

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the
City Council of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall

Mayor Russell Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Russell Stewart, Mayor Pro Tem Katy Brown, Councilors Randy Weil, Afshin Safavi, Al Blum, Mike Gallagher, and Dan Sheldon were present on roll call. Also present were City Manager Chris Cramer, Deputy City Manager and Public Works Director Jay Goldie, City Attorney Kathie Guckenberger, Police Chief Michelle Tovrea, Finance Director Jessica Sager, and City Clerk Laura Gillespie.

Absent: none

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council conducted the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

Chief Tovrea noted the Police Department had presented a volunteer award to Jenn Diffendal in the past weeks for all her work on statistical data, and tonight presented a distinguished service award to Mark Griffin for creating the Police Foundation.

Mr. Griffin thanked the other members of the Police Foundation Board, his wife Jan Harrison and Jeremy Abelson, as well as Mayor Stewart, Councilor Safavi, and others.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Laura Christman, 18 Cherry Lane Drive, explained she had been reviewing the changes made by the Code Modernization process to the Zoning Code and had found many substantive changes that had not been discussed sufficiently or at all during the process; examples included home grown marijuana, intensive livestock, guest houses, and intensive aquaculture; Planning Manager Paul Workman and Community Development Clerk Ethen Westbrook had been working hard to identify issues but this was not the best use of their time; these issues should not be fixed piecemeal.

REPORTS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Brown moved, seconded by Councilor Gallagher to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2022

The motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Board and Commission Terms

City Clerk Gillespie explained several board and commission terms were ending in May; most members had expressed their desire to be reappointed and staff was seeking direction from Council on those reappointments; one member had low attendance but had reaffirmed their commitment to attend meetings; one member of the Art Commission did not desire to be reappointed so staff asked for two Council members to review applications, conduct interviews, and make a recommendation for appointment.

Council expressed their support of reappointing the members who desired reappointment. Councilor Weil and Mayor Pro Tem Brown volunteered to help with the Art Commission vacancy process.

REPORTS

There were no reports

CHIEF TOVREA RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Mayor Stewart read a proclamation reviewing Chief Tovrea's accomplishments at the City and designating Michelle Tovrea Day.

Councilor Blum thanked Chief Tovrea for her service and indicated it was reflected in the police officers.

Councilor Sheldon thanked Chief Tovrea for her kindness in dealing with his ailing father.

Councilor Gallagher stated it had been wonderful getting to know Chief Tovrea and noted her emotional intelligence was significant.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown indicated she had never feared for her safety living in the City; Chief Tovrea not only ran a highly effective Police Department but was also an important part of the leadership team and put the City and citizens first.

Councilor Weil stated the City had been fortunate to have Chief Tovrea and wished her the best of luck.

Councilor Safavi indicated Council was proud of Chief Tovrea's legacy which was the Police Department she had built; she had served as an important role model for little girls in the City; he thanked her for being herself.

Jim Thorsen, former City Manager, stated the City had been extremely fortunate to have Chief Tovrea; she had the pulse of the community and their safety in her heart; she had done a great job training the police officers and was leaving quite a legacy; it was not an easy time to be a police officer, but she had provided a great atmosphere in the City.

Earl Hoellen indicated Chief Tovrea epitomized all the wonderful qualities of City staff and had developed an extraordinary police force; the Police Department was the crown jewel of the City; that was reflected in the Master Plan update process; police were brave, courageous, and fearless; Chief Tovrea's principals, ethics, and courage had led to hiring Jim Thorsen which had resulted in the new City Hall.

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Laura Christman stated while she was mayor she often met other officers around the state who knew Chief Tovrea; the officers from other jurisdictions who attended the event at Swedish Hospital when Officer Sack was released said they would do anything for Chief Tovrea; that spoke to the caliber and leadership of Chief Tovrea; she was instrumental in creating collaboration between jurisdictions; she thanked Chief Tovrea for explaining the communication restrictions following the home invasion shooting incident.

Doug Tisdale indicated Chief Tovrea was the greatest chief the City had ever had; he had never known of a more responsive public servant; someone would fill her seat but there would never be anyone who could fill her shoes.

Jenn Diffendal stated she had learned through her volunteer work with the Police Department that Chief Tovrea was kind, fair, honest, and hired amazing people; Chief Tovrea had been instrumental in the healing process for herself and her family after they were victims of a violent crime; she told a story about Chief Tovrea patrolling the Village by bike; Chief Tovrea's dedication to the City was second to none; Chief Tovrea was responsible for achieving the arrest in the 1981 cold case homicide of Village resident Sylvia Quayle.

Rob Eber thanked Chief Tovrea and the Police Department for treating his ailing father professionally, ethically, empathetically, and respectfully; his father had great respect for the police officers; he had learned the Police Department had specific training for dealing with people with dementia and thanked them for doing that training.

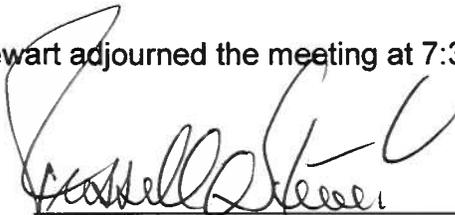
City Manager Cramer presented a statue to Chief Tovrea in honor of her years of service to the City and dedication to the citizens and the Police Department; it had been a blessing to have Chief Tovrea as the Police Chief; he agreed she looked out for the entire organization and City in addition to the Police Department; she had cultivated a strong positive relationship between the Police Department and the residents which was unfortunately the exception in this day and age; she was nimble in adapting policies to keep both officers and citizens safe during COVID. He also presented the distinguished service award for Chief Tovrea's 39 year career in law enforcement, reviewed her career and accomplishments at the City.

Chief Tovrea indicated this was a very humbling experience; all the accomplishments mentioned were only possible because she had a staff that would listen, could argue, could be thoughtful, and recognized what the Police Department wanted to do as a team; the Police Department was only one piece of the City and she recognized other departments and staff; her three core values were never mistake kindness as weakness, a sense of humor, and always be your true self; she recognized family, friends, and relationships; all chiefs had a shelf life, she did not think she was expired but it was time for someone new to come in; she knew she was leaving a fine staff and good legacy; she was proud to be leaving the department better than when she got there; time was the most important thing and was a commodity you could not get back; she read a poem about time. She stated it had been an honor to serve the community and be the Chief.

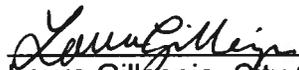
ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection Mayor Stewart adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

(SEAL)



Russell O. Stewart, Mayor



Laura Gillespie, City Clerk