

Meridian City Council Work Session

July 21, 2026.

A Meeting of the Meridian City Council was called to order at 4:31 p.m., Tuesday, July 21, 2026, by Mayor Robert Simison.

Members Present: Robert Simison, Luke Cavener, Liz Strader, John Overton, Anne Little Roberts and Brian Whitlock.

Members Absent: Doug Taylor.

Other Present: Chris Johnson, Bill Nary, Tracy Basterrechea, Brandon Frasier, Dean Willis.

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

☒ Liz Strader	☒ Brian Whitlock
☒ Anne Little Roberts	☒ John Overton
☐ Doug Taylor	☒ Luke Cavener
☒ Mayor Robert E. Simison	

Simison: Council, we will call the meeting to order. For the record is Tuesday, July 21st, at 4:31 p.m. We will begin this afternoon's work session with roll call attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Simison: Next item up is adoption of the agenda.

Overton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Overton.

Overton: There are no changes to tonight's agenda and we -- move we approve the agenda as published.

Little Roberts: Second.

Simison: Have a motion and a second to adopt the agenda. Is there any discussion? If not, all in favor signify by saying. Opposed nay? The ayes have it and the agenda is agreed to.

MOTION CARRIED: FOUR AYES. ONE ABSENT.

CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]

- 1. Approve Minutes of the July 7, 2026 City Council Work Session**

- 2. Approve Minutes of the July 7, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting**
- 3. Idaho State Police Forensic Services Water Main Easement No. 1 (ESMT-2026-0146)**
- 4. Windrow Subdivision No. 2 Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Easement No. 1 (ESMT-2026-0151)**
- 5. Windrow Subdivision No. 2 Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Easement No. 2 (ESMT-2026-0152)**
- 6. Windrow Subdivision No.2 Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Easement No. 3 (ESMT-2026-0153)**
- 7. Wahooz Indoor Karting Building Water Main Easement No. 1 (ESMT-2026-0159)**
- 8. Wahooz Indoor Karting Building Water Main Easement No. 2 (ESMT-2026-0160)**
- 9. Final Order for PAW Subdivision (FP-2025-0028), by Kent Brown, Kent Brown Planning Services, located at 1680 W. Ustick Rd.**
- 10. Approval of Construction Contract to Owyhee Civil for the WRRF Parking Lot Expansion project and approve Procurement Manager to sign the contract and Purchase Order for the Not-to-Exceed \$272,450.54**
- 11. Agreement for Use of Kleiner Park for Idaho Island Festival**
- 12. Approval of Change Order 9 to JC Constructors, Inc. for the Aeration Basins Upgrades project and approve Procurement Manager to sign the Change Order and Purchase Order for the Not-to-Exceed amount of \$213,460.00**

Simison: Next up is the Consent Agenda.

Overton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Overton.

Overton: There are no changes to tonight's Consent Agenda. I move that we approve the Consent Agenda, for the Mayor to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Little Roberts: Second.

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

MOTION CARRIED: FOUR AYES. ONE ABSENT.

ITEMS MOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]

Simison: There were no items moved from the Consent Agenda.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS [Action Item]

13. Appeal of Denial of Mobile Sales Unit License Application MSU-26-0146 by Dalton White

Simison: So, we will move on to Department Reports. First item up is Item 13, appeal of denial of mobile sales unit license application MSU-26-0146 by Dalton White and I will turn this over to -- Mr. Nary?

Nary: I can take it.

Simison: Okay.

Nary: Mr. Mayor, this -- before you tonight was an appeal for a denial of a mobile sales unit license by Dalton White. He did apply for a mobile sales unit. It was denied pursuant to our ordinance regarding a out-of-state finding. It looks like it was either -- according to the -- to the documents from the court it was either a prior guilty plea or a no contest plea in another state, but it -- the adjudication doesn't have any impact on our ordinance. Our ordinance says any offense of that type is disqualifying from him having a mobile sales unit, so that's why he was denied. He did appeal it, but he doesn't appear to be present for this appeal, so I leave it to the Council to move forward with it as you wish.

Simison: Thank you. Council, any questions for staff?

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: One second. Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Thank you. Just a question for Bill Nary. My understanding is under our ordinance it's pretty cut and dry in terms of -- there is not any flexibility or discretion on -- on this.

Nary: Mr. Mayor, Council Member Strader, no, there is not.

Strader: Thank you.

Johnson: Mr. Mayor, Mr. White is here now.

Simison: Okay. Mr. White, would you like to come forward and make any comments?

White: Yeah. Sorry I was running behind earlier today. Got here as quick as I could and came right on in. So, yeah, the gist of it is -- is basically back then I was tried, had an opportunity to either go forward with the trial full on or take this deal, which was adjudicated probation, which basically means it's just foregoing a trial, serving time and, then, basically, it's dropped from the record. It's not a conviction or anything like that. I was under heavily -- I was heavily advised to do it by my lawyer at the time. I was a lot younger, a lot less knowledgeable about the world and how things worked and everything else. It's a decision I live with every day on how I would have handled it differently back then -- like now versus back then I should say. But, yeah, the biggest part of that is like, you know, I guess I have been working for Bill Clark pest control, which is a pest control company down there in Texas. Ever since I was -- six years. Basically I was working with them and through -- the Texas government was aware of it. I was going literally into people's homes every day as a part of my job doing pest control services for that entire time, not even a traffic ticket, all that stuff. I mean it's really all I can say on my part and my understanding of it was that I'm not supposed to be hindered from work or licensing and stuff like that or housing because of the route in which we took or that I was advised to take I should say.

Simison: Okay. Thank you. Did you have anything else that you want to say?

White: No. I mean only -- the last thing I guess I would say is I know it's not ideal, you know, I'm intelligent, I know exactly how people probably view it and everything else. At the end of the day you guys have hundreds of people going into your neighborhoods in and out not trying to be looked at, trying to avoid this very thing. I'm here in front of you today owning it and looking to do things the right way, so thank you.

Simison: Thank you. Council, any questions? Okay.

Overton: Mr. Nary --

Simison: Councilman Overton.

Overton: Mr. Nary, if you would be so kind as to restate what you stated before Mr. Dalton walked in, so he has the ability to understand what you said before he came into the room?

Nary: Certainly. Mr. White, I think -- I think where the disconnect is in our code any charge of this type is a prohibition for us issuing a license to anybody and there is no time limit to that. The -- what you were told in Texas might be true. It doesn't apply here. So, although other jurisdictions in our area may or may not use this as a disqualifier, we do. So there isn't an exception that Council has in our code to grant an exception, even though, you know, the comments you have stated and things have

changed in your life, that isn't a consideration in our code. This type of offense is a disqualification from licensing and the Council really doesn't have a discretion to grant anything else.

White: Okay. So, it's the charge, not the conviction.

Nary: Correct.

White: Okay.

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Mr. Nary, a question. So, again, if somebody is charged, but found not guilty or found innocent, they still would be pursuing -- they still would be impacted by this particular --

Nary: Yeah. Yeah. Councilman Cavnar, Members of the Council, yes, they still could be impacted by this. A not guilty plea would be different. In this case it was a guilty plea --

Cavener: Right.

Nary: -- and it was a guilty -- a no contest or a guilty plea both is what it was, but, yes, even a not guilty plea -- a charge would require at least that review and the police would review it for that purpose.

Cavener: Okay.

Overton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Overton.

Overton: If there is no other comments by Members of Council, I would move that we accept the fact that we can't change what our code currently states and as much as I understand exactly what you have come up here and said, unfortunately, the legal system has some avenues that allow you to get through it quicker, but, unfortunately, they are considered guilty pleas when they happen and we live with that result and we don't have a choice in this matter. With that said I would -- I would move that we deny the appeal of the denial for the mobile sales unit license application, MSU-26-0146 by Dalton White.

Whitlock: Second.

Simison: Have a motion and a second to deny the appeal. Is there any discussion?

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Mr. White, appreciate you being here. I recognize you are trying to do your best to rehabilitate and be a productive member of society. That's -- that's noted and appreciated. Apologies that our code is so narrow that it won't grant you this type of an exception, but wish you well as you continue to pursue your endeavors.

Simison: Any other comments? If not all in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay? The ayes have it and the motion to appeal the denial is sustained. Did I say that correctly? Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED: FOUR AYES. ONE ABSENT.

14. Automatic License Reader Program Presentation

Simison: All right. With that we will move on to Item 14, which the automatic license plate reader program presentation by Chief Basterrechea.

Basterrechea: All right. See if I can figure out the technology up here and move the slides. First of all, let me start by saying thank you to the Mayor and Council for having us here to present on our Axon automatic license plate recognition or ALPRs and how they differ from other -- others that are out there on the market. Even though we are confident you will see a clear distinction, especially when it comes to how the data is stored, controlled and monitored, we also know that any technology like this runs the risk of being misused. This makes it no different than any other tool provided to law enforcement or any other profession for that matter. We trust our police enough to arm them with weapons that can take someone's life. We empower those officers with the ability to take someone's freedom through lawful arrest. Yet some people don't trust them to use this technology with the same caution or responsibility. This dichotomy is certainly not lost on us and I hope that when we are done with our presentation that you will be comfortable with the guardrails that we have in place and realize that we are continuing discussions on additional ways to minimize that risk and with that, you know, for all transparency purposes this presentation was put together by myself and Jordan Sowers of Axon, their government affairs manager. So, what we are going to cover during this presentation is what is ALPR. Plain language overview of how automatic license plate recognition works and what Axon Technology looks like in the field. We will discuss security and compliance, discussing Axon's federal track record and their FedRAMP high authorization utilizing evidence.com and what that means to our data. We will also discuss the ownership, access controls, privacy safeguards and the accountability structures in the Axon platform and, finally, we will discuss how the different ALPR systems are handled differently by different companies. So, what is ALPR? Basically, it is a camera that captures images of passing vehicles in realtime. The software reads the license plate automatically and that plate is compared to -- against other law enforcement databases. Officers are instantly alerted to stolen

vehicles, missing persons, BOLOs, be on the lookouts type of calls and per our policy and procedures our officers are required to physically put their eyes on that license plate and that vehicle to confirm themselves that that is the correct plate and the correct vehicle that we have been alerted to before they make a stop. All this data is stored securely in Axon evidence owned by Meridian PD. So, we do have Axon outpost cameras, which are mounted throughout the city in different locations in high -- high traffic areas. They operate 24/7 in day and night and they do have high speed detection, so they can pick up license plates driving highway speeds. In our vehicles we have Axon Fleet 3 cameras, which essentially do the same thing, but they are mobile with our officers who are driving those vehicles. Those are deployed throughout the -- the United States as well through a variety of agencies. So, how is our data controlled? One of the things that is very unique -- or is somewhat unique I would say to Axon is we control all of the data. No third party controls our data. They don't have access to our data. If there are any requests to Axon, whether it is a PRR, a FOIA, warrants or subpoenas, they direct that to the City of Meridian, because they do not own the data, we own the data, therefore we are the ones who evaluate those and take the legal avenue that we are required to take if we are given those options. It is a policy driven retention, so, in other words, our agency sets the retention period and just -- we will talk about state code here in a minute, but I was -- I was part of a group that passed the code with the Idaho state legislature on ALPRs several years ago and if you will notice in state code currently there is no retention period and the reason we didn't want a retention period at that time was we wanted to evaluate what we believed would be the best retention period, the most useful to agencies and so we initially started out with a 60 day here at Meridian and we recently moved it to a 30 day retention period. That purge -- that information purges every 30 days. If it is not a plate that we are looking for for a criminal investigation. The plates that the system reads automatically purges every 30 days whether we would want it to or not, because that's how we have set it up in our system. Opt-in sharing is off by default through the Axon platform. So, in other words, if you want access to our hot lists, the vehicles that we are looking for, you have to reach out to us as another law enforcement agency and request access to that. One of the things that is interesting about the Axon system is we can grant another law enforcement agency access to our information through the license plate readers, but we can also put a time frame on that. So, we could give them -- you can have access for this -- our hot list for a week and we can revoke that at any -- any moment, because, again, we are the ones who control that data and that information. Also every access is permanently recorded, who, when and why. So, full plate reads are never used for AI model -- model training to make their system get better. They will get partial reads and that's how they develop their system to make it better. They are never given full plate reads. And they also -- we utilize immutable logs, which can't be altered or deleted. So, once you have entered something into the system or you have searched the system we have a log of that and we have the information of why you are searching that or why you are entering that vehicle into the system.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Thank you, chief. Is it -- is it okay if we are going with questions throughout or --

Basterrechea: Absolutely.

Strader: Okay. If you don't mind just going back -- it may be actually this slide, too, but help me understand the training data piece of this, because I think that's an important consideration that some of our citizens have about, you know, we control our data, we own it, but, you know, is people's data being used to train artificial intelligence systems and things like that and what does that mean by a full read versus a partial?

Basterrechea: Yeah. So, if you opt in to help them improve their product, they only get a partial plate number to improve their product with. They don't get a full license plate of somebody that has come through the system. So, they don't have the access to their personal information.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Okay. So -- so, they are -- if we opt in to do that they are getting partial license plate information.

Basterrechea: Yes.

Strader: Is it redacted by us? Like how -- how is the --

Basterrechea: By the system.

Strader: Okay. So, the system itself provides them with a partial read and then --

Basterrechea: If -- if we opt in.

Strader: And do we opt in that -- because I didn't catch that part.

Basterrechea: We don't currently.

Strader: Okay. So, we -- so currently we do not opt in to use the data in Meridian for -- for training purposes for --

Basterrechea: No.

Strader: -- the Axon system and even if we did you are saying it would be partial plates, but -- but in our current choice not to opt into that is that a department policy? Is that part of -- like where does that decision --

Basterrechea: That decision rests with me ultimately.

Strader: Okay. That's helpful.

Basterrechea: Trying to figure out where I went wrong here.

Whitlock: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Whitlock.

Basterrechea: Can you go back one more slide, please?

Whitlock: Chief, I'm kind of the dinosaur up here, so all this technology is really cool, but I'm having a struggle trying to figure out how it all fits --

Basterrechea: Councilman Whitlock, that makes two of us actually.

Whitlock: Can -- can you just share with me -- I mean what are we capturing? What is this data? You have got a camera -- when I hear camera I think of a picture, but now we have data and partial plates -- I'm just trying to figure out --

Basterrechea: We gather -- we -- what we get is a picture of the vehicle and a picture of the license plate.

Whitlock: And that -- follow up?

Simison: Councilman Whitlock.

Whitlock: And that, then, is stored as a picture of the vehicle and the license plate until we choose to -- to transfer that to Axon. For their training purposes we would send them a partial --

Basterrechea: They would -- yeah, they would receive partial if we -- all's they would get is the plate read.

Whitlock: Okay.

Basterrechea: Partial plate read. Sorry.

Whitlock: Okay.

Basterrechea: So, going back to some of the privacy concerns and legal safeguards, so as you can see under current law -- under current case law automated license plate recognition does not implicate the Fourth Amendment. License plates are government issued and they are displayed on public roadways. Courts have consistently held that there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in a plate visible in a public place. So, law

enforcement has a recognized duty to use lawfully available information to protect our community and that is what we do with this information. Idaho Code further governs our ALPR use statewide by stating data may only be used to investigate felony or misdemeanor crimes and traffic accidents or to locate missing persons and so -- and it also requires mandatory training, as well as semiannual audits are required. We audit more often than semi-annually. And as I said none of this information is sold to commercial entities or data brokers or third parties. Our data is for our mission and that's why it stays and rests with us. So, about the security infrastructure behind the data here. Axon is one of 48 companies globally to achieve FedRAMP high status, which is the same security standard required by the Department of Defense, as well as our U.S. intelligence agencies and they have been working in this space as far as the security of their data storage for 20 plus years. So, what does that mean to us? It means that there is mandatory continuous monitoring, multi-factor authentication, as well as annual third party security audits as required by federal law. Strict technical separation between Axon's commercial cloud and federal cloud environments, which means there is no option for the federal government to go in and have backdoor access to any of our information that we put in our systems. Federal agencies, such as DHS, Department of Justice and others have independently audited this security and they have approved of -- of their practices. Vendors with access to national plate networks, but no federal security certification, operate under fundamentally different and lower standards than what Axon is currently doing. So, not all ALPR systems are the same. We talked about the data ownership and where it rests with us. One of the things to be aware of is other vendors retain data rights, creating ambiguity -- ambiguity over who responds to legal requests and who controls that -- the deletion options of your -- your system and your data. Their data sharing models -- again open network models pool plate reads nationally by default and, then, therefore, that data may be accessible to any participating agency without case-by-case authorization. As I pointed out before, in order to have access to any of our hot lists somebody has to actually reach out to us and we are actually developing and looking at MOUs with people so that it is an official request if they want access to that and it's -- and that it has been reviewed by our legal team. Retention and control. Again some platforms use vendor controlled retention. We don't do that. We set our retention periods at -- at the Meridian Police Department and the city and, then, again, federal and third-party access -- national open network databases may be accessible to federal entities of commercial partner -- or commercial partners without local agencies direct authorization. They don't have that access with this platform. This is one of the very reasons that we took our time going to this platform. We were approached by other vendors and, quite frankly, we had long discussions about some concerns with those vendors and so we -- we pumped the brakes and took our time to really evaluate this and having worked with Axon for -- at this agency over 20 plus years here at the Meridian Police Department we know really where their priorities lie and they are very very in tune with the dangers of advancing technology. Before they roll any technology out they actually meet with ethicists and others and scientists on whether or not that technology is going to be utilized appropriately. So, they do do their due diligence on our behalf as well. So, this is just an example of --

Simison: Real quick.

Basterrechea: Oh, yes, Mayor.

Simison: Not to put you on the spot, but any idea how many communities in Idaho use Axon versus another vendor?

Basterrechea: I believe we are the first to use Axon. Lewiston I believe is using Axon Outpost? And there are others now looking at -- at utilizing it. I know that Boise City is looking at using it. Ada County Sheriff's Office is looking at -- at going to some Axon Outposts and may actually have some of those up already.

Simison: So, one or two currently Axon. Anybody else is on likely other systems, but not -- not all on one system.

Basterrechea: Correct.

Simison: Okay. Thank you.

Basterrechea: So, if you look at this slide it shows you what you have to put in. If -- if you are trying to access -- if you want to add a plate to the system so that we can get an alert on it, it goes through the hot list that it would need to go on. You have to have the plate number, the plate state, most importantly why are you putting this into the system? It asks specifically that category, why are you looking for this license plate and -- and it puts a priority in there and you can put -- so, it expires -- if you are looking for something within the week you can put an expiration date if it's something that's not a high priority on there. Otherwise, we go through there manually and we will remove those that we have entered if they have not been useful to us and, then, you can put in there further information the reason that you are doing it as well, so not just the criminal offense, but more of -- more information of exactly what kind of a criminal case is it and, then, you can put the vehicle information in there if you have it and you can put vehicle owner information in there as well and, then, to do an LPR search, again, you put in the purpose for the search, whether it's the criminal purpose, which in Idaho you have to have pretty much almost any plate -- sorry plate read has to be tied to some type of criminal investigation and it gives you a spot for either the case number or the incident number and other space for the reason of why you are searching that vehicle. You can put in parameters, like I say, do you want to search this particular -- these particular cameras in the last two hours or the last 24 hours. So, you may be searching it and I will pull up a little bit of it, but we are searching for vehicles that were in an assault and so we can put parameters around that. Here is the area where this assault took place, what vehicles were ran through that intersection in the last two hours and as you go down -- again, there is modes and those types of things in that entry form.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I feel like examples really help people. It might help me. I'm going to give you -- please don't be offended. I'm going to give you an outlandish maybe example, but it could happen. Let's say crazy Police Officer Tim is stalking someone and not that that person exists or there is anyone necessarily named Tim who would do that, but let's say that they are stalking someone and they are interested to log into the Axon system to find out what their intended target is up to. Tell me all the reasons that that couldn't happen or if it did happen why or why not that person would be caught. Like how would we handle that if that happened?

Basterrechea: Well, I can tell you how we would handle it. We would fire them.

Strader: I hope.

Basterrechea: So, that's -- that's the point behind the -- the audit trail and showing the criminal offenses. This -- I can go in, I can put a time frame in right now -- as a matter of fact I did it earlier today. We put in the time frame and we printed out the audit log immediately and so we can start looking at those things. I can tell you is there a foolproof way that nobody's ever going to try to abuse the system? Absolutely not. I can tell you this. We have had officers who have used their mobile data computers in their cars in the past to access ILETS information and we have terminated those officers. The key is we are putting on lots of guardrails and, then, rest assured when those violations, if they do occur, they will be handled appropriately and we have proven that with our track record for certain. Just like any technology, any tool, it can be abused and we have seen that across the board. I mean --

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I get that. But help me understand a little more. So, the audit log is super helpful. So, I assume that, then, for everyone that -- because who knows, like I assume that means you know exactly what user logged in, what they looked at --

Basterrechea: I will show you that in a minute. Yep.

Strader: Fantastic. And so how would we catch someone who is abusing this tool? Like how -- how would that come to light? Like is it -- when we are doing our own internal audits do we find out -- like are there things that flag like suspicious activity, like this tool doesn't seem like it's being used the right way? Like how would that come to light?

Basterrechea: Yeah. For us when we -- one of the things -- and Lieutenant Frasier has more technical expertise in this area than me, so he can chime in at any time, but one of the things is is there excessive use of the -- the technology? Is there one person who is consistently running the same plate over and over and over again? And if they are consistently running that same plate searching that same plate, why is it not in our

system as -- to be on our hot list to alert them when they put it in there? And so -- that's -- that's one way. The other way is when we look and go where is a case number and there is no case number attached to any of these searches, that's going to raise our intuition on this is possibly being misused. In the end really they can't track where they are going. They can track certain areas that they have been in, but it's not like it's a camera that's following them. It's really they have passed through this intersection at this time.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: And he does have a phone a friend behind him if there is anything that lieutenant wants to add to that question or --

Frasier: Thanks, chief. Mr. Mayor, Council, Council Woman Strader, I appreciate your question. You are asking like practically how does this work? You know, how would we detect it? So, it starts with security and control in the first place. They would have to be logged into the platform on the City of Meridian's network. So, that's one of the things. They would have to be at work on one of our devices on our network and the way this looks -- the chief talked about auditing earlier, how there is a semiannual requirement. We do it much more often than that and auditing can mean a lot of different things, but the support staff working in our realtime support center and supervisors in general know who is using ALPRs the most. You know, detectives, certain officers on certain details. So, in -- I think you said crazy Officer Tim, if he starts popping up like, oh, we are seeing a lot of searches by this guy out of the blue, then, that would warrant looking into more. So, those are some of the ways, you know, we narrow the funnel down of people who even have access to the information, when they have access to it. We know that nobody is at home using this off duty, because it's not possible and, then, the -- sometimes daily, but at least weekly review of who is doing what, we can see red flags in there pretty easily. But to the chief's point police and many government officials have access to information that others don't have and to some point there is no way to prevent it entirely, but the mechanisms we do have in place we are fairly confident that if something that outlandish were to take place and nobody else would bring it to our attention, like the -- you know, the individual that the officer was stalking or whatever, we would have a high probability of finding it or at least having the conversation to look into it more, like why is this out of the blue.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council, Woman Strader.

Strader: As part of our audit function is something generated that alerts a supervisor if searches take place without an associated case or an associated crime or offense? Like is there something -- or is there like a random auditing that happens where, okay, you know, every month we choose three Axon license plate reader searches at random to audit them. Like help me understand that auditing function and what kind of goes into it and where I'm coming from -- like my background is in a lot of financial services where

like fraud prevention and stuff is really important and that sort of thing would happen often where like people would have to clear their trades and even like your e-mail might show up at a supervisor's desk like four times a month randomly. Like those kinds of random controls help in any situation. So, I was just curious is that an element in our auditing? Like help me understand how that auditing piece works.

Frasier: The auditing protocols, you know, that have been evolving at the police department, we continually are adding guardrails and procedures to those. What it looks like right now is we have four main gatekeepers of all this information who can audit this information and look at it multiple times a week in multiple formats. One of the things you brought up, you know, if we are seeing a bunch of searches that are not associated with a case number, that that could potentially be a clue; right? The chief brought up you have to -- or you can see on this slide you have to put in a case number or an incident number. If there isn't one, which happens for a variety of reasons, our staff has to write none or pending if there is one that will be created. That's another thing to look out for in that audit trail. The auditing process we look at both pieces of information. The main view, just the breakdown of what officers are doing what and you can see -- you will be able to see it on the chief's slide. Officer name, time, reason and you look at those trends and when we look at that data we know who is working on what shifts and in what cadence. It becomes very expected in what they are doing and we can easily correlate that in the back of our minds to events that actually happen. The other part of that is how does the detection of, you know, malfeasance become more automated? That is something that we work with Axon on because that is something that has evolved within the -- the field; right? It's -- it's important to be able to do that. Axon does have on their roadmap to develop analytics for that. I don't know what it's going to look like when it will be delivered, but, obviously, we are not the only council, the only city, the only police department wanting this information and being able to look at it easier. Right now we have the luxury of having a lot of interest in -- in the topic setting it up, looking at best practices in governance. So, we -- we pay a lot of attention to it just that way.

Strader: Thank you. That's really helpful.

Whitlock: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Whitlock.

Whitlock: Chief, a comment you made about how this is -- has to be tied to a criminal investigation, but I would imagine amber alerts would be automatically entered into this and we would see those.

Basterrechea: Yeah. So, an Amber alert, depending on what kind it is, right, maybe criminal or missing person. So, missing persons -- missing and endangered persons is also covered under the state code.

Whitlock: And silver alerts are those -- that's for --

Basterrechea: Again, it would be a missing endangered person. Yeah. Absolutely.

Whitlock: All right.

Basterrechea: Yes. So, this is a -- this is really a condensed view of an audit, because the spreadsheet actually goes way out with things that you really probably wouldn't be all that interested in, but you can see that we have Sergeant Allen who ALPR searched for a 1099 check or a wanted person and, then, Josh Jordan, who is working a sexual assault case down here, put that in and looking for plate reads as well on a sexual assault investigation. Sergeant Aja, working narcotics case, actually has the DR number in that case, which means they have actually established a case that they are working and already have a department report number for and, again, Joseph Wilden we are looking for a wanted person. There is an alert for the investigation right there. So, you can go through, it shows you the times, it shows you the access, it shows you the cameras that they have -- that they have either hit off of or that they have accessed. So pretty detailed and, for instance, you asked about random audits. I literally -- this is one that Brandon provided me yesterday, but I walked down today and said pull up an audit. I want for the last five days and they clicked on it, pulled up the audit and I started asking questions. What does this return mean? What does this mean? What does this mean? Because I'm like you I'm not nearly as technologically savvy as some other people for sure. So, we are very very involved in improving this entire system for sure. It is one of the things that -- we will let the cat out of the bag, we are really kind of the leaders of trying to put even more guardrails under state code, because this technology is very very important to the job that we do and to the safety of our communities. But we also realize there is always a risk of somebody trying to abuse whatever tool it is and so we are the ones that are really leading that -- that push this upcoming legislative session to put even more guardrails under state code and I will just -- what happened here? I will end with here is a few ALPR wins that we have had over the last month -- actually less than a month. We had a hit on a stolen vehicle out of Arizona where we were able to arrest the perpetrator of that crime. Felony wanted suspect. Tied to four commercial burglaries in the area and when we were able to make an arrest based off of an ALPR hit there they were also in possession of felony drugs. Traveling fraud groups. This is one of the things that we use ALPRs for a lot, because we have these groups that are hitting the different towns and different areas, so we can get that vehicle description, put it in our system and when they come into Meridian we are able to get an alert on them and we were able to do that and arrest these people who were trying to defraud our local Costco here and you can kind of just go down -- I don't want to go through each one of them, but we have had some really good success things there. Prior months we did use ALPRs to actually locate a wanted suspect for L&L, lewd and lascivious conduct with a minor, who was in our community and we would have had no idea they were in our community without a hit off of that ALPR that had been -- the plate that had been -- been put into the NCIC system. So, we would like to believe that we at least saved future victims from being victimized by that suspect. And with that we will answer any other questions that you may have for us.

Simison: Council, additional questions?

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Thank you, chief. Got a handful of questions. So, may kind of rapid fire through some of these. Talk to me about false positives. How many false positives have we experienced since we have launched?

Basterrechea: Lots of false positives.

Cavener: Okay. What's the process when a -- when a license plate is flagged before an officer makes contact, what's the nature of that process?

Basterrechea: So -- absolutely. The first thing that happens is on the screen pops up a picture of that license plate and so it -- and it will actually tell you whether -- because -- say I have a personalized plate from Nevada and I'm wanted, but I have a personalized plate in Idaho that has -- is the same personalized plate. It will just pop up and say stolen vehicle for instance. But, then, it says out of Nevada. So, we look and we go, well, this is an Idaho plate, number one. Number two, like I said before, before our officers do anything with that they have to put eyes on that vehicle and that plate and confirm themselves physically that is that license plate from that state and that vehicle.

Cavener: Okay. Mr. Mayor, follow up. So, personalized plate -- the same scenario. So, we get a hit, an officer pulls over this person and maybe they miss, like what -- what is that process play out? I mean is it conducted like any other traffic stop and I guess what kind of redress do our citizens have if they are stopped because of the use of these cameras and it turns out that they shouldn't have been stopped in the first place?

Basterrechea: Sure. Quite frankly, it's almost like any other traffic stop where we -- there have been times where we have pulled people over for suspicion of expired tags and because the tag that they had on there maybe was expired, but they had the tags in their deal. It's just like any other traffic stop, they talk their way through it and, then, we send them on their way, because it was -- it was our mistake based upon what we saw on their vehicle. So, it would work the same way. We would work our way through it. One of the advantages that we do have is at the realtime crime center -- or with our support center is those people are also getting those alerts, so the ones that are sitting in there -- not just the officer, they are getting those and they will let our officers know whether it's false or not false and so there is a little bit of duality there backup.

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Have we had any incorrect arrests?

Basterrechea: We have not.

Cavener: Okay.

Basterrechea: We haven't had any stops that I know of with these false hits. They are pretty -- I don't want to say they are pretty glaring, but they are pretty glaring. I was working patrol one day and I got a hit and I was excited, the chief's going to get a make an arrest here and, then, I looked and I was like, well, that's the wrong state. So, it -- you know -- you know to look. Does the -- does the plate match the state that it says it should be from and you should be able to identify it from there and if not, then, you look at the vehicle and you run that plate through dispatch to confirm that.

Cavener: Mr. Mayor, maybe a couple more if I may.

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: So, chief, before I moved back to the city I was a newspaper writer and in our office we had painted on the wall: If your mother tells you she loves you check your sources. So, that's where this question is coming from. Trust, but verification. You talked a lot about how internally you were auditing the use that is going on. Has the department discussed or explored an independent third-party body to independently review those audits to help ensure there is greater trust amongst our public?

Basterrechea: No, we haven't.

Cavener: Okay. Mr. Mayor, maybe in that same vein. Has the department explored or discussed creating a public facing dashboard, so that our citizens can see how this is being used?

Basterrechea: We have had those discussions, as well as our drone flights.

Cavener: Okay. Mr. Mayor, maybe -- if I can follow up on that. Is that something that the department is planning to launch, deploy, create? Is it something you are just exploring?

Basterrechea: No. It's something that we have actually had very deep discussions on and what does that look like.

Cavener: Okay. Great. Mr. Mayor, maybe just a couple more, then, I will wrap it up.

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: How many Meridian Police Department employees can access this software?

Basterrechea: To search or to place it in there? Any -- any -- any sworn officer can -- can do a search.

Cavener: Okay. And, then, how long is our current contract with Axon?

Basterrechea: Couldn't tell you for sure. We have about 85 months remaining.

Cavener: And would that contract auto renew or it would require a separate action from the department or from --

Basterrechea: No. We would have to have further discussions with them.

Cavener: Okay. Great. Thank you, chief. I appreciate it.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Cavener: I think like I -- at least I would feel better if we -- and I would love for you to brainstorm about this -- if the Council and the Mayor think it's wise, but if we want to just think through as part of our processes and procedures if there could be a random auditing function of some kind. That would make me feel better, because it's just -- it's like a double check; right? Just make sure that, you know, people have in the back of their mind -- just like how when you send an e-mail at work you know there is a decent chance that your e-mail could be reviewed by anybody; right? I think the same kind of concept with this type of technology makes a lot of sense, some sort of a random auditing function. I would just encourage you to explore that -- that idea, because I totally think that this is really critical technology, it's -- it's being used effectively. We have a lot of pressure around our operating costs. So, to help our officers do more I think it's an incredible tool. I just want to make sure that, you know, as you are -- as we are going through using it and even when we first approved, you know, embracing these types of technologies, it is with a lot of guardrails and just making sure that we are not taking it for granted and we are constantly improving; right?

Basterrechea: Mayor, Council Woman Strader, that's absolutely an easy push for us on the random auditing. We absolutely understand that and I am going to toot the team's horn a little bit, because having conversations with other people, they have complimented us on how reserved we are and how conscious we are of this technology and the guardrails that we have worked with Axon to put in place, outside of just what they normally did and that is something that we plan on continuing to do is working with them to come up with the best ways to do those things and as Lieutenant Frasier pointed out, they are working as well on even better auditing systems and better ways to -- to go through those and alerts and that's one of those things that certainly we welcome.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Would it be fair to say like that this could be an ongoing conversation? And I'm just curious -- like at what point does it make sense to come back and sort of provide an

update? This is -- you know, these are some of the improvements we have made, this is how it's going. Because, again, when we first embraced this we never said like we are just going to go here and never look at this again. It was always with the understanding that we are going to constantly look at it, continue improving it and make sure that those guardrails are really strong.

Basterrechea: Yeah. We actually planned on coming back early fall to actually discuss drones and we can do both of these in that same conversation, because I think you would be really impressed with the success we have had with the drone as a first responder program.

Cavener: Thanks.

Simison: Chief, on average how many license plate reader inputs are done a day or a week?

Frasier: Mr. Mayor, it varies based on what's going on. At any given point in time the Meridian Police Department is only looking for around 50 license plates total. They come in. The only people that can insert a plate are supervisors and designated support staff in the RTSV. If a plate is put in by a supervisor over the weekend it's automatically reviewed at the beginning of the business week to see if it still needs to be in there. In the case of a missing person if the missing person is found that plate needs removed. So, it does vary. But about 50 plates on average at any one time.

Simison: Three a day? Five a day? Ten a day? To be at that -- I guess my point is like what's to prevent a supervisor from reviewing every single day for now, whatever was put in the day before? Is that too onerous of an audit currently -- with our current numbers going, I get it, it may go up and it may get to the point where it doesn't make sense, but is that too much to ask for right now?

Frasier: I don't think so, but, again, you know, over a holiday weekend even three days is the maximum time frame we are hitting now before there is review and we are very diligent about that, because that's -- it's a maintenance thing. It's a maintenance issue with that. Only look for what you should be looking for and it also eliminates noise and confusion for patrol, speaking to the accuracy of the hit and the -- what -- you know, the confidence level that an officer can have in making a determination in the field that's incumbent upon us to feed them with the correct information, cut out the noise and eliminate some of that false alerting that can occur.

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: Question for maybe Mr. Nary or the chief. Are these logs able to be public record requested?

Nary: Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council, Council Member Cavener, these are requested a lot. I mean they are reviewed I believe by -- by our police attorney constantly and we don't -- we don't provide most of this information unless it is a public -- unless it's a public available information anyway. But, otherwise, the -- all the parameters are -- like chief talked about we don't provide that.

Cavener: Okay.

Overton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Overton.

Overton: Just to take a second and just kind of thank our police department, chief and your command staff, for the diligent work you have done on implementing this program. Obviously, a lot of thought went into it. Nobody in the city, other than probably the police department and to some extent our IT department, has had to deal with building safeguards around so many important systems over the last ten, 15, 20 years dealing with security on NCIS, on ILETS, on our mobile data terminals. I mean this isn't something that's brand new to you with the license plate reader program, you have had to deal with how to build security into systems for decades and I'm impressed with what you told me I think -- I feel good that this data is secure that we have it, we hold it, no one else can have access to it and, honestly, if somebody did happen to get a picture of a vehicle and a license plate, they really have nothing, because they don't get to know the back story of what the investigator is looking for or what that investigation entails. They don't get that information if they ever obtained what that vehicle or that plate was. So, it's -- it's a tool that's an investigative tool that's I think made our community a much safer place to be and, hopefully, it will continue to do that, much like everything else we do, specifically the drone program, which I can't wait to hear more about in the future as well. So, for me it's a great job. I'm glad we are, again, leaders within our state doing this the right way, helping the state code get enacted in such a way that I think we have done it right. That's something I'm very proud of and I like to always say that here in Meridian we try to do things the right way. We don't try to rush to get something done. We think through it and it just continues to impress me when I hear how you guys put this together this evening. So, thank you.

Basterrechea: Thank you. And, again, I want to thank the command staff, because they really did do the heavy lifting on this program and so they deserve the kudos, so thank you.

EXECUTIVE SESSION [Action Item]

- 15. Per Idaho Code section 74-206A(1)(a): Deliberating on a labor contract offer or to formulate a counteroffer, Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c): To acquire an interest in real property not owned by a public agency and Idaho Code 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. Council, next up is Item 15.

Overton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Overton.

Overton: At this time I would like to move to Executive Session per Idaho Code Section 74-206(a), subsection (1)(a). Idaho Code Section 74-206 subsection (1)(c) and Idaho Code 74-206 subsection (1)(f).

Little Roberts: Second.

Simison: Have a motion and a second to go into Executive Session. Do I have a discussion? If not, clerk call the roll.

Roll Call: Cavener, yea; Strader, yea; Overton, yea; Little Roberts, yea; Taylor, absent; Whitlock, yea.

Simison: All ayes. Motion carries and we will go into Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: FIVE AYES. ONE ABSENT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (5:26 p.m. to 6:01 p.m.)

Simison: Council, do I have a motion?

Overton: Mr. Mayor, I move that we come out of Executive Session.

Little Roberts: Second.

Simison: Have a motion and a second to come out of Executive Session. Any discussion? If not, all in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay? The ayes have it. We are out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: FIVE AYES. ONE ABSENT.

Overton: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Overton.

Overton: I move that we adjourn the workshop.

Little Roberts: Second.

Simison: Motion and second to adjourn. All in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay? The ayes have it. We are adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED: FIVE AYES. ONE ABSENT.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:01 P.M.

(AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS)

_____ MAYOR ROBERT SIMISON	_____ / / DATE APPROVED
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ATTEST:

CHRIS JOHNSON - CITY CLERK