marriage for life.
6. Make homosexuality an alternative lifestyle.
7. Debase art.
8. Use media to promote and change the mindset.
9. Create an interfaith movement. The Pope is doing that.
10. Get government to make all these laws and get the church to endorse these changes.

Mr. Knell explained that these are used as Communist goals. He wants to help identify these things, as he sees them in the City. The local news media follows the Communist agenda. He stated that he had nothing more to say.

Mayor Tedford thanked Mr. Knell for his comments.

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

Public hearing for discussion of possible projects to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal year 2021-2022

City Engineer Zimney explained the purpose of this public hearing is to give citizens an opportunity to discuss the proposed projects submitted to date and to suggest further ideas. The projects listed will be heard at a third and final hearing on October 19, 2020, which will be held to discuss, approve, and rank applications prior to submittal to the State. It is critical that any potential projects be added to the list today. Currently, staff has made some recommendations including the renovation of Cottage School, to which he would have Chief of Staff Erquiaga or Public Works Director Byrd provide further details. Another potential project is the City Hall breakroom and women's restroom ADA improvements; this project has been a big goal for some time. We think that with its location in a historic building along with the necessary ADA requirements, we would have a good chance at eligibility for this project. The final idea is for sidewalk and ADA improvements, a lot of which would be centered in the southeast portion of town. We are still having internal discussions on exactly which areas this would be.

Mayor Tedford inquired if the Council had any comments or questions.

Councilwoman Kent wanted to hear the ideas for the Cottage School.

Chief of Staff Erquiaga explained that it would be potentially renovating just one of the cottages. We had discussed in the past potentially using it as an economic development office. The location is not the best, whether it be the Chamber, Churchill Economic Development Authority (CEDA) or Churchill Fallon Economic Development (CFED). Having a location on Williams Avenue has been important to both the City and Churchill County. But this would be a potential spot for them, especially if their rent and utilities are increased, that really impacts the budget over there. The thought was that it could potentially house that whole umbrella of people working collaboratively, the Chamber and CEDA have done well so far in their new co-location. It would also provide a one-stop shop for either Bruce Breslow at CFED, who is bringing in new business, or CEDA with their existing help for local business, and then the Chamber and their efforts for local business. That is how it made the list. We have discussed trying to renovate the cottages for many years. This is one way that funding might be available. A lot of it will depend on the work City Engineer Zimney and Public Works Director Byrd do in studying the matrix and the scoring criteria as we evaluate which projects to rank in which order at our next hearing. That will really be the key – relying on those two to come back and describe which projects have a real, legitimate chance at success. We know last year the Fixed Base Operator building did not work and it has some similarities to what the Cottage project would be about the economic development effort and having a home or a place for meetings and things, so we need to be really clear about that as we evaluate it at the next hearing.

Councilwoman Frost asked if the areas being looked at for the sidewalk and ADA improvements meet the low-income levels and if that was still part of CDBG requirements.

City Engineer Zimney replied affirmatively, the area is focused primarily on the Low to Moderate Income (LMI) areas, particularly the southeast and maybe even a little bit of the north east. That would fall into our recommendations on which ones to do. We are trying to meet the objectives to benefit LMI citizens.

Councilman Richardson asked if they were looking at housing areas or business streets or main streets.

City Engineer Zimney stated that it looks to be mostly older residential areas. They do not have sidewalks; ADA access would improve the safety of the area.

Mayor Tedford noted that a map was published at one time. The whole City used to qualify as LMI for the purposes of where you applied street and ADA improvements. Then a map was published a few years ago identifying where those areas were, and it did not include the whole City. He asked if that was the way they do it now or were they back to the whole City again.

City Engineer Zimney stated that he believed it was still the identified areas, not the whole City.

Mayor Tedford noted that identified areas were not in the southeast. There was a portion on Maine Street and a narrow area down West Williams Avenue. It was very distinct and almost unusable for us. We had commented on the fact that the State changing the entire area of the City to this map that was almost unfair as to where we could apply those funds where we were trying to make ADA improvements to streets and sidewalks. That is why we had to go back to project-based like Cottage School or the women's restroom – something like that. It was unfortunate that when you review the City's past CDBG projects, and it lists water lines in low-income areas and sewer lines and those sorts of things to help the low-income areas and that goes away with that map. He suggested that City Engineer Zimney look at that map when they start talking about the southeast area of the City because we had no idea why that area was not on the map. He suggested that perhaps we put the generator project on this list of CDBG projects because, though we have generators that can be taken to the Convention Center and City Hall and other buildings we have so we can plug them in when the power goes out and take care of citizens, if an extensive power outage occurs we would need larger units that were more mobile. That needs to be on this list for the Council to discuss. The former Governor wanted these projects based upon some economic criteria and he wondered if that was still true.

City Engineer Zimney explained that it is part of the rating system, so part of our application will be showing the economic development impact. It is one of about ten on the grading matrix.

Mayor Tedford noted that the Cottage project could be a joint CDBG application with Churchill County. If that was to be done, the State likes joint grants.

Mayor Tedford reminded that this was a public hearing and inquired if there were any public comments or questions.

No comments were noted.

Public Comments

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments.

Mr. Geof Knell of 261 Serpa Place stated that it was great that the State completed ADA improvements on North Maine Street and South Taylor Street. He asked if the potential CDBG project for the City Hall women's restroom would not bend to the LGBTQ agenda and remain female and not be changed to gender neutral as a requirement.

Mayor Tedford stated that was not a requirement that the City was aware of.

Mr. Knell thanked Mayor Tedford.

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 9:22 a.m.

Attest: 
Sean C. Richardson, City Clerk-Treasurer


Mayor Ken Tedford