

January 12, 2021

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

Council-Manager Form of Government

Special Meeting – 6:00 PM

(Secretary's Note: Due to the COVID-19 crisis and state and local orders to remain safer at home and not gather, all Councilmembers, staff, and citizens attended the meeting remotely, via teleconference.)

● **CALL TO ORDER**

City Manager Atteberry stated there were no changes to the published agenda.

Mayor Troxell outlined the public participation options.

● **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Pignataro, Gorgol, Gutowsky, Summers, Troxell, Cunniff
STAFF: Atteberry, Daggett, Coldiron

● **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. **Items Relating to a Small Business Relief Program to be Administered and Distributed by the City's Economic Health Office in Cooperation with Larimer County. (Adopted on First Reading)**

- A. *Resolution 2021-006, Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City and Larimer County for Funding and Administration of a Small Business Relief Program.*
- B. *First Reading of Ordinance No. 017, 2021, Appropriating Unanticipated Revenue in the General Fund for a Small Business Relief Program to be Administered and Distributed by the Economic Health Office.*

The purpose of this item is for Council to consider an ordinance appropriating unanticipated revenue to operate a Small Business Relief program and a resolution authorizing a related agreement describing the administration and distribution of the funds with Larimer County. The Colorado legislature, in special session in December, passed Senate Bill 20B-001 (SB20B-001) setting aside over \$37 million for direct relief payments to small businesses located in eligible Counties, which businesses include restaurants, bars, movie theaters, and fitness and recreational sports centers.

Josh Birks, Economic Health and Redevelopment Director, stated this item involves two actions that would enable a new business support program. The first action would consider a resolution authorizing an intergovernmental agreement between the City and Larimer County for funding and administration of the new Small Business Relief Program. The second action would consider First Reading of an Ordinance appropriating unanticipated revenue into the General Fund to fund the Program and have the Economic Health Office manage the distribution and administration of the Program.

Birks discussed the State Statute that outlines the specific industries eligible for assistance under this Program. He noted Larimer County is in the queue to receive its allocation on January 15 and the cities of Fort Collins, Loveland, and Estes Park will be hub partners charged with distribution to businesses in all areas of the County. He discussed the application process and eligibility requirements for businesses and stated there are three tiers of assistance. Birks noted the hubs will meet on January 29 to finalize the number of eligible businesses and determine payment amount by tier. All funds must be distributed by February 12 per state statute.

Councilmember Pignataro noted the application period has already started and asked about outreach to businesses. Birks replied the outreach is similar to that undertaken for the Small Business Assistance Program and includes social media, print ads, and reliance on partners such as the Chamber of Commerce and other business and merchant associations.

Councilmember Gutowsky asked if there is a maximum number of applications that can be received and how each application will be vetted. Birks replied there is not a maximum number of applications, though there are only so many businesses in the county with a revenue of less than \$2.5 million, which is the maximum for this Program. He outlined the planned process for completing the eligibility analysis, meeting with the other hub partners to determine how many businesses across the County have been certified by tier, and then completing the math to determine each allocation. He stated the hubs have agreed to prefer to maximize assistance to smaller businesses.

Councilmember Gorgol commended door-to-door efforts for contacting businesses. She asked if staff would provide assistance to businesses with the application and proof of income loss process noting the tight timeline. Birks replied a template to prove income loss has been provided in the application and members of the Economic Health team are available to provide technical assistance. He stated opening the application process on January 6 was done to give businesses ample time to apply and outreach is occurring for incomplete applications.

Mayor Pro Tem Cunniff made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Pignataro, to adopt Resolution 2021-006.

Mayor Troxell stated this is a good news item and thanked Birks and the Economic Health Office for their work and proactive approach.

Mayor Pro Tem Cunniff agreed this is a good news item and thanked Larimer County for leading the effort.

RESULT:	RESOLUTION 2021-006 ADOPTED ON FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ross Cunniff, District 5
SECONDER:	Susan Gutowsky, District 1
AYES:	Pignataro, Gorgol, Gutowsky, Summers, Troxell, Cunniff

Mayor Pro Tem Cunniff made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gutowsky, to adopt Ordinance No. 017, 2021, on First Reading.

RESULT:	ORDINANCE NO. 017, 2021 ADOPTED ON FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ross Cunniff, District 5
SECONDER:	Susan Gutowsky, District 1
AYES:	Pignataro, Gorgol, Gutowsky, Summers, Troxell, Cunniff

2. **Resolution 2021-007 Making an Appointment to Fill a Vacancy for Councilmember for District 4 on the Fort Collins Council. (Adopted)**

The purpose of this item is for Council to make an appointment to fill the vacant District 4 Council seat. Mayor Pro Tem Kristin Stephens tendered her resignation from the Council effective December 31, 2020, as a result of her recent election to the office of Larimer County Commissioner.

City Clerk Coldiron stated tonight's meeting allows for public comment on the applicants, for applicants to address Council, and for Council to make its selection for an individual to fill the vacant District 4 Council seat. She noted the read-before packet contained over 100 emails supporting various candidates and she stated three emails were received after the packet went out, all in support of Dr. Melanie Potyondy.

Deagan Bartels endorsed Jessica Dyrdaahl for the vacant Council seat.

Anya Blank endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Paula Cole endorsed Erin Hottenstein for the vacant Council seat.

Dustin Noden endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Ben Randall endorsed Jessica Dyrdaahl for the vacant Council seat.

Tara Gross endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Helen Castro endorsed Jessica Dyrdaahl for the vacant Council seat.

Sally Harris endorsed Erin Hottenstein for the vacant Council seat.

Kris Odenbaugh endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Dr. Melanie Potyondy thanked Councilmembers for the time they have devoted to the Council vacancy process and thanked City Clerk Coldiron and Chief Deputy City Clerk Knoll for their patience and assistance in the process.

Dana Winkelman endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Patty Mogorit endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Karen Artell endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Christian Dickson endorsed Jessica Dyrdaahl for the vacant Council seat.

Sidna Rachid stated she would be the best choice to fill the vacant Council seat due to her accounting and budgeting background.

Greg Thomas thanked Council for their hard work and endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Georgiana Jones endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Alison Coatman endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Don Heyse endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Midora Hisby endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Alex Blank endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Kira Beckham endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Ali Razza endorsed Jessica Dyrdaahl for the vacant Council seat.

Donna Boudreaux endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Ken Forsythe endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Shirley Peel thanked Council for its commitment to the process of filling the vacant seat.

Phil Jensen stated he is a candidate and thanked Council for its work on this process; he endorsed Dr. Melanie Potyondy for the vacant Council seat.

Veronica Olivas thanked Council for the time and consideration put toward this effort and stated she would like to serve on Council.

William Wright thanked Council for the opportunity to be a candidate and commended the way the interviews were handled.

Erin Hottenstein thanked Council for the thoroughness of the process and stated she is looking forward to the opportunity to serve on Council.

Jessica Dyrdaahl thanked Council for the process and for its support of the Small Business Relief Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Cunniff thanked the applicants and commended their spirit of public service.

Mayor Troxell concurred and noted the requirement of selecting only one does not diminish the qualifications of the others.

Councilmember Summers expressed appreciation for the interest of the candidates and spoke in favor of appointing Erin Hottenstein. He also noted speaking in favor of one candidate does not mean the others are not qualified.

Mayor Pro Tem Cunniff stated Dr. Melanie Potyondy is at the top of his list for the appointment due to her comments on environmental sustainability. He also noted voters in District 4 will be able to make their own selection in April.

Councilmember Pignataro thanked the candidates and expressed support for the candidates who reached out individually to the current Councilmembers and for those whose priorities most align with those of former Mayor Pro Tem Stephens.

Councilmember Gutowsky expressed support for Dr. Melanie Potyondy citing her support of education issues and advocacy at the state level.

Councilmember Gorgol thanked the citizens for their engagement in this process and thanked the candidates for their effort.

Councilmember Gorgol made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gutowsky, to adopt Resolution 2021-007.

Mayor Troxell commended the candidates and added the names of Jessica Dyrdaahl and Shirley Peel to the general discussion already including Erin Hottenstein and Dr. Melanie Potyondy.

Councilmember Gorgol made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Gutowsky, to amend the motion placing the name of Dr. Melanie Potyondy in the Resolution.

Mayor Pro Tem Cunniff stated he would support the motion.

Councilmember Pignataro stated she would support the motion but noted that does not diminish the qualifications of the other candidates.

Councilmember Gutowsky stated she would support the motion as well and commented on her short list being created based on those who contacted her individually.

Councilmember Summers commented on the various qualifications and commitment of the candidates.

Mayor Troxell thanked the candidates, particularly those who reached out individually. He noted, in full disclosure, that Dr. Melanie Potyondy's husband is employed by the City Attorney's Office and appropriate conflict of interest regulations would be followed if she is appointed.

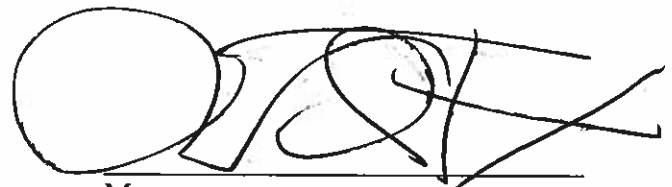
Councilmember Summers congratulated Dr. Melanie Potyondy and stated his vote should not be perceived as being against her but rather as an indication of how difficult this decision has been.

Mayor Troxell noted the oath of office will be given at the January 19 meeting.

RESULT:	RESOLUTION 2021-007 ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Emily Gorgol, District 6
SECONDER:	Susan Gutowsky, District 1
AYES:	Pignataro, Gorgol, Gutowsky, Summers, Troxell, Cunniff
ABSENT:	Stephens

● **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

