

A Meeting of the Meridian City Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2020, by Mayor Robert Simison.

Members Present: Robert Simison, Joe Borton, Luke Cavener, Treg Bernt, Jessica Perreault, Brad Hoaglun and Liz Strader.

Also present: Chris Johnson, Bill Nary, Bruce Freckleton, Shawn Harper, Brian Caldwell, Joe Bongiorno, Scott Warren, Charlie Butterfield and Dean Willis.

**ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liz Strader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Borton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Hoaglun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treg Bernt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Perreault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luke Cavener
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor Robert E. Simison	

Simison: Council, I will call this meeting to order. For the record it is November 17, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. We will begin this afternoon's meeting with roll call attendance.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Simison: Next item is the adoption of the agenda.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: I move that we adopt the agenda as published.

Hoaglun: Mr. Mayor, I second the motion.

Simison: Motion and second to adopt the agenda as published. Any discussion on the motion? If not, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it and the agenda is adopted.

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

**CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]**

- 1. Approve Minutes of the October 27, 2020 City Council Work Session**
- 2. Approve Minutes of the October 27, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting**
- 3. Approve Minutes of the November 4, 2020 City Council Regular**

## **Meeting**

- 4. Cherry Blossom Place Sanitary Sewer Easement No. 1**
- 5. Cherry Blossom Place Sanitary Sewer Easement No. 2**
- 6. Cherry Blossom Place Sanitary Sewer Easement No. 3**
- 7. Gem Prep Meridian Water Main Easement No. 1**
- 8. Inglewood Place Subdivision No. 1 Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Easement No. 1**
- 9. Stapleton No. 1 Pedestrian Pathway Easement**
- 10. Stokesberry Subdivision No. 2 Water Main Easement**
- 11. Final Plat for Linder Village (FP-2020-0004) by CSHQA, Located at 1407 W. Chinden Blvd.**
- 12. Final Order for Edington Commons No. 1 (FP-2020-0005) by Conger Group, Generally Located on the East Side of N. Linder Rd., North of W. Ustick Rd.**
- 13. Final Order for Movado No. 9 (H-2020-0006) by DevCo, LLC, Located Approximately ¼ Mile South of E. Overland Rd. on the West Side of S. Cloverdale Rd.**
- 14. Final Order for Quartet Northeast No. 1 (FP-2020-0003) by Kody Daffer of Brighton Development, Located on the East Side of N. Black Cat Rd., 1/4 Mile South of W. McMillan Rd.**
- 15. Final Order for Shelburne South No. 1 (FP-2020-0001) by Ian Connair of KimleyHorn & Associates, Located on the North Side of E. Amity Rd. Midway Between S. Eagle Rd. and S. Cloverdale Rd.**
- 16. Final Order for Shelburne South No. 2 (FP-2020-0002) by Ian Connair of KimleyHorn & Associates, Located on the North Side of E. Amity Rd. Midway Between S. Eagle Rd. and S. Cloverdale Rd.**
- 17. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for East Ridge (H-2020-0096) by Devco Development, LLC, Located North of E. Lake Hazel Rd. Between S. Locust Grove Rd. and S. Eagle Rd.**
- 18. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for Gateway at 10 Mile (H-2020-0046) by GFI-Meridian Investments III, LLC, Located at the Northeast**

**Corner of N. Ten Mile Rd. and W. Franklin Rd.**

- 19. Development Agreement Between the City of Meridian and Clint Hansen and Vincent Blommer (Owners) and Land Solutions (Developer) for 1625 E. Bentley Dr.**
- 20. Irrigation Crossing Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation at the Jamison Lateral For The Ada County Highway District-Amity/Ten Mile Water Main Extension Project**
- 21. License Agreement Between City of Meridian and ProBuild, LLC for Meridian Police Department K9 Training**
- 22. Temporary Construction Easement Granted from City of Meridian to Ada County Highway District (ACHD) for City Property Located at Locust Grove and Time Zone Road**

Simison: Next item is our Consent Agenda.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: I move that we approve the Consent Agenda, for the Mayor to sign and for the Clerk to attest.

Hoaglun: Mr. Mayor, I second the motion.

Simison: I have a motion and a second to approve the Consent Agenda. Is there any discussion on the motion? If not, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it and the Consent Agenda is agreed to.

**MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.**

**ITEMS MOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]**

Simison: There are no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

**DEPARTMENT / COMMISSION REPORTS [Action Item]**

- 23. Parks and Recreation Department: Fiscal Year 2021 Net-Zero Budget Amendment Regarding Lakeview Golf Course Master Plan, Irrigation Audit, and Water Rights**

Simison: So, we will move into our Department/Commission Reports. The first item up is from our Parks and Recreation Department, which is the fiscal year 2020 budget

amendment regarding Lakeview Golf Course. I will turn this over to Mr. Barton.

Barton: Good afternoon, Mayor, Council Members. We are bringing forward a budget amendment for 65,000 dollars that will fund a master plan for operations, an irrigation audit, and some water right research for Lakeview Golf Course. This amount has -- will be fully reimbursed by the Western Ada Recreation District according to the agreement that was signed in August and I will stay for any questions if you have them.

Simison: Thank you, Mr. Barton. Council, any questions? If not, do I have a motion?

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor, is the resolution supposed to be on here or -- it shows the Item 23 in presentation, but we don't have the resolution.

Nary: It should just be the document that's --

Hoaglund: Okay. So, we are good then. Yes. Mr. Mayor, I have a motion.

Simison: Okay. Councilman Hoaglund.

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor, I move approval of the Parks and Recreation Department fiscal year 2021 net zero budget amendment regarding our Lakeview Golf Course master plan, irrigation audit, and water rights.

Strader: Second.

Simison: I have a motion and a second. Do we need to state the dollar figure, even though it is net zero what the actual spending authority is?

Nary: Mr. Mayor, you probably should do that, yes.

Simison: Okay.

Hoaglund: The actual spending authority on this item is 65,000. Was there any change in that? I don't have that up right here. I will pull it up real --

Barton: Mr. Mayor and Council Members, 65,000 is the correct amount.

Simison: There is no change on it? It's a flat 65,000?

Hoaglund: Okay. Mr. Mayor, included in my motion is that it is in the amount of 65,000 dollars.

Simison: Does second concur?

Strader: Agreed.

Simison: Okay. We have a motion and a second to approve the budget amendment in the amount of 65,000 dollars. Is there any discussion on the motion? If not, Clerk will call the roll.

Roll call: Bernt, yea; Borton, yea; Cavener, yea; Hoaglun, yea; Strader, yea; Perreault, yea.

Simison: All ayes and the item is agreed to.

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

Simison: Mr. Mayor, before we move on --

Simison: Yes, Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: I just wanted to make a quick announcement, since we are on Lakeview Golf Course. Tomorrow at noon there will be a virtual town hall to discuss and Q&A different things in regard to Lakeview and that transition. So, anyone out there listening know that tomorrow at noon there is a virtual town hall and the link can be found on our city website. Thank you.

#### **24. Fire Department: Citizen Recognition for Briana Petersen and Presentation of Donation to Meridian Food Bank**

Simison: Thank you, Councilman Bernt. Next item on the agenda, Item 24, is the Fire Department citizen recognition for Briana Petersen. With that I'm going to turn this over to Deputy Chief Joe Bongiorno.

Bongiorno: Mayor and City Council. Can you guys hear me today? Awesome. So, we are here today to honor this young lady that's sitting here behind me, Briana. We have an award that we are going to give her tonight, the making a difference in the community award. In September of 2020 Meridian Fire Engine 32 was out finishing up some in industry training and noticed a young girl sitting on the side of the street with her dog. This ten year old's name was Briana Petersen. She had set up a small lemonade stand. After Engine 32 was done with their training they circled back around to find Briana is still -- still there. They decided to stop and get a cookie and a cup of lemonade from her. When talking with her she said that she was trying to earn some money to save up for a few things that she wanted to buy and that all of her tips that she was getting was going to go to the homeless. Around this time one of the Ada County Sheriff's officers was returning home from work and he, too, stopped to buy a cookie and some lemonade from Briana. Engine 32's crew was really touched as to why she was selling lemonade and cookies. Amidst all the crazy things going on right now, she had the compassion to not only show dedication in trying to earn some money, but to think about others and wanting to help the homeless. It is people like this that do great things in our community, state and nation. She showed -- she showed selflessness and love to others as she set out to -- to help earn money for a stranger that had nothing. She might have had made -- she

might have made even a few firefighters and police officer's day with some refreshing lemonade and cookies. She set an example to many in such a small and simple way. What a big heart she has. So, with that I would like to ask Captain Warren to come forward and he's going to present Briana with her award.

Warren: Mayor, Council. Briana. We have got a couple of things here for you. I just want to let you know that we were very touched when you were selling your lemonade and your cookies and it really meant a lot to us and just your thought of wanting to help the homeless and be there was really -- really meant a lot. So, it just shows that even somebody can make a big difference in the world, even at -- you're ten; right? Eleven?

Petersen: Eleven.

Warren: Eleven years old. Okay. So, we want to give you this right here, making a difference community service award, with your name on it from the Meridian Fire Department. It's a little certificate there. And, then, in addition to we have a nice little plaque that you can hang -- or you can put into your room with your name on it and from the City of Meridian as well. There you go.

Petersen: Thank you.

Warren: You're welcome.

Bongiorno: Mayor, Council, in addition to the things that we have seen with -- with Briana, we as a union and as Local 467 were -- were touched with that story as well, and because Briana showed some dedication even at her young age and wanted to help those within our community, we, too, wanted to show our gratitude towards our community as well. Grateful for Briana showing that example, we also want to do a presentation. So, I will have Dan from the Meridian Food Bank, if you wouldn't mind coming up here and on -- on behalf of the Meridian Local 467 -- and my understanding is Briana has actually helped at the food bank quite a bit in the past and showed some -- some -- some awesome characteristics of just being a great person there -- Local 467 would like to present the Meridian Food Bank with a thousand dollar check to help our community, because we know that during this time of the year, with the holidays, with Thanksgiving, with Christmas and with our COVID and some of the pandemic that's going on, that there has been -- been definitely a need that's out there and so we hope that this will help at least a little bit with you guys and so we appreciate that.

Clark: Thank you.

Simison: Council, all I can say is wow on both -- on both accounts, about what our employees and our community members do to help one another and during this time of the year with everything going on with COVID, that's nice to see the positive news that we often don't see reported in the media. So, with this I will say thank you to everybody, including Briana. Council -- I don't know if anyone on Council has any statements they would like to make. I'm sure they do.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: Briana, congratulations and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for just your big heart and your contrite spirit and for everything that you are doing in your life right now to prepare you for -- for your awesome future. These little acts of kindness that you have shown that prepare you and others just -- and help others and -- and we are so grateful for -- for that and -- and grateful for your mom that's here. I assume that's your sister or your friend. Great job and thank you for all you do.

Simison: All right.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I just want to say I think kids show us the way sometimes and what an inspiration you are, Briana. Thank you.

Simison: Councilman Cavener, I see you are unmuted. I don't know if you want to --

Cavener: Oh, sure. Thanks, Mr. Mayor. I want to echo what my colleagues said. Briana, talk about setting a catalyst and kind of a big snowball for our community moving forward and, you know, as Meridian gets bigger people always hear -- and I heard this this week is I -- I miss the Meridian that I knew as a kid and I knew the Meridian in the past. Well, what we saw today was that same spirit of Meridian from the past, the present, and, hopefully, the future of someone who cares about serving, helping others, stepping up that causes another group to step up and serve and so thanks for leading the way and it has really been a great example of our community. It makes me proud.

Simison: All right. Thank you very much. Briana, you are welcome to stay for the rest of this meeting if you are so inclined or -- however you would like to spend the rest of your afternoon is okay with us. Thank you.

## **25. Fire Department Annual Report**

Simison: Okay. Next item on the agenda is our Fire Department annual report and with that I will turn this back over deputy chief.

Bongiorno: Okay. We will wait for Chris to come back and put my presentation up. He's running all over the place.

Borton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Mr. Borton.

Borton: Just -- just real briefly, Joe -- before Joe begins. Hats off to you, Joe, and our department for recognizing that, too. We appreciate you taking the time -- not only to stop by and buy some lemonade and cookies, because you got big hearts, but also to know how important it is to take the time to do what you are doing, to come forward and bring this young adult here to be celebrated. So, it just shows us that the department still has the eye on the important stuff and -- and just really appreciate you taking the time to -- to share this story with us and with everyone who might be watching online. Don't ever stop recognizing the folks that go the extra mile in our community. So, thanks for doing that.

Bongiorno: Yeah. Not a problem. It was -- Mr. Mayor and Councilman Borton, it was totally the engine company that -- that brought this to our attention and Captain Warren definitely gets kudos for that one. But one hundred percent agree with -- with everything you just said. And with that I will go ahead and start. So, I got tapped to do the annual report for the Fire Department. So, we will run through this real quick. Maybe. We are working on it here. There we go. All right. Oh, look, Lieutenant Harper is here. How convenient. So, some quick glances of what we are going to cover tonight. We will cover operations, prevention, public education. We will talk about -- a little bit about the city survey cards that we get back. We will talk about our social media and our public outreach. A little bit on EMS. A little bit on logistics and, then, we will talk about the future with the Fire Department. Some numbers, because we all love numbers. So, for our last year average emergent response times per station -- and that's chute time and travel time combined. So, Station One was six minutes and 24 seconds. Station Two was six minutes and 12 seconds. Station Three was six minutes and six seconds. Station Four seven minutes and two seconds. Station Five was six minutes and 34 seconds. And Station Six was six minutes and 18 seconds. Those are our average times for each fire station for a total response time. What the responses -- we had over 7,700 total responses and out of those 60 percent of the calls were EMS calls and 40 percent were fire related of some sort. Looking at the days of the week, usually Monday at around 5:00 o'clock, 6:00 o'clock is the worst time to be out anywhere and that seems to be when most of our calls come in is that time of the day -- and day. A lot of people think that firefighters just sleep all night and this graph proves that from midnight to 6:00 o'clock in the morning we are still running calls. So, that one has been proved false. Our personnel report for our go around -- so, this last go around we had -- we hired one new lateral firefighter medic, Firefighter Schlepmo. He's been a great addition to the department. He's been doing great work, great things for the department, and we are pretty proud of him. We have had three promotions. We promoted J.D. to division chief of EMS. We had one promotion to captain, one promotion to engineer. And, then, looking at our staff, we had a lot of service recognitions this year. We had five -- or two -- two employees that at five years, four employees at ten years, 11 employees at 15 years, two employees at 20 and one employee that had 25 years of service. So, we are pretty proud of -- of the longevity that we have with our employees. I believe Kenny Bowers still holds the record for the longest serving with the department at the moment. On the prevention side, looking at inspections, obviously, with COVID this year our inspection numbers are down. We only accomplished 2,687 inspections. We had almost 3,000 last year. So, we are down about 585 inspections. When we were doing the inspections we found we had 1,173 violations. The most common were sprinkler systems that were out of compliance, housekeeping



issues, and exit signs not working. So, the bulk of those have been resolved. Along with that I also do solar panel reviews. Solar -- the solar business has been very popular lately. I'm actually at 191 plan reviews for this year doing solar panel installs throughout the city. With compliance engine is where we get a lot of our information on sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, and fire pumps. We had 2,409 submitted reports from all of our sprinkler companies in the valley. Eighty-six percent of those that came in were compliant. We do have some cost recovery built into that that we did a couple years ago. To date we have had \$23,829.30 as part of our cost recovery and that cost recovery was going to help fund the third inspector that we are -- we are waiting on. On the fire inspections -- fire investigation side, fires were down this year. We investigated 40 fires last year and we only had 28 this year and that could either be a vehicle fire or a house fire. On pub ed we all know Pam Orr does an awesome job running our pub ed division, along with Christie and Judy and the other gals up in the office that helped with her -- help her and also Herb. Car seat inspections. They have done 200 -- they did 222 last year. We provided 36 car seats to people that could not afford them. On the hands only CPR classes, we did 13, with 530 attendees. And, then, the big one is our safety classes. They did 234 safety classes with 20,413 attendees. Obviously, a lot of these were done before COVID, so we had a lot of people that were able to attend and we did a lot of online stuff as well. Home -- homes visited for smoke alarms. We visited 552 homes and we had eight CPR classes where they were certified with 54 attendees that were certified. So, despite the challenges that were given out with COVID, the pub ed division is still trying to do what they can with training. So, they are still working hard on doing CPR classes. We have been thinking way outside the box of how we can still help our citizens and get CPR out there to each other -- to the citizens and help also with our -- our smoke detector programs as well. So, it's been a little bit of a challenge. The public has been trying to get, you know, us to help with events and stuff and, obviously, we can't, but what Pam has been doing has been putting together packets to send out to celebratory events and stuff. So, Pam has been very busy during this COVID time, again, looking outside the box, trying to figure out how we can still reach the citizens. One of those ways with -- with all the stuff that we have been doing out -- reaching out to everybody, we have been getting a lot of feedback from the citizens. On our cards that have been coming back on the operation side a hundred percent met -- met expectations, 86 percent exceeded expectations. On the prevention side, with the inspections we -- we at least met expectations and 75 percent of them exceeded expectations and, then, with the public education programs almost all of them met expectations at least, but at least 88 percent of them succeeded expectations. So, we have had a lot of comment cards returned. As a matter of fact, I just found one in my inbox today. Pam went out on her day off and changed somebody's smoke detector batteries for them. She went above and beyond what was called to help this person out on her day off. So, really proud of her and her program what she's been doing. With public outreach, our website and Facebook, very popular. So, we have been working with Stephanie on how we can reach out to the public and, again, that's part of the stepping outside the box, seeing what we can do to get our message out to the public and so we have our Facebook, we have 7,524 followers and, then, on Twitter we have 1,700 people following on Twitter. And, then, as we all know Meridian has a huge NextDoor following as well. So, we get a lot of data through NextDoor also. And, then, Stephanie has been working a lot with myself and with

Pam on public outreach with news stories. So, we have been working with Channel 2, KTVB, Daily Dispatch, whoever to work with getting earned media stories. So, we had 12 stories that Meridian Fire Department pitched to the media and they ran our stories for us. So, pretty proud of that. One of the big ones -- I'm kind of right in the middle of the picture there. That was the Fourth of July when we were talking about firework safety. That was a joint effort we did with Boise Fire Department. So, again, we try and join forces whenever we can with all the other departments in the valley to try and get one general message out to everybody. COVID, obviously, is -- is high on everyone's mind. J.D. has been working hard on that, along with myself. Collaboration. Collaboration. Collaboration. Hundreds of hours of meetings attended with our access partner agencies. They developed the countywide infectious disease program and countywide guidance on PPE usage while on emergency scene. You can see the spikes that we are in right now. The -- the media's been -- been talking about it. The Mayor has been talking about it in his messages. So, this is nothing new here. But one thing that we are proud of is that PPE shows that it works. So, to date we have had more than 18,000 cases in Ada county. Our EMS partners and the Fire Department has had thousands of interactions with COVID positive patients and to date we have only had two known cases of EMTs or paramedics becoming infected, so as a -- as a result of patient interaction and I know one of them, they weren't wearing proper PPE. So, all the other cases our masks, our gloves, and everything that we are doing is working and so -- so that's a good -- a good point. Our logistics division has been very busy. Justin's in charge of all of our apparatus, fire stations, and everything that goes on in them and around them. Some logistics -- significant events this year. Station Six was completed and opened under budget. We were about 176,000 dollars under budget when it opened. Stations One and -- One, Two and Three all received new flooring. We took out carpet and put in hard -- you know, hard surface floors that also helps with the spread of disease, you know, that might get trapped in the carpets and stuff like that. We have the apparatus bay at Station Two was repainted. The training tower roof fixed. We bought some -- replaced some heavy lifting equipment -- airbags on -- on the truck. Replaced all the Knox box that's the -- the key holders in the fleet. We had a rash of about six months where they all just started to fail, one after another, so we had to end up replacing them all. They completed 28,000 feet of fire hose testing, 679 feet of ladders, and 50 SCBA, 80 SCBA regulators and they hydro -- hydro tested 157 SCBA bottles. So, Justin's crew was very busy. One of the big things that we -- that he accomplished also was the spec for the new ladder truck and I have a picture of it here in a second. We purchased and placed into service a new public education vehicle. Very thankful for that. Annual pump testing of the fleet new apparatus and check system called Check It, all electronic, you use an iPad to do the daily inspection of the vehicles. Works really awesome. We will talk about the ladder truck again. We are starting in on the design of Station Seven and Eight. We are going to be looking at new flooring in Stations Four and Five. We are converting all the exterior lighting, which has the old mercury vapor lights, to LED at fire stations. Doing some burn room tile repairs. And, then, add 911 status monitors to all the stations. So, this is a -- the blueprint of what the new truck will look like. The cost was roughly 1.3 million dollars. That's a hundred foot platform, similar to what we have. The estimated completion date for that will be November of 2021. Coming down to the end. Obviously, one of the biggest things for me to talk about as a fire marshal is strategic growth. I know City Council, as you all

know, growth is happening in our -- in our little city. When I got here Eagle Road was two lanes and there were stop signs on it everywhere. So, in my time here we have changed considerably. So, this is a screenshot that I took just as of last week and, obviously, you can see in the north -- northwest area along Chinden, Highway 16 area, we have a lot of growth going on. Same in the southeast area out there at Amity, Lake Hazel, and Victory area. We have a lot of growth going on out there. So, with those, if we look at our current response areas, with Stations One through Six, each station is a color and, then, if you look at our reliability rating is one of the other things that we look at when we are doing this growth, Station One has a reliability of 70 percent. Station 32 has a reliability of 85 percent. Station Three has a reliability of 78. Station Four, 78. Station Five is 84. And Station 36, which this is the first time we have had data for 36, their reliability rating right now is 87 percent. So, as this growth continues, the reliability rating is going to be dropping. Our big concerns are, obviously, those two areas that I mentioned before, the northwest and the southeast. Because 34 -- they are stretched pretty thin. They have a very large area that they are covering and on top of it Boise Engine Station 14, which is their teammate, if you want to call it, their reliability rating is just the same as 34's. So, when you have two fire stations that are right next to each other with the same reliability rating, that leaves a pretty big hole in that area. So, with that if we look at our response areas when we get Station Seven and Eight built, you can see those areas would be covered. So, the pink area up in the top left would be Station Seven or Eight, depending on how Council decides to go with -- move forward, but that area would be definitely covered. I happen to live in that pink area or I will here come March and my house sits outside the five minute response time area. So, I'm going to go buy myself a firetruck and park in my front yard. And, then, the mint green on the bottom of the photo is where Station Eight would be covering and, obviously, out there -- The Keep is a beautiful area. The plans are starting to come in for those houses. We are looking at so far six to ten thousand square foot houses being built out there. So, yes, there is water out there, but just houses that big is a -- is a big concern, not to mention all the other growth that wants to go on out there. So, our ask is to continue with Station Seven and Eight to be continued to be planned and move forward because the growth isn't stopping. I just got the plans for the southeast -- southeast corner -- no, southwest corner of Franklin and Ten Mile and, again, it's huge -- huge developments, not to mention the -- the one that Brighton is going to be doing as well. So, we have a lot of very large developments coming and we are going to need the help. With that I will end my presentation and I'm open for any questions.

Simison: Thank you, Deputy Chief. Council, any questions? And just so you are aware, I did not speak to him before he gave his presentation. So, that was all their own doing.

Bongiorno: No, we did not.

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor, I was just trying to remember --

Simison: Councilman Hoaglund.

Hoaglund: -- Chief Bongiorno, adding the 911 status monitor to all those stations, what --

what did that entail? What -- what benefit does that give us?

Bongiorno: The status monitors was -- that was just a -- it's a big television screen with a little thumb computer in them and that allows the -- the captains to see what's happening in the city with just a quick look.

Hoaglun: Okay.

Bongiorno: So, that's what the -- they are monitoring for. They were very inexpensive to -- to put into the stations.

Hoaglun: Thank you.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: Thanks, chief. I appreciate your presentation. One question. Refresh my memory. I don't remember. What station is getting the new ladder truck?

Bongiorno: This -- the ladder truck that has been ordered is a replacement. Our current ladder truck I believe is 14 years old. So, it's going to replace the current one that we have. I believe in the ten year CIP we have an additional truck company that we will be looking for I think in -- I want to say three or four years.

Hoaglun: And follow up.

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: What are we going to do with the old one? Was it just going to be like a backup or --

Bongiorno: It will be reserve. Sorry. Council -- Mayor and Council Member Bernt, yes, that will be used as a backup and we actually get credit on our insurance rating having a backup apparatus for a truck. So, it will help us with our rating with the city.

Hoaglun: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Hoaglun.

Hoaglun: To point out to Councilman Bernt, that the chief did mention that he was going to park a fire truck in his --

Bongiorno: There you go.

Hoaglun: -- yard, so there you go.

Bongiorno: Yes. Park it right out in front of my house.

Bernt: That's a big garage, chief.

Bongiorno: Yes. I need a bigger garage for sure.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: Joe, thank you so much for your presentation this evening. I -- I'm very happy to hear that the number of responses to fires has gone down this year. Just curious your thoughts on that and, actually, somewhat surprised to hear that, considering more people were home and -- and a lot of house fires are caused from cooking and things like that. So, just wondering your thoughts on why we have had a decrease and how we can keep it that way.

Bongiorno: Mr. Mayor, Council Woman Perreault, that's -- that's a good question. I can't explain why there has been a drop. Very thankful that we have for sure. As the -- as the fire marshal my job is to prevent fires and to keep our crews safe from having to go into these fires, but, yes, people are being more safe and I think it's just going to be the point of pushing our message out to everybody about being safe. We are coming into turkey season and I know Stephanie has been working on turkey fryer fire education. Same thing the first couple years that those things really became popular, man, we had like six or seven of those fires and since we have been working with educating people those fires have pretty much dropped to nothing. So, I think it's -- it's a combination of education and people being home to actually notice if something's going on in their house. We get a lot of smoke scare calls, because they are home and they know that something is going on. So, I think that's part of it also is because they are home they are catching things before they turn into major catastrophes.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Thank you so much, Deputy Chief, for coming in. I guess a question I have -- Station Four feels like a pain point; right? It has the longest response time. Has reliability under 80 percent. I realize we are going to work on building a new fire station. We are a couple years out. Are there things that we are considering to help mitigate that? Can we staff that station up more? Would that help? Or just give me a flavor for how we are trying to adapt, you know, at that station to the challenge.

Bongiorno: Mr. Mayor, Council Woman Strader, I know we have -- we have been looking at doing the alternate response vehicle -- staffing some sort of an alternate response vehicle. Again in the future that was on our CIP to go along with -- mainly we are looking at Station One, because their reliability rating is the worst out of all of them. But that

vehicle could also be utilized to roam the neighborhood. So, if 34 was going out for training, they can go into that area and cover that area if needed. So, I know Chief Butterfield -- I'm not sure if he is on. I know he has been working on some -- some things that we can look at -- oh, there he is right there. There is Charlie. So, I will let Charlie jump in and see if he can't help answer that a little better than I can.

Simison: And, chief, before we -- you do that, if you could maybe talk to how Station Six has impacted that station as well over this first six months, if you have had any real data to show that. Chief Butterfield, go ahead.

Butterfield: Yeah. Good evening, everybody. Can you hear me okay? Okay. Great. Yes, I -- Station Six. I don't have the data in front of me, but we have had a great deal of improvement, especially in the reliability rate of Station One with the addition of Station Six. Station One, as Chief Bongiorno did mention, we did have a low reliability rate for a while -- it was getting I think down into the high 70s and Station Six has improved that immensely, allowing that ability for that apparatus at Station One to be in service more often for the calls that it needs to go on. Councilman Strader, for your comments on Station Four, it is a busy station. We are recognizing it is becoming more and more busy, especially with some of the extended living facilities in that particular area. Touchmark, for example, Station Four does go to Touchmark quite a bit. So, we are trying to look at reasons why that call volume is so high at Station Four, particularly in the assisted living facilities that do add up to that and so we are reaching out to the assisted living facilities that are increasing some of that call volume and seeing what we can do as partners with them in our community to lessen some of our responses from the fire service to those particular care centers and -- and by doing that we have -- we have really -- again, as partners in our community we have been -- we have been able to lessen some of our responses, keeping that fire apparatus in service for the more -- more critical responses that it needs to go to and so we will continue to evaluate, look at the data, look at the call places that that particular apparatus is going to and see if we can, through some preventative measures, lower the response times and lower the reliability rate and keep it in service more often.

Strader: Mr. Mayor, quick follow up.

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I guess I would be interested to hear -- perhaps in a future meeting, but how this alternate response vehicle might help with that situation and what the cost would be and how we could talk about that as an interim solution. Or what all the options are. It sounds like maybe we have a specific segment of the community that's causing a longer response time in that area, so --

Butterfield: That particular area, yes.

Strader: -- so, appreciate the follow up to try to figure out if -- if it's not a fire and it's something else, how we can respond. Thank you.

Simison: And if I could add, I think, you know, the data, chief, probably a year's look at data with a six month Station Six in service roughly.

Bongiorno: Yes.

Simison: And I think if we get a full year's worth of data from Station Six that maybe gives us even a better understanding about where all these stations truly are. I know you typically like to report -- our poll probably on an annual basis, but I would suggest maybe the fire department should poll after Station Six has been open for a year and look at what those response times and reliability is for that last year of service to have a -- at least a good benchmark, because if it's six months for one and a year for the others, six months can't pull those numbers down entirely, but they have, obviously, made an impact.

Bongiorno: Yeah. Mr. Mayor and Council, the numbers that I showed you earlier for Station Six were from opening until September. So, that was actually three months worth of data that we have gotten. So, the Mayor is one hundred percent correct.

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Thanks, Mr. Mayor. Deputy Chief, appreciate having you in front of us tonight and always enjoy having you on the City Council meetings. I really appreciate your insight and added information you share with us on our land use applications. I did have a question about your -- your presentation about past due inspections and I noticed that we had 500 and something that we are past due on and I'm just trying to wrap my head around what's -- what's causing that and if -- if the department has a recommendation to address that and resolve it and, then, one more question -- I recognize I'm throwing a lot at you. What those delays are doing impacting related to land use applications or that's slowing this down in any way else.

Bongiorno: Okay. Mr. Mayor and Councilman Cavener, as far as the inspections go, what -- what -- obviously, the big answer is COVID is why we are behind. The other reason that we are behind is staffing. I had requested a -- an inspector, which was approved, but, unfortunately, at this time we have not been able to fill it. So, once I get that other inspector and we can get the COVID numbers to help cooperate, we will be able to get out and do more inspections. We have been kind of keeping a tight leash on my inspectors, because we don't want them going out and, you know, getting themselves exposed and, then, at the same time there has been some -- obviously retirement homes, St. Luke's Hospital, we can't get into them because of the COVID and their own requirements that won't allow us in there. So, that's probably the biggest reason why. But since I took over as the fire marshal we have had a need for another inspector, because we have been behind and so with the growth that's coming we are -- we will -- once we get that position filled next year I hope to come back with some way better numbers. And, then, as far as -- go ahead. I'm sorry.

Cavener: No. I was going to say, yeah, it's -- it's -- it's definitely caused an eyebrow raise -- I mean where you have got ten percent less inspections this year from last year, but we are about 30 something percent behind. So, look forward to hearing the -- the positive results from that. Joe, how -- on average how past due are these? I mean is it -- have you just had to hit pause because of COVID or is it they are not past due, they are just behind schedule?

Bongiorno: Some are past due. I think the farthest I have that's out past us is maybe a year or two and, then, some of them we have had to hit the pause button, because we just couldn't get in there for one reason or another. And, then, obviously, some of our higher risk stuff we are still -- that -- that's -- that was my top priority was our high risk stuff, our hotels, churches, and stuff like that. It's still number one on my list, but some of the businesses we have had to just put the wait button on until we get some better COVID numbers or they will allow us in them. So, in the meantime I'm -- we are using the compliance engine to track some of the businesses to make sure that they are at least keeping up with their sprinkler systems and their fire alarm systems to keep their occupants and employees safe, because those I can look at the reports, make a couple phone calls, and I can write a violation without even having to step foot in their building. So, that -- that helps as well and I have actually been doing that for the last week.

Cavener: Thanks, chief.

Bongiorno: And, then, I'm sorry, you are going to have to ask the other half of your question.

Cavener: Well, it just -- and I will kind of give you the -- I'm trying to wrap my head around about the delays and -- and if that is impacting businesses from being able to move forward in any way, shape, or form. It doesn't sound like that's the case.

Bongiorno: Oh. Sorry. Mr. Mayor and Councilman Cavener, that is not the case. We are not -- we are not holding anybody up with anything. If somebody calls and has a need, we will go out and we will take care of it. Obviously, working with our partners and -- in the building department, you know, we were able to get Costco up and running in the middle of this pandemic. So, nothing has been held back, nothing's being delayed. What we have -- a couple of them with -- like our daycares, for example, what we ended up doing is, obviously, we didn't want to be there when there is 50 kids running around, so what we did is I modified the hours of my inspectors and they -- they have been going in either before they open in the morning or after they close at night to do the inspections, so that way we are lessening the impacts on the public and our inspectors themselves.

Simison: And, Councilman Cavener, just -- just to put a finer point, one of our inspectors was very high risk during COVID, which was not able to go out and actually perform inspections for a significant amount of time.

Bongiorno: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.



Cavener: Mr. Mayor. One, first, apology, it wasn't following good parliamentary procedure for me to step on your toes there.

Simison: No. You're good.

Cavener: And, two, I appreciate you providing that -- that perspective. I -- I think we are all in agreement, the health and safety of our employees are paramount and that's what I was trying to kind of wrap my head around, what -- what was slowing things down. So, I appreciate you putting that finer point on that.

Simison: Council, any further questions? Okay.

Bongiorno: Thank you, everybody. It was great to stand up here and see you all. Now I will go see you from my desk.

## **26. Partnership Agreement Between Meridian Police Department and Washington State University**

Simison: Thank you, deputy chief. Next up is Item 26, partnership agreement between Meridian Police Department and Washington State University. I will turn this over to Lieutenant Caldwell.

Caldwell: Mr. Mayor, Members of Council, good evening. So, we at the Police Department are looking to enter into a partnership with Washington State University Criminal Justice Department. Dr. David Makin and his team are conducting research in how police departments can best utilize officer body camera recordings to ensure that we are doing the best job possible and when they are talking about this, the approach that they are looking at is more of a holistic one. Not only are our officers doing the best job possible on calls, but is our training being as effective as possible. So, with this program we get to set the parameters of what they are looking for in our videos and we get to choose which videos we send them as well and so what we are really focusing on at this point in time is communication, on how are our officers communicating with our citizens here in Meridian. Now, I believe we do a great job communicating with our citizens and I believe we have a great relationship with them. We are always looking for ways to improve and do better. So, with that being said, the videos that we are going to send to WSU, if this partnership is approved, will be our use of force and traffic stop videos and so when they look at this they are going to be looking for certain parameters that we give them on how well that we are communicating with people in good situations and bad situations and in innocuous traffic stops where everything's happy and also an arrest and use of force situations where things aren't so happy. This is not going to be any cost to the city. It's a partnership in that we provide the video and they provide the research and they get to use the research they get for their papers at the university and with that I will stand for any questions.

Simison: Thank you, lieutenant. And, Council, this is scheduled to be -- I think on next week's agenda, an agreement, and we just wanted to give you a heads up about that

agreement before you saw, in case you had any questions either now or felt it necessary to follow up with the Police Department before that agreement comes forward. Are there any questions for lieutenant? Council Woman Strader?

Strader: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Will -- will we be able to see the research or the outcomes of the study?

Caldwell: Mr. Mayor, Council -- Council Woman Strader, yes, we will get copies of all the research and the results of said research prior to any publication and we also have the right to -- they won't use us as a city or our department in this without our express permission. The short answer to your question is, yes, we will get the results.

Strader: Thank you.

## **27. Mayor's Office: CARES Act Municipal Small Business Grant Program Update**

Simison: Council, any further questions? Okay. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Next item on the agenda is an update from the Mayor's office regarding CARES Act for Municipal Small Business Grant Program. Turn this over to Mr. Miles.

Miles: Good evening, Mayor and Council. Happy to be here with you. I will keep it brief. I know you have got some other things on the agenda. Share my screen here real quick with some information that I sent out yesterday as well. I have got the CARES Act Small Business Grants action item recommendation in front of you. As you will recall about, let's see, back in mid September the Council approved a million dollar allocate for the small business grant. I will give a little overview of the CARES Act funding to date, because I know there is -- it's always good to update on that and, then, look at the small business grants as well. As you see across the top there you can see that to date about 1.6 million dollars of CARES Act funding has been earmarked for expense by the city, leaving approximately 1.8 million dollars of funds aside. That 1.6 million dollars of earmarked funds includes the million dollars that Council approved for the small business grant program and that program in and of itself makes up roughly 60 percent of the CARES Act funding to date. You can see over on the left -- or, excuse me, on the right the business support programs, about a million dollars to the small business grant program, and the remainder of that to the Keeping Meridian Healthy initiative that's in partnership with the Meridian Chamber. So, that's a quick overview of the CARES Act funding in general and, then, the small business grant program, you can see the application, funding, and the number of applications at the bottom. As an update we received a total of 65 applications thus far. In fact, I think I saw three more that come in last night, up around 68 City of Meridian. The staff and the team have approved 37 of those. Seventeen of them are pending. Of those 37 that Meridian has approved, 25 of those have been approved by the state with 12 of them pending and, really, what we are seeing is a little bit of lag time between when the city team looks at an application, approves it, and gets it over to the state. The state is also taking some time to review those and approve them as well in alignment with the documentation that we provide. As

you can see on the bottom right, Meridian has approved roughly 320,000 dollars of that one million dollars funding and the state has approved 218,000 of that amount with about a hundred thousand dollars in delay between the states review -- just pending review at the state level. So, the recommendation before you and the discussion point before you is in order to maximize the program allocated funding of a million dollars in a timely manner to get these funds to the businesses that need them through the December 30th deadline of the program, I am recommending that we change the per grant allocation from 10,000 dollars up to 15,000 dollars and also allow those that have applied once already, a chance to reapply for any new expenses that they have incurred since the time of their original application. Generally, for your information, what we are seeing is a lot of the requests are coming for rent and utility expenses and because it's a reimbursement program we have seen people apply up through about October's worth of expenses and we suspect that people will still have -- businesses will still have a need for reimbursement or expense needs through the calendar year, which the program does afford and so that's a little bit of the logic as to why we recommend increasing from ten thousand to fifteen thousand and allow existing businesses that have applied to come back and apply for that addition 5,000 dollars. A little bit more information for you. All of the -- nearly all of the applications had requested the full ten thousand dollar amount. Through review and examination of the applications, based on the allowable expenses, not all of them qualified for the full 10,000 dollars. So, some do qualify for the full 10,000, some do not, and that's a little bit of the delta in the dollar amounts as well. So, maybe I will stop there with the recommendation that -- before you to consider increasing from 10,000 to 15,000 dollars and allow existing applicants as well to reapply and open it up for any questions that you might have or discussion.

Cavener: Council, any questions or comments?

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Dave, I tracked with you kind of the rationalization behind kind of the opening up the second round. I didn't quite hear -- maybe I just missed it -- the rational -- rationalization, excuse me, about increasing it from ten -- from ten to fifteen thousand.

Miles: Sure. Mr. Mayor, Councilman Cavener, really what we are seeing is that a lot of the applications, because the program is required to reimburse expenses incurred -- in other words, when we started this program back in -- I think it was September -- late September, early October, businesses could apply for expenses that they incurred up until that point. We would not reimburse them for future expenses through mid October, November and December. So, that ten thousand dollars was mainly attributable for most applications for about three months worth of rent or 10,000 dollars max and what we suspect is that there is still a need in the business community for continued coverage if the opportunity is available for those expenses that will occur mid October, November and December.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: Dave, thank you so much for your time this evening. Wondering about whether the small business grant program is still ending at the end of December and also what is happening at the state level with an extension of opportunity to apply for these and is there a -- I mean are applications still permitted in January and February for expenses that were incurred in December or how is that working?

Miles: Yeah. Mr. Mayor and Council -- Council Woman Perreault. Those are great questions. From a CARES Act perspective we have not heard any update on the program being extended beyond December 30th. Now, I know with new administrations at the federal level there will be lots of conversations around CARES Act funding and what to do with the program or what new programs may come out. We have not heard that this program will extend beyond December 30th. In fact, the state continues to communicate with us that the applications for CARES Act funding has to be to the state by December 11th, with approvals moving forward and, then, expenditures can happen past the December 30th, but the commitment of funds has to be made before that December 30 deadline. So, at this point there is no indication that it will carry longer and so I think that addresses your question, but if you have got additional ones --

Simison: Council, any additional comments or questions?

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Hoaglund.

Hoaglund: Just a quick comment on the extension. I'm certainly in favor of doing that, allowing them to reapply for reimbursement of additional 5,000 dollars.

Miles: I'm sorry, Councilman Hoaglund, I didn't catch that question.

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor and Dave, just a comment that, yes, I'm -- I'm in favor of moving forward with allowing those businesses that ask for reimbursement of the 10,000 to also ask for additional five once those expenses are incurred. This is going on a long time and there are certainly going to be difficulties in the days ahead as we are experiencing now, so we will just have to help them out the best we can.

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Just for clarification, it's possible that a business, once this is all said and done with their applications all being successfully approved, that they could receive up to 25,000 dollars total, ten from the first round and, then, 15 in the second?

Miles: I'm sorry, Mr. Mayor and Councilman Cavener, no, they would receive a total of 15,000.

Cavener: Got it.

Miles: So, only -- only the delta between what they got and up to 15,000.

Cavener: Okay. Mr. Mayor? Apologies if I wasn't tracking correctly. That makes a lot more sense.

Borton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Borton.

Borton: One quick question, Dave. Is the 5,000 dollars did you come to that figure kind of forecasting the number of interested parties and the remaining available funds? Is the 5,000 intended to hopefully exhaust the remaining funds based upon existing demand?

Miles: Mr. Mayor, Councilman Borton, there is a little bit of that sort of predictive analysis that we did try to use. A lot of it also -- we stuck closely to what the state's program had, as well as what other communities were doing. So, Boise, Nampa and Eagle, they all had thresholds up to 15,000 dollars as well and if -- it's a little difficult to run the numbers, because some businesses will qualify for up to the 10,000 or up to the 15,000, some only qualify for a few thousand dollars, just based on what they are requesting expenses for. But we did look at that and that's the goal is really to -- if the Council approved up to a million dollars for the program, try to maximize that full amount for businesses.

Simison: And, Councilman Borton, just to Mr. Miles' point, there is a big debate about -- early on whether to ask Council for 10,000 or 15,000, but we want to try to make sure we open it up to all businesses, so we kept it a little lower on the front end in case we had a lot more than we could handle and it didn't just go to those. So, this -- this was the approach that we thought we might come back with when the timing was appropriate and the numbers are bearing that out, because it's now opened to all businesses. There is no restriction. And we have kind of seen where our numbers are right now.

Borton: Okay. Thank you.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Thank you, Dave. You know, one thing I think would be great would be to -- with the CARES Act funding in general, you know, show Council a variety of options to help the community and just kind of keeping various options open for us. I'm supportive of the change here. I think it makes a lot of sense to keep helping our businesses, but I think it would be good for us to continue brainstorming if there are things that make sense,

whether it's, you know, providing disposable masks to larger businesses, particularly grocery stores that aren't handing them, that there are things we can do with food and security, if we have an acute need there and I know we looked at childcare and we couldn't find it way -- if there was a way if we could look at that. So, I just appreciate, you know, continuing to stay in front of us. With options as the -- as the funding may run out.

Miles: Mr. Mayor, Council Woman Strader, we can certainly look at -- look at and keep you up to date and certainly I extend it to you as well, if you have ideas or thoughts that come across your mind, send it our way we will analyze it and take a look at it.

Strader: Will do.

Simison: Well, Council, I have heard from two that they are in favor of moving it forward. It's like I have got three, four -- okay. We got to make -- we will make those modifications and share it with those who have applied and generally to make that update. Thank you. Mr. Milles, anything else on this topic?

Miles: That's it. Thank you, Mayor and Council. Appreciate it.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 28. Per Idaho Code 74-206A(1)(a) To deliberate on a labor contract offer or to formulate a counter offer, 74-206(1)(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, and 74-206(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.**

Simison: Okay. Thank you. So, with that we are to Item 28 on the agenda.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: I move that we -- Mr. Mayor, I move that we go into Executive Session per Idaho Code 74-206A(1)(a), 74-206(1)(a) and 74-206(1)(f).

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor, I second the motion.

Simison: I have a motion and second to go into Executive Session. Is there any discussion? If not, Clerk will call the roll.

Roll call: Bernt, yea; Borton, yea; Cavener, yea; Hoaglund, yea; Strader, yea; Perreault, yea.

Simison: All ayes. We adjourn into Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (5:35 p.m. to 6:01 p.m.)

Simison: Do I have a motion?

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: I move that we come out of Executive Session.

Hoaglun: Mr. Mayor, I second the motion.

Simison: There is a motion and a second to come out of Executive Session. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Opposed Nay. The ayes have it.

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: I move that we adjourn the meeting.

Hoaglun: Mr. Mayor, I second the motion.

Simison: I have a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. The ayes have it. We are adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:01 P.M.

(AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR ROBERT SIMISON  
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS JOHNSON - CITY CLERK