

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Minutes of the  
City Council of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.  
City Hall, 2450 East Quincy Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, Colorado 80113

The City Council held a study session at 6:00 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Katy Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Katy Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Randy Weil, Councilors Earl Hoellen, Susan Maguire, Dan Sheldon, and Robert Eber were present on roll call. Also present were City Manager Chris Cramer, City Attorney Kathie Guckenberger, Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director Jay Goldie, Police Chief Jason Lyons, Finance Director Doug Farnen, Community Development Director Paul Workman, Human Resources Manager Kathryn Ducharme, and City Clerk Laura Gillespie.

Absent: Councilor Al Blum

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Council conducted the pledge of allegiance.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Hampden Avenue Mobility and Safety Study Update from Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU)**

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie explained staff had asked FHU to provide an update to Council on the progress of the Hampden Avenue Mobility and Safety Study; he introduced Elliot Sulsky from FHU who had also been the City's traffic engineer for the Master Plan update process.

Elliot Sulsky, Principal Transportation Planner at FHU, explained the study corridor went from Knox Court/Lowell Boulevard on the west to I-25 on the east; study stakeholders included the City of Englewood, City of Sheridan, City of Cherry Hills Village, City and County of Denver, Arapahoe County, CDOT, and RTD; the study divided the corridor into four segments; Segment 3 went from Gilpin Street to Colorado Boulevard; the big issues raised for Segment 3 were to reduce cut-through traffic, signal timing and coordination, beautification, safer crossing for bikes and pedestrians, and consistent speed limits and number of lanes; Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie was the City's representative on the technical advisory committee; former Mayor Russell Stewart, Art Commission Co-Chair Pamela Hall, and Chief Lyons had all been involved; public input involved a website and several meetings; the study was in the phase of evaluating alternatives and recommendations; the alternatives and recommendations were developed with three broad criteria in mind: improved safety, improved mobility, and the planning and community context; the draft recommendations included lane continuity, intersection safety and operations, improved sidewalks, access safety improvements, signal timing, separated bike and pedestrian connections; Segment 3 recommendations included the pedestrian crossing at Clermont Street, adding another lane in the Colorado Boulevard to I-25 section by eliminating some of the center left turn lanes.

Mayor Brown indicated travelling west bound on Hampden, the only way to safely get into Cherry Hills Village was to turn into one of those center left turn lanes leading up to the Happy Canyon shopping center and cutting through Denver, because there was no left turn signal at Dahlia and the only way to turn left at Dahlia was to wait for the light to turn yellow and run the red light; if the center left turn lanes were eliminated there had to

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be some other safe way to turn left into Cherry Hills Village; however adding a left turn signal at Dahlia would be hugely unpopular for residents living on Dahlia.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie replied the Dahlia/Hampden intersection was frequently discussed during the study; one of the ideas was to close south bound Dahlia and only allow north bound traffic which would reduce cut through traffic in Cherry Hills Village; Denver was doing a more in-depth study of that intersection.

Mayor Brown replied that would cut off access to her neighborhood.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie explained many of the study's recommendations required further intergovernmental cooperation.

Councilor Eber added turning left at Parkway and Albion depended on the traffic light at Dahlia creating a break in the traffic on Hampden, and if the traffic light at Dahlia was changed to enhance traffic flow it would likely eliminate the ability to turn left at Parkway and Albion, which then would put more pressure onto Dahlia and Colorado as entrances to the City; the traffic signal time for left turns at Colorado is woefully inadequate for the amount of traffic turning left; turning left onto Hampden from Parkway or Albion was also difficult and often dependent on the Hampden traffic stopping, so often residents turned right onto Hampden and then somehow make their way back to go back west; removing left hand turn lanes on Hampden would make going west on Hampden very difficult for many residents. He reported the residents of Devonshire stated they needed a light at Hampden and Sedgwick as they could not get in or out of the neighborhood and there were frequent accidents at that intersection.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie replied City staff had looked at that intersection with CDOT and the intersection traffic and number of accidents did not meet their warrants. He acknowledged increasing traffic flow on Hampden and removing left turn lanes would reduce cut-through traffic but would affect resident access.

Councilor Eber noted a pedestrian crossing for the bus stop on Hampden was dangerous due to the speed and visibility and suggested the bus stop be moved. He suggested neighborhood access be added to the goals of the study.

Mr. Sulsky added signal timing and planned U-turns could be used in conjunction with eliminating left hand turns. He indicated several steps remained between the study recommendations and actual implementation. He reviewed more recommendations, including examining the two driveways for First Plymouth Church; the proximity of the Albion Street left turn and Colorado Boulevard; multi-modal improvements; and the Happy Canyon/Dahlia intersection.

Mayor Brown noted there was a section of Cherry Hills Village without a sidewalk along Hampden and the City could fill in that gap as it was City property.

Councilor Eber added there were two homes between that property and the church.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie confirmed the section with the two homes had a very narrow right-of-way between private property and the road; the City also had some gaps to the west; the City budget included a sidewalk study.

Councilor Sheldon asked who the client was for the study.

Mr. Sulsky replied the City of Englewood was the project manager.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie added Englewood got the DRCOG grant, then Cherry Hills Village, Sheridan, Arapahoe County, and Denver all put in close to equal amounts.

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Mr. Sulsky added the stakeholders were all part of the technical advisory committee.

Councilor Sheldon asked where the funding would come from for the major projects.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie replied the funding would come from federal grants.

Councilor Sheldon noted while the general interests of all the stakeholders were aligned, the specific interests regarding individual improvements may not be aligned.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie replied all of the recommendations required further intergovernmental cooperation; CDOT was the only entity that could act without sign off from other jurisdictions.

Councilor Sheldon asked what would happen if a majority of the stakeholders wanted to close south bound Dahlia but Cherry Hills Village said no.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie confirmed the project would not go forward in that case because Cherry Hills Village owned the right-of-way.

Mayor Brown indicated if turning left onto Happy Canyon from Hampden was an option, then residents might be happy closing south bound Dahlia, although then Cherry Hills Village residents would be cutting through the Denver neighborhood in that corner.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie replied that exact scenario had been discussed and he wanted to retain in the study to have the conversation. He agreed with Councilor Sheldon the different stakeholders might have different opinions about the specific recommendations but it was worth the discussion.

Councilor Sheldon asked if public input would be the next step of the study.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie replied if the City wanted to pursue any of the recommendations it would involve a full public input process.

City Manager Cramer stated CDOT had the sole authority to implement certain improvements, such as adding a median down the middle of Hampden, although they might accept input from other jurisdictions.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie agreed and added signal timing and new traffic signals were all up to CDOT.

Councilor Sheldon asked if there had been any discussion of a raised median on Segment 3.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie replied there had not; Denver was planning to repave Hampden in 2024 and no discussion of medians had been a part of that planning.

Councilor Sheldon asked Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie to report to Council if he heard of any of the improvements moving forward.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie confirmed he would.

Councilor Eber suggested calling the options alternatives instead of recommendations.

Mr. Sulsky agreed the wording could be more accurate.

City Manager Cramer asked if FHU would return to present the final draft to Council.

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Mr. Sulsky agreed.

Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie advised Council the project website did not have a public comment section any longer but if they sent their comments to him, he would make sure they got to the group.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION PERIOD**

None

### **REPORTS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2023
- b. Resolution 10, Series 2023; Accepting a Donation from the Cherry Hills Village Police Foundation on Behalf of the Cherry Hills Village Police Department

The motion passed unanimously.

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Interim City Manager Search Committee Recommendation**

HR Manager Ducharme explained the Search Committee met almost three weeks ago to approve the job posting, job description, and time frame for the Interim City Manager; the job was posted for a little less than a week; the City received eight candidates; of those candidates, three met the minimum qualifications; of those three, one stood out for his knowledge, skills, ability, and demonstrated work performance at the Village; she thanked City Clerk Gillespie and City Attorney Guckenberger for their contributions to the process.

Mayor Brown indicated the Search Committee was composed of herself and Councilor Hoellen.

Councilor Hoellen thanked HR Manager Ducharme, City Clerk Gillespie, and City Attorney Guckenberger. He stated the Search Committee recommended the finalist candidate Jim Thorsen, who as everyone knows was the former City Manager of Cherry Hills Village.

Mayor Brown explained the Search Committee was asking Council to approve the selection of Jim Thorsen as a finalist; further action would have to be taken at a future meeting to hire Mr. Thorsen.

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Councilor Hoellen noted there was a fourteen-day process Council had to adhere to before Council could make an offer; the City would negotiate with Mr. Thorsen during the two weeks with the goal of presenting a contract for Council's approval; once authorized by Council, the final offer would be made to Mr. Thorsen.

Mayor Brown stated Council had a recommendation from the Committee that did not need a second; the recommendation was to select Jim Thorsen as the finalist for the Interim City Manager position.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Brown thanked Chief Lyons for his Strategic Plan; the Plan emphasized employee recognition; she thanked the Police Department for the work they all did to keep the community safe. She reported she had been actively participating in conversations related to the state legislature's proposed zoning reform; Council and the City were actively engaged in looking out for the best interests of the community.

#### **Members of City Council**

Councilor Eber thanked all staff.

Councilor Hoellen thanked Chief Lyons on the Strategic Plan and noted he would send an email with his thoughts for Chief Lyons' consideration; he complimented all of staff on a great Council retreat.

Mayor Pro Tem Weil echoed the compliments on the Strategic Plan; he thanked Director Farmen and City Attorney Guckenberger for their work implementing ballot measure 2A.

Councilor Sheldon reported the property at the southeast corner of Quincy and Franklin was on the market; hopefully it would sell quickly and the landscaping would be remediated. He noted the donation from the Police Foundation had not been removed from the consent agenda and thanked the Police Foundation and underlying donor or donors for their \$17,000 donation to the Police Department wellness program.

Councilor Maguire complimented Chief Lyons on the Strategic Plan, it was very thoughtful and thorough. She reported she had attended the Arapahoe County Transportation Forum meeting last week; she thanked City Manager Cramer and Deputy City Manager/Director Goldie for their support; the Forum approved nine of the eleven proposed projects for recommendation to DRCOG; Littleton was studying the Broadway corridor and that would be important to a lot of Village residents; she had worked with City Clerk Gillespie on guidelines for the Mayor/Council column in the Crier and they would present them at the next meeting for discussion.

Councilor Sheldon reported he attended the February 23<sup>rd</sup> State of the Canal for the High Line Canal; representatives from all the jurisdictions along the Canal had attended; the transition of the Canal from Denver Water to the local jurisdictions was beginning.

Councilor Maguire mentioned a large number of the projects discussed by the Arapahoe County Transportation Forum had involved work on and around the High Line Canal.

Mayor Pro Tem Weil suggested all considerations of donations should go under new business instead of the consent agenda.

Council agreed.



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### **City Manager & Staff**

Chief Lyons explained the Police Department had conducted a promotional process for the Commander position; they received around 20 applications, both internal and external, both in-state and out-of-state; six candidates were interviewed; he was honored to report Sergeant Leininger had been promoted to Commander effective March 20<sup>th</sup>; Officer Kazmirski had been promoted to Sergeant effective the end of May.

Director Farnen reported staff was making progress on implementing a new phone system.

Director Workman reported he would initiate contact with HOA representatives soon regarding the anticipated state zoning legislation.

City Manager Cramer agreed the City was devoting significant resources to the anticipated state zoning legislation issue; City staff was meeting weekly with other Arapahoe County jurisdiction staff; he and Mayor Brown were also members of a smaller action-oriented group who was trying to coordinate all the jurisdictions from a public-facing perspective; a County-wide telephone town hall would be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>; it was a difficult issue to tackle because there was no bill on the House floor to address directly, so many avenues were being explored without knowing which would be the most helpful; all the jurisdictions would be heavily promoting the March 30<sup>th</sup> telephone town hall and the County would use the town hall to make the public aware of the significance of the issue; thus far he was pleased with their collective effort; Cherry Hills Village would probably not be leading the charge and get a lot of traction by itself on this issue. He officially announced his one year leave of absence from the City; it was an opportunity with his family he could not pass up; it was a difficult decision because the City was doing so much good work; he was committed to return and keep the positive momentum going. He acknowledged all of staff's efforts for the Council retreat, coordinating multiple presentations from multiple departments.

### **City Attorney**

City Attorney Guckenberger had no report.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Weil moved, seconded by Councilor Sheldon, to go into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. Sec. 24-6-402(4)(a) for the purpose of discussing matters related to the sale of City-owned real property and pursuant to C.R.S. Sec. 24-6-402(4)(e) to develop strategy for negotiations and to instruct negotiators relating to possible sale of such real property.

The following votes were recorded:

Eber	yes
Hoellen	yes
Weil	yes
Sheldon	yes
Maguire	yes

Vote on the Executive Session: 5 ayes. 0 nays. The motion carried.

The executive session began at 7:43 p.m.

### **RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

The executive session ended and Council returned to the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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Mayor Brown stated the participants in the executive session had been Jay Goldie, Robert Eber, Earl Hoellen, Randy Weil, Katy Brown, Dan Sheldon, Susan Maguire, Kathie Guckenberger, and Chris Cramer; for the record if any person participating in the executive session believed that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, she asked that they state their concerns for the record. Hearing none, she asked for a motion.

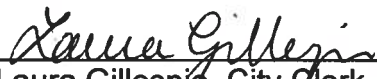
Councilor Sheldon moved, seconded by Councilor Hoellen, to instruct staff to issue an RFP to hire a listing agent for 90 Meade Lane out to bid.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

(SEAL)

  
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Mayor Pro Tem

  
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Laura Gillespie, City Clerk