

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Cedar Hills, Utah

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

This meeting was held electronically pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-207(4), and Mayor Andersen’s January 20, 2021 written determination that conducting an electronic meeting with an anchor location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location.

Participants: Denise Andersen, Mayor, Presiding
Councilmembers: Ben Ellsworth, Mike Geddes, Brian Miller, Kelly Smith
Chandler Goodwin, City Manager
Greg Gordon, Recreation Director
Charl Louw, Finance Director
Kevin Anderson, Public Works Director
Craig Hall, City Attorney
Colleen Mulvey, City Recorder

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the City Council of the City of Cedar Hills, having been properly noticed, was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Andersen.

2. Approval of Meeting’s Agenda.

MOTION: C. Ellsworth—To approve the agenda. Seconded by C. Miller.

Yes - C. Ellsworth
C. Geddes
C. Miller
C. Smith Motion passes.

3. Public Comment: Time has been set aside for the public to express their ideas, concerns, and comments. Comments are limited to three minutes per person with a total of 30 minutes for this item.

There were no comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4. Approval of Resolution No. 02-16-2021A, appointments to the Family Festival Citizens Advisory Committee
- 5. Approval of Resolution No. 02-16-2021B, appointment to the Planning Commission

MOTION: C. Smith—To approve the consent agenda. Seconded by C. Ellsworth.

Yes - C. Ellsworth
C. Geddes
C. Miller
C. Smith

Motion passes.

CITY REPORTS AND BUSINESS

6. City Manager

Chandler Goodwin said the ski bus had to be delayed due to weather conditions and would start this week. He reported that Junior Jazz was winding down. He thanked the recreation staff and Alpine School district for being partners in the program. Registration was now open for tot and teen soccer. Mr. Goodwin then provided an update on the Mill ditch project. It was scheduled to be completed on time. This was good for the golf season, as the golf course improvements were scheduled to be done in mid-March. Lastly, he thanked those who had made a point not to park on the street during winter weather. This helped reduce the challenge of snow plowing.

7. Mayor and Council

Mayor Andersen noted the state was in the middle of a legislative session which would end in two weeks. She said there were several bills that staff was watching that would affect cities and municipalities. HB 82 regarding auxiliary dwelling units (ADUs) and HB 98 which would allow developers and builders to do their own plan review, inspections and design their own design elements. She suggested that the Council go to the advocacy link at ULCT.org and look at the bills that were being watched.

Mayor Andersen noted that the American Fork Chamber held their Business of the Year Luncheon. The mayors of American Fork, Alpine, Highland and Cedar Hills presented mayors' awards to businesses in the community. She chose the Dollar Tree for Cedar Hills.

C. Smith said she attended the Central 911 meeting, and although the primary topic discussed was the budget, it was noteworthy that they were doing some hiring and training. C. Smith also noted she was on the Utah Lake Commission and Representative Brammer was running a bill that could drastically change how the commission and lake would operate moving forward.

8. Review/Action on an Ordinance amending City Code Title 7 related to Storm Water

Mr. Goodwin said in the last meeting, the city adopted a new storm water master plan. In conjunction with that adoption, staff was looking at updating the storm water code. The proposed code complied with Utah state guidance as it relates to storm water management, specifically, elicit discharges and the penalties and management of those facilities. The code sets standards, permitting, connection and enforcement. The code was more robust than what Cedar Hills had in the past. Mr. Goodwin said he felt it was time for the city to update its storm water management program, as the last time the issue was discussed was in 1998.

In essence, the code sets the groundwork for the city to manage the storm water facilities. These include any channels that convey storm water from one point to another point, the retention basins throughout the city, and the catch basins throughout the city. The code provided the guidelines that a developer must meet in order to develop a property. It specifies that a developer is required to protect the discharge from their site into the storm water system. In addition, the code required more permitting for land use. To comply with state code, four criteria will be added to the city's code: (1) land disturbance activity that is greater than an acre; (2) a land disturbance activity that is less than one acre if the land disturbance activity is such that it is part of a larger common plan of development that effects more than one acre of land; (3) a land disturbance activity that is less than an acre that is in the discretion of the Public Works Director; and (4) for the development of a new single-family home.

Staff had created permit that developers could apply for. There were some exemptions for emergency action and additions and modifications to existing family structures. He said this would only apply for new home permits. The code outlines enforcement measures ranging from a simple notice of a violation to a class B misdemeanor. He said that as a general practice for the city, they never resort to the strictest penalty when there was a violation. Staff tries to work with the developer, contractor, or homeowner in order to get compliance.

C. Geddes asked how this tied into Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Mr. Goodwin said they would still have to fill out a SWPPP for projects greater than an acre. The land disturbance permit was more for when a developer brought in an excavator to dig a pit. If someone was going to do some work on a property that was over an acre and there was a drainage ditch that ran alongside. In that case, there might be a need for a land disturbance permit in addition to the SWPPP.

C. Geddes said a lot of cities had a land disturbance permit that allowed a developer to grade early. If someone was developing a subdivision, they might want to clear things out. He asked if that was the same permit as Mr. Goodwin described. He was concerned that they were adding another layer of bureaucracy to the code. Mr. Goodwin said staff does not try to add bureaucracy to existing code. This addition was required by state law. The change was to get the city in compliance. He said that other cities' land disturbance permits were really about moving dirt. It was a very simple permit. He pointed the Council to section 7-3a-5(c). He said staff was not asking for a lot of information, just the name of the applicant, the address, and the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the property and the contract on site, as well as a statement of the project.

C. Smith said that if she understood correctly, they were simply cleaning up the code to match what the state required.

C. Miller asked if the code was modeled after another city. Mr. Goodwin said he had not drafted this section of code. A public works technician had. He assumed that the code had come from another city, or a conglomeration of a couple of cities. He said they had several meetings among staff before bringing the code to the Council for adoption. The original code was twice the length of what was being presented. Staff wanted to take out anything that was already

represented in the storm water management plan. References to other state code were removed as they changed over time.

C. Miller asked if the code was reviewed with Public Works. Mr. Goodwin said yes.

MOTION: C. Smith—To approve Ordinance No. 02-16-2021A, an ordinance amending Cedar Hills City Code Title 7, Chapter 3, Article A related to Storm Sewer Utility.

Seconded by C. Ellsworth. Roll Call Vote.

Yes - C. Ellsworth
C. Geddes
C. Miller
C. Smith

Motion passes.

9. Review of City Council Applications and Appointment of City Councilmember

Mayor Andersen explained the process for reviewing the applicants. The councilmembers were each going to introduce themselves. Following this, each of the applicants would have two minutes to offer an introductory statement. After the introductory statement, the councilmembers would then have questions for each applicant. Applicants would have one minute to answer the question posed. The Councilmembers, Mayor and Mr. Goodwin introduced themselves.

Each of the applicants introduced themselves:

Tyler Brocious said he moved to Cedar Hills two years ago. He said their first year was great as they welcomed a new baby into the family. The second year, however, was not great: his father-in-law passed away, along with some other family drama. When COVID happened, he was given the opportunity to permanently work from home. As a family, they discussed if they were going to move back to Davis County, where both he and his wife's extended families were located. However, when thinking about the community that currently surrounds them, they did not want to as they loved Cedar Hills and were dedicated to making the city and community great. He said he had reviewed previous budgets for the past few years, and he loved the initiatives that had been put into place such as Harvey Park. He loved that data was presented before the adoption of the previous budget that inquired to residents about an aquatic facility.

Eric Cathey grew up in California in a family business that was directly across the street from city offices in Oceanside. By default, he has always been involved in the city events. From when he was six years old, he knew the Mayor and Council. He said he had always been involved in the communities that he lived in through roles such as serving on economic and HOA boards, being a business advocate, and volunteering as a little league coach. His family moved to Cedar Hills five years ago. Although they were initially only intending to stay for six months, they ended up buying a property and building a house. They have discovered that they love Cedar Hills. He felt that the timing was right to work with the city and continue to make the place one that he was proud to call home. He said that while running his family's businesses and serving in the community he had learned to help people with varying ideas and opinions in many different ways that allowed them to accomplish goals that felt pretty far apart from the start.

Laura Ellison had lived in Cedar Hills for nine years. Before moving to Cedar Hills her family lived in a suburb of Dallas, Texas for 17 years. During the time they were there, their community grew from 8,000 residents to 160,000 by the time they left. She had been involved in city government for quite some time. When living in Texas, she served on the school board for 14 years. She worked with a \$5 million budget and gained experiencing running meetings. She felt very confident to step in and pick up where the Council needed someone to.

Taylor Forsgren was a Utah native. He said he considered himself fortunate to have had the opportunity to live in several cities. These places included Italy, where the culture ran old and deep; New York City, where there was no space for new development but a rich community culture; and in Farmington where there was a single spotlight when he was growing up and had seen tremendous growth. Two years ago, his family settled in Cedar Hills. He said they were grateful to be in a city with rapid growth and a healthy Utah economy. He said because of his gratitude for Cedar Hills welcoming his family with open arms, he felt like he owed it to the city to offer himself, his time, and his energy. He said he would love to be able to apply what he had seen in other communities to create a strong sense of place, community, and culture. Throughout his life, he took pride in being someone who strived to learn as much as possible and work hard at everything he did. He felt that his enthusiasm for learning and his work ethic would serve him well if given the opportunity.

Mary Given was a Utah native who attended Brigham Young University (BYU) where she obtained a degree in marketing and communications. She went on to get an MBA. After working for a while in the corporate world, she became a consultant for marketing and business strategy and moved to Delaware with her husband. Despite spending several years there, they decided they wanted to raise their family in Utah. When they moved back, they looked all over the county for the best fit for their family. They chose Cedar Hills 16 years ago and loved every second of it. As a consultant, she had worked with private care companies, private student loan companies, software companies and medical practices. Through that experience she had been able to work remotely to be able to take care of her community, family, and clients. As a consultant she got to help small businesses look at their business model, strategy and marketing and communications materials so that they are able to support the business' success and meet their goals. She said she would not come to the Council with an agenda. She felt that councilmembers should not have agendas. She wanted to listen and understand what residents in her neighborhood needed.

Britney Lindsey studied broadcast journalism and communications at BYU. After a couple of years of reporting she felt that she was led back to Utah for a purpose. She met her husband and had four kids all under the age of seven. She noted there were a lot of young applicants and loved that this population was getting involved. A college boyfriend was from Cedar Hills and introduced her to how wonderful the community was. She loved how welcoming, clean, and well-kept the homes and neighborhoods were. Since living here, she has been involved by coaching her children's soccer, serving as a county delegate, and by running Utah's News. She said she was passionate about politics and being an advocate for groups who were trying to preserve their freedoms. She said she looked forward to serving Cedar Hills even if she was not elected to the position.

Alexandra McEwen was from a small town in central California and is from a family of property developers. Her great grandfather was the original postmaster in the small town that she was from. As a family property developer, she had lots of experience with small towns and community advocacy. Her family moved here six years ago. Like many of the other candidates, her family loved Cedar Hills for its excellent schools, its location by the canyon, the beautiful golf course, and incredible views. Her family has continued to invest in the community. They own a few rental properties. In addition, her family owns a real estate team. They have focused their business specifically in Cedar Hills with 30% of their business coming from this city. This had made them big advocates of Cedar Hills. Because they think it is a great place to live, they want everyone to know about it. As a result, they have tried to hold community events and bring people together. In addition, Ms. McEwen's degree was in business finance.

David Ninow said that he had three children, the oldest who was six with the youngest being one. He said Cedar Hills was a great community to raise a family in. Growing up, he moved about every year and a half and lived in Germany, Japan, and all over the U.S. Because of this, he had experienced the impact that the various styles of government have on the local community. He felt that was part of what was driving him to be interested in serving the community through the City Council. He touched on two aspects of his application: (1) his philosophy of government and (2) feedback he gained by reaching out to members of his neighborhood and community on what they thought about their place and what they wanted to improve. He believed that government should try as much as possible to lighten the burden of their community. He felt that governments should try and foster an environment as opposed to control the environment in which people can live and thrive. Those styles can be vastly different. He also believed in getting input from the people that are closest to the impact of the decisions, both in broad and limited communities. In reaching out to people in his neighborhood, Mr. Ninow heard that much of what they loved had already been stated. Areas of improvement that emerged were issues like libraries and better internet.

Jordan Rasmussen was from Utah and had lived in Cedar Hills for two years. He has four children; 12, 10, and twin girls who are six. He has a degree in business management from Colorado State and an MBA from UVU. He works for doTERRA where he leads the company's international trade and logistics team. He ensures that products get where they are supposed to. He was very interested in trade in general. International business was really his forte. The team he leads of global professionals is very diverse. This makes it fun. He also really loves charity work. He said he was applying because he was in a place where he felt like he could add some significant value. He loved bringing people together, collaborating and being an active listener to help people improve their lives.

Donald Thomas said he has been a resident of Cedar Hills for over six years. He and his wife are the owners of Advanced Paranormal Services, a small internet business located in Cedar Hills. They also operate the Wasatch Investigative Society for Paranormal Studies that is a non-profit organization that helps people with paranormal activities in their home. He is a professional technical writer and is currently employed by Simplifile in Provo. He has been a director or manager of technical and publication departments at companies including Fidelity Investments, Land Desk Semantic doTERRA, and Snowbell. He has directed or managed

groups from two to 85 employees and had published many user manuals and computer help systems. He said he communicates in a clear, direct style and raises questions and concerns directly with the people involved. Being accurate and concise in his written and verbal communication has been an important focus of his life and his career. He said he was a strategic thinker. When faced with challenges he looks for alternate ways and to quickly spot relevant patterns and issues. He wants Cedar Hills to be a family-oriented place while increasing business opportunities and the city's tax base. He felt they needed to enhance their green spaces such as parks, splash pads, and trails, and to maintain the natural beauty of the community. Because of the increased financial pressures on families, he believed they needed to provide cost effective recreation without increasing property taxes. Through his career he had always sought opportunities to make a difference with the quality of his products.

Liam Thrailkill was from North Dakota. He attended the University of North Dakota where he got his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in economics. He has a master's in public administration with certificates in social entrepreneurship and policy analysis. Shortly after he got his masters, he worked with a city administrator writing policy for a city just over the border in Minnesota. In addition, he was able to work with the mayor and city council on their special projects. He has also worked with legislators in North Dakota on some special projects like reforming regulations and scholarship requirements. He currently works for the Utah Division of Air Quality as the rule's coordinator. He works on the administrative rule making for the division and for the executive department. In this role, he does the fiscal analysis and coordination for the rules. He is able to work with different industry and advocate stakeholders through the rule process to gather their information and make those fiscal analyses. He also tracks the state and federal legislature for the division on what may impact air quality. Lastly, he works as the liaison for the air quality advocates and runs those meetings to address their concerns. He said it had been a really great thing to do. In the position he has learned how important inter-governmental relations are. He said that was an important thing, including on a city council where one needed to work with surrounding cities, the state and federal government. He said he knows that the most important impact happens at the local level. A lot of people like to talk about national politics and have opinions. However, it is in city politics that the rubber meets the road. He said he was fully prepared to immerse himself in that.

Mayor Andersen thanked the applicants for their introductions. She explained that they were now going to move into the question-and-answer phase of the process. She noted that at any point, the Council could make a motion to either narrow the field, or to elect an applicant.

Question 1 (C. Smith): If you are not chosen tonight what committee are you going to apply for next?

Mr. Cathey said that he would either do something with the Parks and Recreation Committee or with Economic and Planning as they are topics that he enjoys. He has five boys who were active in multiple sports throughout the area, so improving parks is an important issue for him. He felt that planning, especially doing it smartly, was important for business growth and the limited space available for additional housing, as well as maintaining space for parks and different open space areas. In regard to his economic interest, he had run businesses since he was 16. His

grandfather got sick, so he took over the family business and had been doing it for about 25 years.

Ms. Ellison said she would go to the Family Festival Committee, a group she had already begun to get involved with. She has a background in education and loves working with kids. One of the things that made her family love Cedar Hills was the festival. She felt it was a great opportunity to create unity between citizens and can be a good moral booster for people looking to come to Cedar Hills. She would also be interested in serving on economic committees addressing long range planning and zoning. She has an interest in development and types of housing. She knows that Cedar Hills is about 85-90% built out with a small space available for housing. She also said she was interested in bringing businesses to the area.

Mr. Forsgren said he was interested in the Planning Commission. He said he is a voracious reader who usually goes through big kicks that last anywhere from a year to three years where he deep dives into a topic. For a while he had a kick on urban planning. He found it to be extremely enlightening. The nerdy side of him found it to be very interesting.

Ms. Given said the first committee would be the Family Festival Committee because she wants to help be the catalyst to re-energize and engage the community after this year of hibernation as a result of COVID. The second committee would be the Youth City Council. She felt that they needed to get youth back involved and engaged with the city so that they developed pride for where they lived.

Ms. Lindsey said she would get involved with Family Festival Committee. She felt that a lot of children, youth and teenagers had felt the impact of the loneliness and seclusion of the past year. She felt it was important to bring events back and that this was supported by data. She felt they had everything in their power to make the festival happen, they just needed to get started.

Ms. McEwen stated she had a strong interest in planning and zoning because of her real estate background. Like many folks stated she is also passionate about the Family Festival. She believed that it had the potential to put Cedar Hills on map in addition to bringing communities together and increasing the value of the properties and community.

Mr. Ninow said his natural reaction to a question like this is to ask, “where do you need help?” He said he is more someone who likes to be plugged in where there is a need. If speaking to his own interests, they fall in education. A lot of his past service was in helping kids and families. Because of this, the Family Festival and Park Development committees would drive his interests. But he would be more interested in a conversation around where help was actually needed in the city. He believed that interests tend to accumulate and that can lead to some underserved areas.

Mr. Rasmussen said he loved that Cedar Hills had just under three miles of paved trails. He would love to be a part of the Beautification Committee. He said he goes hiking three days a week. He said what made Cedar Hills a really special place was all of the outdoor opportunities. He believed it was a hidden gem. He noted that his brother-in-law was the director of Planning and Economic Development for Bountiful. He was interested in the future of Cedar Hills and how they were going to maximize their current property.

Mr. Thomas said his interest would be in economic areas such as how they could optimize Cedar Hills' tax base without impacting property owners and to be able to better serve the community. He felt that businesses were an important way to help fund other services.

Mr. Thrailkill said he would be most interested in community and economic development as they would be informed by his education and professional background. He felt as though stakeholder management was important so that businesses understood that they were supported. He was also interested in the Beautification Committee. He personally knew, and had this echoed by his neighbors, how important it is to have parks and facilities that are accessible to assist with physical and mental health.

Mr. Brocious would be excited to help out however he could, whatever committee needed the most help. Send him and he would go. He said that was generally how he worked.

Question 2 (C. Miller): What is your philosophy on the role of the city as a governmental institution?

Ms. Ellison said the role of city government was crucial in establishing a working partnership with families, businesses, and the community at large. She said that she believed in the concept of a team, where it was a matter of the six members of the Council working together with city officials to try to come to the best decisions for the community and its citizens. She felt that the city government set a tone. She saw how well the current City Council worked together and that she personally saw a change in the city's politics.

Mr. Forsgren said his view of the role of the city government is that it would act as web that connects a diverse pool of individuals with various degrees of expertise that can help guide the city in achieving what it wants. While collectively, there might be really different views about what is best for the city, he would like to think that the collective expertise could help guide, surround, and support the wants and needs of the city.

Ms. Given said citizens have come to expect certain things from their local government, and rightly so. They want their streets to be cleared of snow, for potholes to be fixed, and safe neighborhoods. However, they do not want government overreach. She felt they had every right to do what they want to do with their property if it does not endanger others. If a resident wants to paint their house blue, they should be able to paint it blue, even if everyone else does not agree with it. She said with the recent political turmoil, many people are nervous and scared about government overreach. She believed the members of a City Council needed to reassure our friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens, that as city councilmembers they were here to serve residents and their best interests. She said she would like to help with that.

Ms. Lindsey said she felt as though this year had shown the powers that a government can have, and perhaps in some cases should not have, in regard to overreach. She felt as though so many people were really cautious about who they were voting in for those very reasons. She felt a lot of people were concerned for the futures of their children and youth because we were not really considering the impacts of a lot of the laws that were being passed. Big and small bills affect the

future of kids. All of the rules and regulations that have been imposed on youth programs and on homes have caused lasting ramifications. She felt it was the job the city to assess every move that they made.

Ms. McEwen said someone once told her that politics referred to the people and the policies that affect them. She saw the role of government, including the city government as a tool to bring people together and to solve problems that could not be solved individually. She saw the truth as being somewhere in the middle of every issue. She felt the role of the city was to take the diverse opinions of those in their municipalities and come to compromises that work for everyone and keep the city functioning.

Mr. Ninow said the role of city government had a couple of different facets. He said when communities come together, they do so on common ground but there were certain things that did not get taken care of. He said he felt that government could fill in some of those gaps. On the flip side, he believed that the city government, instead of asking the question “how do we solve this problem” should pose the question, “should we be solving this problem at all or is this something that can be taken care of elsewhere in the community.” Philosophy wise, he tends to skew towards smaller government and that it is the role of a government to represent their people and make sure that those needs are taken care of.

Mr. Rasmussen said first and foremost that city government officials represent the people. People need to feel they are being heard and welcomed. He said the role of city government is to act as a steward of the city for the short, medium, and long term to make sure that resources are utilized in the best possible way and making informed decisions. He felt it was important to try and understand the will of the people and represent them.

Mr. Thomas said he felt the role of government was to preserve and protect our freedoms. He said they were at a point where it was said that government was for the safety of the people. He said it was important that people kept themselves safe. On top of this, he said it was important for community to have safety standards. However, people needed to be responsible effort their own physical safety. That said, he did support a strong Police and Fire Department that could work for the entire community. He said the government needed to work harder to protect people’s individual rights. He liked the example that if he wanted to paint his house blue, he should be able to paint it blue if it was his house. It was not a community decision, but a personal one.

Mr. Thrailkill said the role of government was not to overstep its own bounds. He agreed with the importance of the question if it was within a city’s territory, or should they be working on a problem. He felt that was something that needed to be asked and something that was done well in Cedar Hills. Secondly, the role of city government was to foster a good environment. That did not mean overstepping, but working with community partners be they non-profits, school districts, surrounding cities, or different organizations. He said that grandstanding happens at other levels of politics, but the city level was where the real work got done.

Mr. Brocious agreed with what had been said. He said as he read through the budget decisions from previous years, the decisions were made based on surveys that were given to the

community. There were statistics and numbers which backed up decisions that were made by the City Council. He said when a city establishes policies and guidelines, they should be based on data from its citizens. Obviously, in any relationship there will be give and take, that mistakes happen such as government overreach, which need to be corrected. First and foremost, policy decisions should be based off of what residents say and supported by data.

Mr. Cathey said he felt the role of city government was to listen, help, plan, and be approachable. They were there for the community.

Question 3 (C. Geddes): One of the roles of the City Council and the Mayor is to set and manage the budget. In the event we found some extra money, what would be something you would like to see the city do?

Mr. Forsgren said he would want to dedicate resources to the future, their children. He said that any opportunity to invest in youth be it through educational or recreation programs. He also said he would want to further appreciate city employees. He felt that there were a number of people who put their lives on the line in their jobs who may not be appropriately appreciated.

Ms. Given said she would not claim to know all of the budgeting decisions made in the past. From an outside point of view, there were roads in the city that needed some help. She acknowledged that the Council looked at the storm water system earlier in the meeting but felt the PI system might also need attention. She also supported helping employees. However, she knew from roles on past boards that money only goes so far. She was sure the Council had a list of priorities were and what money needed to go to first.

Ms. Lindsey said she would put any extra funds available towards unifying programs and activities that would enliven the community once again. She felt there was a lot that needed to be done this year to fix the impacts from 2020. She felt a lot of money could be given back to citizens. She would look at how to make that possible so that money was going towards people in the community and not towards fluff.

Ms. McEwen had two ideas of where to put money towards, a library and a recreation center. She thought that when there were places where people could gather in a community, it increased the sense of community and the value of the area. This in turn helps residents and tax revenues.

Mr. Ninow asked if the city was prepared against emergencies. He said if there were areas that needed to be addressed, he would want to make sure that the community had financial security against reasonable emergencies. Second, he said that COVID had been tough on the community. He said he held the question of how they could rebuild a sense of community in the midst of isolation and disconnection. For example, he has seen a lot of mountain bikers in the community. Could they set up mountain biking groups? Could they set up a reading hour at a neighboring community's library for kids.

Mr. Rasmussen said this was a fund question that he liked. He suggested that they maybe not do anything with the money. He said when he looked at previous years' budgets, he appreciated the conservative approach. He felt it was wise. He would love to expand additional youth

activities. He felt the city was doing well in that area, but there were opportunities for expansion. He had a lot of little kids that had pent up energy. He loved the idea of a recreation center. He also wanted to do additional studies on bringing in more commercial businesses. He said that Taco Bell and Swig were killing it. He felt like it would be cool to see some additional stuff there.

Mr. Thomas liked the idea of having an emergency fund. He felt that preparedness was really important to have funds available. He liked the idea of giving money back to the people who provided it. If there was truly a surplus, it was not really within the government's power to figure out how to spend the money because it was actually the people's money. It was a sacred trust of government to use that money wisely and not to take money from people if it was not needed. He loved the idea of a recreation center. He felt it was important to see what they could do to entice private enterprise to build a recreation center. He did not know that they needed to provide brick and mortar libraries when they had the internet. He did not know that a community center needed to be provided when they could bring in private enterprise to do that and fill that need. One of the reasons why private enterprises had a problem was because they know that community centers come in and wipe out their business.

Mr. Thraikill said his first thought was that it would be great to cut a check and send it right back to everybody. Knowing that was not exactly feasible every single time, he would want to look at what programs might have been cut or overlooked in the past and restore funding to those programs. He also would start small and look at existing parks to help with the beautification process, but also look to see how parks could be modernized and provide to people what they want in these parks. He said he would love more pickle ball courts, but that might just be him.

Mr. Brocious said he did not think that a budget surplus needed to be spent immediately. Hypothetically speaking, if the city had to spend x number of dollars, he supported the recreation center. He liked the idea of anything involving youth in fun activities or service type projects. He said that was where he spent a lot of his youth and that helped him out quite a bit.

Mr. Cathey said he agreed with the applicants who talked about parks. He said there were a lot of city parks that were great, including the brand new one with lots of pickle ball courts. He said the basketball courts were cool, too. However, he would like to see some of the other parks modernized and brought up to par. He said there were a couple of baseball fields by the fire station that had almost become a dog park. He suggested that perhaps the city consider a dog park. He also thought that some beautification projects around the city would be awesome, roads included.

Ms. Ellison said she would first look at the budgeted debt services to see if the extra funds could be used to decrease debt and better balance the budget, that would be her first priority. Second, she would be curious to know if the city had a contingency fund or a rainy-day fund. She said that nothing throws off City Council meetings and problems like having an unbalanced budget. Thus, she would want to have a contingency fund that was a certain percentage of the total budget to offset any unexpected needs of the city to avoid the need to dip into other budgets. If those needs were met, then she would look at something that was self-sustaining like adding to a park but could be accomplished with one-time money.

Mayor Andersen asked the Council how they wanted to proceed. She noted that they had been interviewing candidates for an hour.

C. Ellsworth thanked all of the applicants. He said this was the second time the Council had gone through this process in two months, and it was a big process, and that it was not easy for the Council to have to deliberate in front of everyone. He hoped that as the Council discussed this that no one would take any offense because in his mind they were a very stellar group and had made the decisions challenging. He added that he himself lost to Mayor Andersen many years ago. He said that after reviewing the applications and hearing answers he had a feel for his top two candidates. He asked if the Council would like to go through and pick the top two applicants and then go through another question or if they were ready to make a motion. His top two candidates were Ms. Ellison and Ms. McEwen. He said that by most measures, it was a dead heat across the board, but that those two came out just a little bit stronger.

C. Miller said he agreed that the best way to go forward was to reduce the applicant pool. He said that he had the same two applicants in mind that C. Ellsworth named. He said this was an incredible group of applicants and there were plenty of people who could step in and do a good job. He felt that Ms. Ellison had good experience on a board and running campaigns, getting elected and dealing with budgets and bureaucracy. He said he knew Ms. McEwen professionally and knew how she worked: with thoroughness, a collaborative approach, her willingness to do the work that was needed to get the best answer, and that many members of her real estate team resided in the city and were Cedar Hills focused.

C. Geddes said he had narrowed his pool to three candidates, the two already named and Mr. Ninow. He stated again how difficult of a decision it was and encouraged applicants to get involved in other city initiatives and volunteer opportunities. He added that he was on the Planning Commission before he was on the City Council and that was a great way to understand employees.

C. Smith said she would also love to see the applicants getting involved. She said it was really telling to her to see what happened after the application process. She wanted to see the applicants demonstrate the strengths they showed tonight in other areas. She had both Ms. Ellison and Ms. McEwen on her list and wanted to add Mr. Rasmussen. She said the decision was so tough and she spent hours and hours on applications, checking the candidates on Facebook, and trying to learn if any of her friends knew any of the applicants.

MOTION: C. Geddes—To narrow the candidate selection down to Ms. Ellison and Ms. McEwen. Seconded by C. Miller.

Yes - C. Ellsworth
C. Geddes
C. Miller
C. Smith

Motion passes.

Mayor Andersen said that as a result of the unanimous vote, the motion passed to narrow the field to Ms. Ellison and Ms. McEwen. She thanked everyone for coming and said it was really rewarding to get to know everyone. She echoed what C. Smith said and hoped that she saw each of the applicants again serving on a committee somewhere. She said that everyone had such great things to offer, and she appreciated them for apply for the position.

Question 4 (C. Smith): Sometimes people misunderstand the role and do not realize that it takes collaboration. What is your collaboration style and how would you go about convincing another councilmember to take on an issue with you?

Ms. McEwen said she was honored to be selected in the top two and noted that she had been very impressed with Ms. Ellison during the application process. She said she came to the Council with a lot of humility. She did say that she had a lot of experience collaborating with people and getting things done by talking people into things. She also had experienced a lot of rejection. She said her collaboration style was to ask questions, be humble, and be willing to listen to other people's viewpoint so that she could adjust as needed. If she were to have a strong opinion about something that needed to happen in the city, she could go to the councilmembers individually to bring up the issue and address their specific concerns to understand where and why there might be a difference of opinion.

Ms. Ellison thanked Ms. McEwen for her comments. She said she was also honored to be in the final two and was happy to have the opportunity to potentially serve. She said she wholeheartedly believed in collaboration and needing to use one's skills to listen, understand, study, and ponder. She said she thought that talking with individual councilmembers to get their perspectives and experience was really important. She also said it was important not to talk in a quorum to make sure they were not breaking any rules. She believed in the concept of synergy: what can be created when working together. She understood that there was not a place for personal agendas in politics. Collaborating meant making the best decisions for the whole. She said if that meant that there were disagreements, that was okay. It was part of the process. The ability to learn from one another to make the best decisions for the citizens and community was the joy of local government. She said she had experience not only collaborating in small groups and large groups as a member of the school board, but also working with the City Council. These experiences often had amazing outcomes which led other cities to come and look at their collaborations because it was not very common for school boards and cities to work together.

Question 5 (C. Miller): This appointment is for the remaining year on a four-year term. This means there will be an election for the seat. Would you run for re-election, and what is your willingness and ability to run a campaign?

Ms. Ellison said she would absolutely want to run a campaign. She said she would not invest the time if she did not have the desire to continue to serve. She said that question was funny because her family and kids have asked why she had not started to run for something yet. She said when she told her son about the position, he was excited and said, "it is time." She said she had already run four successful campaigns with three-year terms. She had to leave one term early due to her family's move to Cedar Hills. She would start by assembling a campaign committee, beginning with a campaign treasurer. She would do a grassroots approach and start knocking on

doors and handing out flyers to get to know people. She would try to do small and group meetings if people would have her to discuss issues and see what people are feeling and looking for. She said she would look forward to running another campaign. The process was stressful and hard, but also fun.

Ms. McEwen said she would also enjoy running and campaigning. She felt it was something that she already did a lot because of her job. Unfortunately, a lot of her job was making sure that people liked her and want to work with her. Because of that, she said she was pretty used to being in the spotlight and hearing what people want and need. She likes getting to know people and building relationships. She felt that her role in real estate and as a city official were pretty similar in that in both roles, she represented people and their best interests. She thought it would be fun to campaign and an opportunity to get her family involved.

Question 6 (C. Ellsworth): What are the top things you would advocate for in your campaign that you think would be most important to the community?

Ms. McEwen said at the beginning that she had limited knowledge of the City Council's plans. Because of this, she would come to the role with a learner's mind. Off the top of her head the first issue she would campaign on would be how to make the city an even more fun place to live. To do this, she would focus on the Family Festival, improving parks and trails, and housing. She would want to make sure that there was a balance between having affordable housing while also maintaining property values.

Ms. Ellison said she would want for residents to know that she was here for them: to listen, to learn and understand. She said she was big on transparency. She knew the importance of not being afraid to be asked questions and share information. She said she was also a big believer in balanced budgets. She would run on the idea that she would help to keep the city in a good financial situation so that the city could continue to grow, while not overextending their resources. Mostly, she would want for citizens to feel as though they were understood. In her past experience, she found that a lot of time when people came to meetings upset it was usually because of misunderstandings around something that they were concerned about. All they really needed was some more knowledge or information to make a better decision. She understood that part of the role was to help citizens understand why certain decisions were made.

C. Miller said he thought that it would be helpful to have some discussion as a Council. He said he thought both candidates would step in and do a great job. He could tell that both candidates really wanted to collaborate, understand, get information, and make decisions that were inclusive. He noted the applicants varied experience; Ms. Ellison brought her service on the school board and previous work with city councils. Ms. McEwen had a general knowledge of Cedar Hills and was a small business owner herself giving her experience with finances, budgeting, and marketing. He said that she had learned a lot of ways to connect with Cedar Hills residents as a part of her real estate business. He said this decision was very close for him, but that he gave a slight edge to Ms. McEwen because he knew her personally.

C. Geddes said when he started thinking about the City Council there had previously been some contention and division over issues, such as the golf course. He felt as though they were over

that. When he decided he was going to get into politics he ran on the platform that he was a solid choice because he made solid decisions. He said he liked Ms. Ellison because of her experience. Before he ran for office, he had only been on the resident's side of politics arguing subdivision and land use issues. He felt Ms. Ellison had more experience in that way and would be a terrific asset to the community. He said he also like Ms. McEwen and knew her personally. Because of this, he was going to vote for Ms. McEwen.

C. Smith agreed it was really a tough decision. For her, she said it just came down to what each councilmember's lynch pin was. For her that was experience. She thought that Ms. McEwen did have a lot of the collaborative components that were expressed and knew the city well. For her, Ms. Ellison was set apart because she had campaigned before and had worked with an extensive budget and board. She said there were so many nuances and rules, that it was nice to have a candidate who already knew them. Because of this, if she had to pick one candidate, it would be Ms. Ellison.

C. Ellsworth said it was pretty much a toss-up. He felt similarly to C. Smith in terms of experience and time in the city. He felt the experience of having served on boards and committees that used similar rules as the City Council was important. Because of this, he was leaning towards Ms. Ellison over Ms. McEwen. He said he could not say it enough, it was not an easy decision. He had nothing but respect and admiration for both applicants.

Mayor Andersen asked Craig Hall, City Attorney, if the decision needed to be made by a motion or if they could do a roll call, where each councilmember indicated the candidate they were inclined to select.

Craig Hall, City Attorney, said that it would be appropriate and best if it were done by motion and he provided a sample of what that motion could be.

MOTION: C. Ellsworth—To appoint Laura Ellison as a City Councilmember of Cedar Hills, effective upon swearing in, to fulfill the remainder of the City Council term ending January 4, 2022. Seconded by C. Smith. Roll Call Vote.

Yes	-	C. Ellsworth	
		C. Smith	
No	-	C. Geddes	
		C. Miller	Tie Vote.

Mayor Andersen stated that the vote was a tie: two yes and two no votes. She said this was exactly the situation she did not want it to come down to. She also shared that this was the exact same situation as when she was appointed to the Council. She said her vote was to appoint Laura Ellison as a City Councilmember. This vote made a three two vote, adding Laura Ellison as the new city councilmember of Cedar Hills.

C. Miller stated it was an embarrassment of riches at Cedar Hills with the quality of people present. They were a very educated, successful community. He thanked all the applicants and said he hoped to see them involved at any level.

C. Geddes said that despite not voting for Ms. Ellison, he supported her completely. He added they were lucky to have so many good people.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned 9:02 p.m. on a motion by C. Smith, seconded by C. Geddes, and unanimously approved.

Approved by Council:
March 16, 2021

/s/ Colleen A. Mulvey, MMC
City Recorder