

Meridian City Council Work Session

August 25, 2020.

A Meeting of the Meridian City Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 25, 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, Caleb Hood, Brian McClure, Dave Miles, Scott Colaianne, Joe Bongiorno 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: Well, with that I will call this meeting to order. For the record it is Tuesday, August 25th, at 4:30 p.m. We will begin our work session with roll call attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Simison: Next item is adoption of the agenda.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: Are you sure that someone wasn't knocking at your door earlier?

Simison: I have got my ring set to silence. So, we are good.

Bernt: All right. So, adoption of the agenda. I move that we adopt the agenda as presented.

Hoaglun: Second the motion.

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

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]

- 1. Approve Minutes of the August 11, 2020 City Council Work Session**
- 2. Approve Minutes of the August 11, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting**
- 3. Final Plat for Aegean Estates No. 2 (H-2020-0084) by Becky McKay, Engineering Solutions, LLP, Generally Located South of the Five Mile Creek, East of N. McDermott Rd.**
- 4. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for Apex (H-2020-0066) by Brighton, Murgoitio, et al., Generally Located East of S. Meridian Rd. and North of E. Columbia Rd.**
- 5. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for Apex Northwest (H-2020-0056) by Brighton, Murgoitio, et al., Located at the Northwest Corner of S. Locust Grove Rd. and E. Lake Hazel Rd.**
- 6. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for Apex Southeast (H-2020-0057) by Brighton, Murgoitio, et al., Located at the Southeast Corner of S. Locust Grove Rd. and E. Lake Hazel Rd.**
- 7. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for Epic Storage Facility (H-2020-0058) by Jarron Langston, Located at 1345 W. Overland Rd.**
- 8. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law for Poiema Subdivision (H-2020-0035) by Dave Evans Construction, Located at 3727 E. Lake Hazel Rd.**
- 9. Development Agreement Between the City of Meridian and T&M Holdings, LLC (Owner/Developer) for Ascent Townhomes**
- 10. Development Agreement Between the City of Meridian and Justin Fishburn (Owner/Developer) for Lupine Cove**
- 11. Parks and Recreation Department: Pedestrian Bridge Construction Agreement Between Open Door Rentals and the City of Meridian to Connect Pathway Segments and Traverse Ten Mile Creek**
- 12. Finance Department: Annual Citywide Fee Updates**
- 13. City of Meridian Financial Report - July 2020**
- 14. AP Invoices for Payment - 08-26-20 - \$1,403,173.98**

Simison: Next item is the 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.

Hoaglund: 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.

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

ITEMS MOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA [Action Item]

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

DEPARTMENT / COMMISSION REPORTS [Action Item]

15. Mayor's Office: CARES Act Municipal Small Business Grant Program

Simison: So, we will move right on into our Department/Commission Reports and first item is Item No. 15 from the Mayor's Office, the CARES Act Municipal Small Business Grant program. I'm going to turn this over to Mr. Miles.

Miles: Good afternoon, Mayor and Council. Can you hear me? Okay. Thumbs up. Chris, I believe I have got screensharing ability.

Johnson: You sure do. Yes. Hit your screen share.

Miles: So, I think all of you can see the -- the PDF that's up on screen. This is supporting data. So, before I jump into that I just give you a really high level -- I know you are busy and I recognize that tonight, so I will try and stay high level. I did include several documents in the agenda packet this week. My intent is not necessarily to get into the details of the draft program guidance, but we can certainly talk about it, answer any questions that you have, but we do want to bring forth the concept -- this is related to the CARES Act funding related to COVID virus with the intent of helping small businesses is where we are coming from. I am looking for your direction and feedback this afternoon on the program and its concepts and we will go through some of the -- the things that we have talked about in partnership with Finance, the Legal office, as well as Community Development, Economic Development with Victoria Cleary. So, to give you some background, at the high level for Meridian CARES Act funding and the money that's been going back and forth between the federal agencies, the state, and the city, on the screen you will see in this upper left Meridian received overall -- or was allocated, excuse me, roughly 3.67 million dollars in CARES Act funding for COVID-related needs. Over the last couple of months during the Coronavirus we have put in a request totaling roughly

574,000 dollars for various items. Of that 574,000, roughly 508,000 has been approved, which I will call earmarked in this case, for expenditures that the state has said, yes, we see the need, recognize that that's an eligible expense, and, therefore, you can expend those dollars. They haven't been expended to date, but they could be extended. Leaving us with a balance of about 3.1 million dollars remaining of the allocated funding. The CARES Act funding that we have approved or earmarked of that 508,000, you can see the breakdown on the right, roughly three-quarters of it has gone to technology upgrades between -- anything from the Council Chamber upgrades, hardware technology, computer technology, everything related to hardware technology or cameras or getting laptops for people that needed remote work, either during the initial stay at home or moving forward as we progress in this remote work environment. The remaining funds you can see have been spent on PPE, personal protective equipment, or business support in combination with the Chamber of Commerce. We have worked with them, roughly 37,000 dollars, to partner with them on a marketing campaign for keeping Meridian healthy and, then, some smaller expenses on COVID testing, some initial testing we did with the Fire Department for the firefighters and also working with the Police Department for proctoring online exams. So, that just gives you a high level scenario of where we are with the Coronavirus funding that was allocated to Meridian. Separate from that the state's funding that has occurred related to businesses in Meridian is down here on the bottom section. You can see that various businesses have received funding in Meridian and they have used that funding for any number of purposes, the majority of which has been put towards equipment, inventory, PPE and rent assistance -- rental assistance. And, then, this bottom right shows the breakdown of the size of businesses that have received funding. I think this is important to note for this afternoon's conversation, the majority of businesses are less than a hundred people and you can see the breakdown here. You have got one to four, 29 percent, and, then, you just work around clockwise five to nine, ten to 19, 20 to 49 and, then, 50 to 99. There are a few businesses -- I think it's around 15 total -- that are more than 250 in Meridian that have received -- or, excuse me, that are in Meridian. So, moving on from there, I want to capture this snapshot of the document that I put in the agenda related to this proposal and this proposal is first a grant -- small business grant assistance and what we are proposing is a concept of using roughly a million dollars of that remaining 3.1 million dollars that's allocated to the city and earmarking that roughly one million dollars, to support small businesses that need -- that meet the eligibility criteria based on the US Treasury guidance, the state guidance, and any additional restrictions that the city puts on to protect our interest and, really, the three goals are, again, want to help businesses where we can. We want to mitigate any city risk and the majority of that city risk is if funds were awarded to ineligible costs or to ineligible businesses based on Treasury guidance, the city would ultimately be responsible at the end of the day for those funds. So, if the city awarded 10,000 dollars to a business and we weren't supposed to do that or there was some reason they were ineligible, the city would be held liable for that and you have to go back and find that 10,000 dollars. So, that's -- that's really the major risk. The other risks, though, are there is some administrative time and costs spent in administering this program. We have talked with Finance, we have talked with Economic Development, we think we can make it happen. We do know that there is work, but we are willing to do that work and can do that work. And, then, additionally, there are some consulting dollars that needs to be expended and putting some of that risk --

recognizing the consultant will do a lot of the decision making based on the parameters that we have set up. So, again, at a high level we are looking to earmark a million dollars for small businesses. There are some administrative costs in software and consultant needs. We originally estimated roughly 25,000 dollars between those two. I think that figure may be low based on conversations we have recently had with Economic Development and Legal, especially towards the consultant, but if the -- if the Council is comfortable, we could set a limit to say up to a certain threshold for consulting and software improvements, whether that number is -- if we were to say up to 50,000 dollars could be used for the consultant and we could have a discussion about where their -- where their costs are on their hourly rate and what their services are needed for. We would also recommend that the city have a legal agreement in place with these businesses, so that businesses recognize that there is a legal requirement that they have to acknowledge they have not received funding in other areas of COVID relief funding, because that's one of the state requirements and one of the federal requirements and we feel it's prudent for the city to recognize that additionally to say I'm going to work with you, but we need to have some legal assurances that you are requesting money that you haven't requested for before. Maybe I will stop there, take some questions. I think that's it at a high level. There is a lot of details in the program documents. Happy to talk about them. But we are finding that our goal is really to make this simple and we have already had discussions as recently as yesterday about how to simplify that program document to make it a little easier for businesses to use. The reason for the simplicity is twofold. One, to make it easy for businesses, so that they can be helped in a timely manner. And, two, these funds, as currently allowed under the state procedure, have to be expended by the end of December 2020. So, it's a short time frame to get something implemented, active, applications reviewed and money expended. We recognize that. We know it's a short timeline. However, I do think it's valuable to be able to try and offer the service, even though it's a short timeline. So, I will stop there. I'm sure there is a lot of questions. Happy to take them and go from there.

Simison: Thanks, Dave. Council, just a few comments to add on before we get -- take some additional comments, but this is an up to number, even for the grants. You know, it's totally dependent upon businesses looking to utilize the funding. So, there is no -- no guarantee that this -- this is the dollar figure that will be spent. Our neighbors to the east and west are both doing similar programs. In fact, a lot of this is modeled off of the one that Nampa has put together, including the consultant's information from that standpoint, so -- and as Dave mentioned, there -- there is a chance that this -- they could give us the authority to utilize these CARES funds into 2021, which is part of the reason, you know, we are setting the limits and moving forward cautiously in case there is additional needs or opportunities, but it is a way to try to help some of our businesses through what could be some even rougher times as we come into, you know, people up to the holiday season. So, with that I'm happy to entertain questions for Mr. Miles or -- I don't know if we have Victoria with us at all on the call, I didn't see her, but questions, comments from Council and, of course, this is asked for feedback to the approved even at that point in time.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: So, you mentioned -- or Dave mentioned earlier that a consultant would be used and also he mentioned that staff and the Finance Department and Economic Development as well would be used. So, what does that look like? And this is probably one of my greatest concerns is the time spent on this. I looked through that application. It's extensive. I mean there is just -- there is -- I mean with all due respect, Tori's a one person show for the most part, I mean for her to even remotely come close to even handling this would be an impossibility. I know that Finance is bogged down with their -- their daily use and so this is a real concern. So, I would like to know what -- what -- what time spent versus consultant versus Finance and the Economic Development Department and on top of that could -- could CARES funds be used to pay for a consultant, as well as the -- as the -- obviously, as the -- along with the program itself. So, those are my -- right off the bat those are the two questions that I have.

Miles: Yeah. Mr. Mayor and Councilman Bernt, yes. So, last question first. Consulting dollars, consulting expense could be covered by the CARES Act funding as part of this program and to the Mayor's point, we do plan on submitting this program for pre-approval to the state, if the Council so chooses to move it forward, so that we would have that assurance that, yes, we put those consulting dollars in the cost and know that they are covered beforehand. In terms of the work and the hours spent, we have talked with the consultant initially and estimate that the consultant would spend about five hours per application and they have given us sort of an hourly rate of 30 dollars an hour up to -- with the 15,000 dollars, that gives you about -- what is that -- 500 hours of time could be spent for their review. The consultant is intended to do the majority of the work with Finance involved. The -- the level of work for Finance would be, essentially, receiving the recommended applications to move forward to the state and submitting those for direct reimbursement through the CARES, the committee, which is what they are currently doing with the city request. From the Economic Development standpoint down in Community Development, there is some bandwidth with Tori and with Crystal to be able to assist in questions from the consultant and to be a conduit for questions in helping applications related to the Neighborly Software, which is what we currently use for CDBG funding and that's the software costs you see on the screen there 10,000 dollars to build a module -- have Neighborly as the company builds a module, that could be utilized as well by the applicant. So, the intent really is to have minimal staff touch on the Community Development side where they are helping with the application component of any questions on the software side. We understand they will be a touch point and they -- they have said they understand that and they know that. But, again, I think some of this is based on how many businesses use it as well. To the Mayor's point this is an up to number that we have thrown out there to say, you know, if you approve -- spend up to a million dollars we may or may -- or may or may not get enough businesses to utilize all that, some of it, or none of it. So, cognizant of the staff impact, but it's -- at least at this point in time I think it's a little unknown until we get into it. But we do have contingencies set aside and one of the things to consider is perhaps we set the consulting dollars to an up to number, maybe we say up to 50,000 dollars and find out if they have the bandwidth to do all of the work with the exception of the necessary submittal to Finance.

Simison: And from that -- I mean ultimately we need to have city eyes touching this. We are the ones liable. As much as I want to say yes for a consultant to do all the touch points, but, you know, I think our newly minted Todd Lavoie who has his certification from the -- from AIC officially yesterday for completing his one hundred hours would concur that we have -- we are liable for the money, we make sure the money is going to be spent and not be a liability to the taxpayers from our General Fund.

Lavoie: Mayor, I would concur that we do have concerns. Again, we have talked about the concerns of managing a small business grant. We don't have the input -- we don't have the experience within Finance of all the moving parts. We are concerned that the monitoring aspect of providing funds like we talked about there Robert and giving those funds and monitoring those funds and making sure those companies spend it on the right or allowable expenses, that's what we are concerned about in our federal funding management. That is the most risk that we see with providing funds to other agencies is to verify and monitor that they have spent the money in a timely and allowable fashion and I agree with you, Robert, that's going to probably have to be a hands on deck approach for us. I don't think we want to consult or use the consultant for that, but if we did the consultant has to be very familiar with the federal guidelines and making sure that the cost that we are discussing are allowable that they are expending those dollars on. So, again, Robert, I agree with you that we do have concerns and that we will have to have our hands more involved with it, along with the Legal Department. I think Legal is going to have to be very involved with this, since they are going to be setting up all these sub recipient agreements to make sure that they are adhering to the requirements that we are setting forth, because as David Miles mentioned -- we are ultimately responsible for that and that is kind of scary for us.

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor?

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: To that extent, then, if -- if an applicant doesn't -- doesn't spend the funds correctly, what does that look like for the city? I mean what's the exposure? If -- not -- I'm not talking about the application we saw or whether they come -- whether they are in compliance with the original criteria, but later on down the road after the funds have been spent by the applicant is there any concern on the city's part -- any responsibility on the city for it?

Miles: Mayor and Council Woman Perreault -- and certainly I will defer to Mr. Nary as well. However, in conversation with Emily Kane in Legal, the reason for the -- what we are calling grantee agreement that would have to be signed is a reciprocal agreement, for lack of a better word, would at least create that legal connection between the city and the recipient and that if we are -- we as a city are audited or if the state is audited and, therefore, the city is audited at some later point in time, there is a legal connection back to the money and to the business, with the intent being that if the city needed to and chose

to we could, then, go back and have legal action and certainly I will defer to Mr. Nary, but that's the intent of the legal agreement.

Nary: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Mr. Nary.

Nary: Yeah. Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council, yeah, I think as Dave stated earlier, the -- the risk to the city is that we are ultimately responsible back to the feds for the money. The intent of the sub recipient agreement would be to give us a mechanism for collection, but, again, we are not a bank, so we are not going to be looking at collateral and credit checks and those kinds of things. So, you know, basically, it -- there is four concerns that we have to at least be thoughtful of as we move forward with this program and I know we are sometimes the worst case scenario people, but that's kind of what we get paid for. One of it is the rules aren't real clear yet. That's -- that's one problem is that they appear to be writing the rules as they speak, but they don't write them down and send them to us. So, we are not totally sure what all the rules are yet and so there is that concern of how do we manage that landscape without some clarity on what is acceptable and what is not. So, that's going to be a challenge. So, that's just something to know about. The sub recipient agreements I think are a great mechanism, but also be mindful potentially you are talking up to 66 of these grants. So, that's a lot of agreements and a lot of enforcement and a lot of enforcement for 10,000 dollars or 15,000 dollars. So, that could be problematic. Again, hopefully, we are not going to have to enforce many of these, but that is going to be an issue just, again, to be aware of. Again, we don't know what we don't know yet. There is still a lot of unclear direction here with how they want this done with other than the big hook, as Todd had raised, as we are ultimately responsible for it. So, again, I don't think it's -- the last concern is the window is so short. I am hopeful, as the Mayor is, that the reality is is no one can do this as much as they would like to in that short a window to make it really effective and that extending it seems likely and that happens often in the feds programs, that they recognize that the window is too short and they give you a little more time. So, that may open itself up a little bit. But we really are talking about a four month window to hire a consultant, put together a set of guidelines and, then, review, again, possibly 60 plus of these applications and, then, make sure if there is a requirement that we have to get them secondarily approved by -- by the feds, that will, again, slow the process down. So, there is just some things to be aware of. I don't think any of them are insurmountable, but if you want to move forward I think you just need to know there may be -- we may be coming back and having a few more conversations on what's going on.

Simison: And while Bill's job is to be the Debbie Downer, my job is also to say we do these all the time, we allocate a half a million dollars a year under CDBG. You know, same basic principle. Those are agreements. Those have risks. Those can be paid back. I don't know that we have ever had to go and enforce against somebody for that purpose. So, it's not completely foreign in the concept and I like to think that as I always hear everyone say, local government is nimble, we can do things faster. We can do things better. We don't have to get bogged down completely in the federal processes. Even the

state was able to pull this off in less than four months. So, I would like to think that we -- I'm not -- I don't want to downplay that there are some challenges with doing these, but I also want to say that the state is enjoying doing these for businesses under the PPE program. We have been doing grants. We do have some experience in this arena. So, this is not one hundred percent brand new in terms of what's being done and other cities are going down this road as well, which doesn't mean we have to do it either. Just trying to balance the scales of justice just a little bit in application.

Miles: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Mr. Miles.

Miles: Yeah. Just to your point, just so Council's aware, the other cities -- we have been talking with Nampa and certainly Boise are discussing the ideas. Nampa has already submitted a project proposal to the state for approval. They haven't received that yet to my knowledge. I'm aware of Garden City has also implemented a program. They have taken a little bit of a different approach where they are putting out a request for applications and, then, they will submit those applications to the state. So, I just wanted to be open with who we have talked to across the other cities that are interested. In fact, I got a call today from a Lincoln county commissioner who is interested in -- in what we and what Nampa has thrown together as a draft at least as well. So, there are other cities talking about it to the Mayor's point, just so you are aware.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Let's go to Councilman Cavener, because he has had his mic on and ready to speak.

Cavener: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. First, I really want to applaud you and your team for kind of this proactive approach. I think -- like staff and Councilman Bernt, I have got my share of concerns. I guess a couple of clarifying pieces then. First one as I understand with CDBG that's a -- that's a reimbursement model. So, an organization expends funds and we reimburse. I didn't get a sense from the memo that -- that we will be following the same process. Did I misunderstand the memo?

Miles: Mr. Mayor and Councilman Cavener, you are correct. This is a grant program.

Cavener: Okay.

Miles: We would -- we receive application. If an application is approved, provide funding for them.

Cavener: Thank you. And, then, my second question I think is more in line with where Council Member Bernt was coming from. If -- if a business is interested in participating ultimately who are they calling? Who are they speaking with? I mean who is our -- going to be our main point of contact for that? Is that going to be Tori in Economic Development?

Is that going to be somebody in the Finance Department? Is it going to be the consultant who ultimately -- you know, with CDBG all of our applicants work with Crystal and my assumption is that -- to the very point, that process works really really well, but we are dealing with a small handful with CDBG, which, potential, much larger handful of people if we were to move forward with this program. So, just trying to wrap my head around -- I know that we could divert some of the work to a consultant, but ultimately somebody is going to be the face for this, I'm just curious where you and the team have landed as to who that's going to be.

Miles: Yeah. Mr. Mayor, Councilman Cavener, in conversations with Economic Development and Tori, it would likely be a combination between Tori and Crystal as the, quote, unquote, face, meaning who gets the initial questions. It will really be a committee effort, probably between Tori, Crystal, and -- and Community Development and myself and in concert with -- when it gets to a finance reimbursement component, Karen Wooddell down in Finance, who is currently handling our CARES Act requests.

Cavener: Thank you.

Simison: And I know, Council, you are kind of getting your fingers around this. Just ask you to remember -- my job is to make sure that staffing is available to do the things I bring forward to you. I will manage the staffing elements and help people prioritize, because I think keeping our local businesses, if they are able to move -- to utilize these to stay afloat, I'm going to -- I'm going to ask our departments to prioritize the needs here versus maybe something else that isn't as important or as time consuming, but I will manage the staffing needs or the consulting element from that standpoint. I really want to know your comfort level on the direction of the program itself.

Cavener: Thank you, Mayor.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: As it relates to the 15,000 dollars that's proposed for the consultant, how did it come to be that five hours was the amount of time estimated for each application? And so give us a -- give us some thoughts on that. Is -- with the additional proposed amount -- so, Dave, you had said we could go up to X dollars, is that with the intention that it might take more time per application or that -- or that you intend on having additional applications? In terms of estimating the amount that will be set aside for the consultant. And, then, what -- with the consultant, is this an -- do you have somebody that's already in mind that -- that does this as a profession or -- talk to us a little bit more about that piece if you would.

Miles: Sure. Mr. Mayor, Council Woman Perreault, great questions. Again, last question first. Yes, we -- in conversations with Nampa, who has sort of took the first step in this, they have a consultant who apparently was a former employee who worked in CDBG and

had left the city of Nampa and is available for that effort. So, they have got familiarity in grants, they have got familiarity in reviewing applications and going through that process and so through this program we are able to utilize that -- that consultant if we choose and so there is experience there. In terms of the breakdown, their estimate, based on sort of standard work of reviewing applications, that we -- that's where the five hours came up with and that -- in terms of collecting, compiling applications, reviewing those applications, working inside of the Neighborly Software system to compile the recommendations and approval list, that's compiling that five hours. The thought process -- and if you do the hourly rate times the five hours times the number of applications, that's where you get to the 15,000. The thought process of potentially increasing the consulting dollars is really a wrap around the thought of something we touched on earlier -- is there more that the consultant could do and less that we would ask staff to do without giving up that risk mitigation assurance that Mr. Lavoie spoke about and so trying to balance that and, you know, I do apologize if there is a little bit of a -- it's an ebb and flow conversation, because we are trying to actively work in a short time frame and continuously improve this document as we want to come to you and -- and before we put more effort into it get -- get alignment and make sure that -- Council's comfort with the direction moving forward.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: I mean it's just from a philosophical perspective, you know, you hear about like hedge funds and, you know, a company that don't need money -- accessing federal money, I view this very differently. It's truly helping the small businesses in our community that are based here. I trust you guys to put the adequate guardrails around the execution of it. I -- the only piece that I think would be helpful is just -- we take a step back -- we have three million dollars of CARE funding, how did the one million dollars get chosen? What does the landscape look like of other programs that could access those dollars? Are there other initiatives that may be competing for future dollars? And how do we feel about the amount that we have left over, if you will, in case the city incurs additional expenses related to COVID.

Miles: Mr. Mayor and Council Woman Strader, great question. The million dollars was really -- it was a number that was big. We have to start somewhere. And it was a recognition that it's roughly 28 percent of the remaining unallocated funds to the city and I will let Mr. Lavoie, if he's still on, speak to the financial health of the city and projections related to COVID and without putting words into his mouth, not being too concerned with future COVID impacts at this point in time and running out of COVID dollars based on this number or not being able to fund the issues that -- or concerns we may come across. In terms of other agencies, other organizations that may need help or other needs that come up, I think that's a great question and how it relates. You know, we are having some conversations through our office with the school board, at the YMCA, and some local faith organizations about when schools -- which I know they are talking about right now -- when they make the decision, is there a need beyond what current programs exist that the city could help them. So, it's a great question. I don't have an answer for you on -- on that,

but, you know, I -- we have got roughly two million dollars -- 2.1 after a program like this and is that sufficient for city funds. I will let Mr. Lavoie answer that, but I think the answer is at least right now yes. Other programs -- I don't know what's out there or what may come down the road.

Simison: And -- and, honestly, I'm the one that said a million dollars. I think they came forward with 750,000, which, again, was just another number. But really the -- the main things that we potentially could have as PPE expenses, as well as overtime expenses. Those are really the last two or another program and if we are talking between now and December, I would ask someone a lot smarter and better at math to tell me if we could even spend that much money in overtime if we tried for Police or Fire. Maybe we could. Maybe -- I don't know. But with where we are at COVID right now, I don't see those -- those numbers trending upwards maybe until it gets into a much colder season of November, December, and now, of course, if there is -- through next year we could get into a place where we maybe don't have access to it as much as we once did, which, you know, that's something that I can't answer that question.

Strader: Mr. Mayor, just a quick -- I agree with that. Just a quick question.

Simison: Council Woman Strader. Yes.

Strader: Yeah. I don't need -- I don't need Todd to go into that. The logic seemed very sound. I guess just from a mechanical perspective with these types of dollars, I'm just not familiar with them. If we earmark a million dollars, can we move money into another eligible expense later if we don't utilize the funds and a different need arises?

Simison: Except probably more of Mr. Miles, who has been dealing with fair tax submissions.

Miles: Yeah. Mr. Mayor, Council Woman Strader, my understanding is, yes, if we don't utilize money and it's still allocated to the city, we could for all intents and purposes, reallocate those remaining funds to something else in my understanding. It's really a matter of -- if we spend it -- if we seek the actual reimbursement and take the money, that money is spent.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Where was that voice from?

Perreault: Jessica.

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: So, Mr. Miles, let's say there is a scenario where an applicant applies for the full amount that they could potentially qualify for and they purchase a -- say an air filtration system for their -- their company that is probably -- you know, perhaps it's a system that's

-- that's way more -- way more than they really need for their building, way more than they really need for their office, to the staff size, and they sell that filtration system to make money, is that -- you go down that road is that, then, something that -- that the city is responsible for? I mean how far do -- do we get -- you know, how much responsibility do we really carry -- carry with what the applicant spends those funds on as far as the state or the federal government is concerned. And how do we sort of vet -- I mean, obviously, our staff and probably the consultants aren't specialists in every kind of business and every kind of item. It's such a broad range of things that the applicant can apply for -- for changes to their physical structures or for their staffing. How far does the responsibility go?

Miles: And here I thought we -- we had already thought of every question. Mr. Mayor and Council Woman Perreault, that's a good question. I don't know the answer to that specific question. I can get that answer for you, though. We can do some research. I -- I won't speak my opinion. I tend to think the impossible for us to be responsible for that on a scale, but we will certainly get you the answer. We can reach out to the state.

Simison: Mr. Lavoie, it looks like you want to weigh in.

Lavoie: Yeah, Mr. Mayor. I can just refer to our general funding -- or general management of grant funds. We are responsible for the end product. We do require audits on all expenditures that occur from a sub recipient agreement. I would not expect it to be any much difference and the comment I made earlier about the ongoing management and oversight of the funds again. So, we are responsible for -- like Jessica Perreault, if your company got current funds from the government for PPE, you are responsible for submitting your receipts right now to the federal government for that act. I don't see it being much different. That's just my opinion on experience with other grants. I go with what Mr. Miles said, let's do some research to get you the final final answer. I'm just giving the experience of our CDBG grant management up to date.

Simison: And at the end of the day, if someone takes the money and they go out of business two days later, there is nothing we can do about it. You know, no matter how they spend it or what they do. So, there is always that risk of how effective will they be and, honestly, I was -- you know, Mr. Miles in a group -- I wanted to go a little bit further and have a little bit more requirements for the money to even be able to be there, but it did create a lot more staff time, a lot more questions and a lot more headaches. So, I agree with staff in the sense that, you know, you can't call bad actors necessarily, you can just try to avoid bad problems.

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor?

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: Just a final question. The seed program I thought was really interesting, because it's published the recipients of funds is my understanding. There is a level of transparency around that and I think accountability at least in the public sphere about, you know, who's taking money for different things. Are we intending to do a similar level of transparency around the recipients of the Meridian funding?

Miles: Yeah. Mr. Mayor and Council Woman Strader, yes, that's a requirement of this program through the state level is that businesses that we awarded money to would still be published in the state, because ultimately we have to put it back to the state to get their reimbursement anyway and we actually talked about potentially creating yet another section on our Meridian COVID page strictly to this program to capture business money received. So, that would be another measure of that.

Strader: Thank you.

Simison: Councilman Bernt, did you have a comment?

Hoaglund: Mr. Mayor?

Bernt: I do have some comments, but I will wait until after Mr. Hoaglund is done.

Simison: Oh. Okay. Councilman Hoaglund.

Hoaglund: Yes, Mr. Mayor. And I think Mr. Borton would like to weigh in at some point, too, but a couple of questions -- what if questions again for Dave. Dave, if -- you had mentioned during your discussion earlier about, you know, there is a possibility it could go beyond the four months, that there could be an extension of the program, different things. So, if we have businesses that qualify for the monthly draw of 10,000 dollars a month, we have already been on four months, it gets extended, are they done? Are we going to extend them if they still qualify? What -- what are you thinking -- what's your thinking on that?

Miles: Mr. Mayor and Councilman Hoaglund, so right now the recommendation is not to exceed 15,000 dollars on one business. I think there is discussion -- room for discussion about how that 15,000 dollars gets allocated, whether that's a one time 15,000 -- what we wrote up and what we recommended initially was a 10,000 dollar initial award and if there is a need and request for the remaining 5,000, the issue with that. And, then, stop there. We had talked about other strategies or other methodologies toward money, which would allow that avenue -- or the item that you were talking about where you could eventually -- you could actually award per month up to a certain amount, but we don't recommend issuing more than 15,000 dollars total to any one business, just based on what we have seen the state do and what we have seen the federal guidelines do for other small business programs, they have been in that range of ten to twenty thousand dollars.

Hoaglund: Okay. Mr. Mayor, just to follow up, had another one -- a question, but on the project consideration it talked about 25 businesses will qualify for since -- at a monthly

draw of 10,000 dollars and it didn't have the -- any -- you know, it seemed like that was -- went -- went on. So, that's good to know it's -- it's a limited still to 15,000. The other what if is if they take that money, the -- and, then, they just stay open for a month and, then, they close their doors, what -- what happens in that scenario?

Miles: Mr. Mayor, Councilman Hoaglund, I think to the Mayor's point earlier is we don't have control over a business that may close its doors, whether it's closure or not, and that's -- to some degree that's the risk of providing this money as a grant, which is what it is, it's a grant program, you are giving the money based on a need perceived under the application or explained in the application and I don't -- I see Todd nodding his head, we don't have control over that. If they close their doors they close their doors I think.

Hoaglund: Thank you.

Simison: Councilman Borton, did you have some comments?

Borton: Yeah, Mr. Mayor. A couple of them. The -- the materials show -- we have got eligible applicants, certain characteristics, these bullet points of what makes you an eligible applicant and, then, looking at this application I'm trying to get a sense of is someone going to apply and based upon what's on the application somebody internal or external might review it and, then, say I don't like your experience, organizational capacity, I'm going to deny it or your P&L from 2019 to 2020 hasn't changed enough, so I'm going to deny it. Is it -- is it designed to be that mushy for whomever receives the application to up or down or requester who otherwise checks the boxes above on 2.2, I think. Eligible applicants. So, if I'm a 2.2, I check all those boxes, could I still get denied if my answers aren't good enough?

Miles: Mr. Mayor, Councilman Borton, that's a great question. Great perspective. We have talked about that a lot. I think that's part of the challenge with this program is protecting the city's interest and the taxpayers' interest, while trying to help businesses and the intent was to have the -- whether it's the consultant or anybody else, but in this case the consultant reviewing the applications for legitimacy of the need and the application. Certainly the intent would be to define the criteria enough to say based on business practices is this a viable investment. The flipside is we could simply say are you eligible under Section 2.2 guidelines or criteria and leave it at that. However, in our conversation it seems like a better use of city funds or the federal money through the city to have some level of checks and balances about are we just giving good money too bad, so to speak.

Borton: A couple other quick ones, Mr. Mayor. Is there a --

Simison: Councilman Borton.

Borton: -- drop dead date working backwards that this -- the program, however it would go forward, would be on a City Council agenda for a vote and approval? From today's discussion to the end of it, when -- how of much time is there?

Miles: Mr. Mayor, Councilman Borton, there is not a drop dead date, given the fact if you work off at the end of December 2020, again, it's a tight time frame, knowing that Nampa has submitted to the state -- I believe it was about a week and a half to two weeks ago and hasn't heard an answer yet and we would propose to do that as well. We are kind of stuck with waiting to see how long that would take and we certainly -- a recommendation could be to come back to this body once pre-approval is authorized, before enacting the program, if that's a preference of the Council, that would be the best that can be for a drop dead date and sort of waiting on -- however long it takes the state to review what we submit them and, then, coming back to Council before we actually roll it out to the businesses and the public.

Borton: Another -- here is another quick one. Maybe.

Simison: Councilman Borton.

Borton: Does Garden City's process of compiling applications directly to the state eliminate liability for Garden City and take them out of that equation?

Miles: Mr. Mayor and Councilman Borton, as I understand it, they are not taking themselves out of the equation, they are simply not submitting for pre-approval as a program. They have rolled out the program based on how the state lined it out with the three parameters and eight criteria and said we will review applications against these criteria. Once we approve a packet of applications we will submit those directly to the state. So, they are -- they are just skipping the pre-approval process is my understanding.

Borton: Mr. Mayor, last one.

Simison: Councilman Borton.

Borton: They are quick hitters. When we look at what would be an eligible applicant or the application itself, my sense is there are parameters -- the hooks from spending federal money like you got to pay Davis Bacon wages, for example. Those are hooks that any applicant must at least acknowledge that they are going to comply with. I guess that's part of the sub recipient agreement?

Miles: Correct. Mr. Mayor, Councilman -- sorry. Correct. Mr. Mayor, Councilman Borton, yes. And, in fact, we had that discussion about Davis Bacon wages as well and whether or not contractors are being hired and -- and, yes, if -- if a sub recipient were receiving money for those types of things that requires those, so to speak, federal hooks, they would have to acknowledge that and that would be part of the sub recipient agreement.

Borton: Thank you.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: We probably need to move along a little bit, but I appreciate the discussion that's taken place, because I think ultimately I think this is a program that has a lot of potential that can help a lot of people. I -- I have a good friend who found out about some of the self-employed benefit grant opportunities from the state, but he was too late to -- to apply and so he is like, crap, if I would have known I would have been able to get that money and he met all the eligibility. So, this type of program will help a lot of people that weren't -- weren't able to apply with the state. But that said, I think that this is a -- this is -- this is going to be a time consuming thing, especially if you get into the Davis Bacon situation and contractors and where that money goes and how much oversight is needed and how detailed you have to be in those -- in that information. I think that we are going to -- it's going to -- there is going to be more -- I would -- I would prefer not one hundred percent oversight by a contractor by any means, but I think more than maybe what we are planning for, because the last thing I want -- and I'm sure my fellow Council Members would agreed -- is to have Tori and her team and Todd and his team dedicate a lot of time and a lot of resources for this. So, hopefully, we can, you know, think about this more and tackle this and -- and have further discussion. So, those are my --

Simison: Is where I am is I need thumbs up or thumbs down to submit to the state, because of the timeline and the process. So, if I get three thumbs down we will put it off to the side and we won't move forward with it. If I get three -- at least three thumbs up we will submit it and, then, we will work on it as we -- as it comes back. But today's point we have -- this can be two to three weeks of time before we hear back anything from the state and -- and, you know, we may only have until December to help people, we may have longer. So, this was -- this was really -- I -- we got a lot further in the weeds than we ever thought we were going to do. This was a poll check on whether or not the Council feels comfortable putting business grants out there using the CARES funding. I'm leaving it to the staff and others to cross the T's and dot the I's and allocate the time that's fair, you know, and so that's -- I know that's a tough thing. Maybe you don't feel comfortable making a thumbs up or thumbs down on even submitting, but submitting doesn't require spending, it just gives us the authorization to work at it. So, that's kind of where I am. If I don't have three people saying that they are -- they at least want to move it forward, then, I don't want to invest more staff time even -- even to what we have done in the conversation. So, that's kind of where I would ask is -- or at least the general -- submit it for consideration and dates and come back when we get more information and further clarification and guidance.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: And that being -- if it's submitted to the state and they say, yep, you are good to go, is that -- then it's just approved and we get a letter saying it's approved or is there another step to that process?

Miles: Mr. Mayor, Council Woman Perreault, there is more steps to the process. They would acknowledge to the city that it's approved, but, then, it's really to the Mayor's point on us to decide when to enact it, when to open it up, so --

Perreault: Then I'm thumbs up.

Simison: Okay. Well, as Councilman Bernt said, in some time we will move off of this topic will we submit it, in the interest of time we will move off of this topic and we will resubmit it -- we will take the comments here and we will submit it through -- to get the state's feedback on it and Dave Miles can come back in a week or two or three with other comments, so if you do have specific questions or comments or things you would like to see reach directly out to him and provide that to him.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor, I do believe that -- that we would need to have like one more discussion and a thumbs up or thumbs down vote in regard to final confirmation. There is a lot of open ended questions that I don't think are fully answered, so -- but I think there is enough there that we can -- I think at least I'm comfortable going forward.

Simison: Yeah. Okay.

Miles: Mayor and Council, thanks for your time. I know it took -- took a bit and I know you have got more to go. So, thank you. Appreciate the feedback.

16. Community Development: Update on Ada County Highway District's North Meridian Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Simison: All right. With that our next item on the agenda is Item No. 16 from our Community Development Department. I will turn this over -- is this going to be Brian? Miranda?

Hood: Mr. Mayor, this is Caleb.

Simison: Or Caleb. I didn't see your name there, so turn this over to Caleb.

Hood: Just -- just real briefly, Edinson Bautista is the project manager at ACHD. It looks like he's been admitted and I am serving on the project team representing the city, but Edinson is going to provide you the update this afternoon.

Bautista: Thanks, Caleb. Good evening, Mayor Simison and Council, I will be sharing my screen just now. I prepared a presentation for you, so -- can everyone see my screen? Great. So good evening. My name is Edinson Bautista. ACHD senior transportation planner. In today's meeting I wanted to present an update regarding the North Meridian neighborhood bike and pedestrian plan and the public response to this process. I will present project objectives, which includes the mapping of biking and walking destinations, identification of transit, biking and walking facilities. The developments of the -- of the user friendly neighborhood plan. Clearly define, prioritize, and rank the identified projects

and identify existing gaps in sidewalk and bicycle network. As a reminder, this is the most north -- the planning area for the north Meridian neighborhood bike and ped plan and it mainly covers north Meridian -- the City of Meridian north of I-84. Above the neighborhood plan public outreach effort, ACHD staff and the consultants worked with five and sixth grade classrooms from the -- from the River Valley Elementary School to obtain feedback from local kids about their community. Maps of the planning area were presented to the students in discussions and discussed with them about walking and biking in the community. We asked the kids what makes them feel safe and challenges when walking and biking. Some of the comments received regarding the difficulty of walking and biking included vehicle speed, lack of lighting, vehicles inside the bike lane and lack of parking. In response to Covid-19 the public outreach has -- has been focused in the development of online tools that allows the public to provide feedback pertaining to planning areas. In April ACHD released a public interactive common map that allows the public to share their thoughts on transportation and issues presenting the community. Through this effort north Meridian received 28 comments. Using the public feedback, as well as the roadways to bikeway masterplan and the data analysis, a draft project list was prepared -- was prepared for each of the north Meridian neighborhood areas. In July we released an online open house to present this to the public -- the draft project and to request further -- further public feedback regarding the planning area. The content of this second public outreach included the project under consideration. The project schedule. The inputs received in April in a survey. So, in this effort north Meridian received 53 comments, with a total of 81 comments for the entire public outreach effort. As part of this work session in your packet you will find the draft project list for the north Meridian neighborhood plan. A total of 88 projects were identified for the north Meridian planning area. From those 88 projects 67 are bike -- bike with projects. Identify locations like they use the corridor -- or Ten Mile corridor and also bikeway projects like the major Meridian bikeway, just to mention a few. Eighteen sidewalk projects that were that -- were mainly located at the west end of the planning area and certain projects at locations like Meridian and Settler's Park, McMillan Road and Summit Way and Cherry Lane and Meridian -- in the Meridian library area. As next steps, through the month of August we are -- we are working with the -- the consultant on the project -- the projects under consideration and the development of the draft plan. On September -- September 9th we are planning to go in front of the commission to present the draft plan and as part of it we listen to the public ahead of the adoption hearing, which will take place on September 26th. With this I conclude my presentation and I stand for any questions.

Simison: Thank you, Edinson. Council, any questions? Okay. Thank you very much.

Bautista: Thank you. Thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

17. Community Development: Eagle Road, Amity to Victory Design Update

Simison: Council, we don't have an Executive Session, so if it's all right we will try to go until 5:45, if we can get in these next two and give a break before the next meeting. If we have to move something on we will do that. So, with that we will move on to Item 17

under Department/Commission Reports, Community Development, Eagle Road to Amity -- to Victory design update and I will turn this over to Caleb and Brian.

Hood: Hello, again, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council. Thank you. I'm just going to do a very quick introduction or refresh. Last week, as we discussed, the ACHD draft integrated five year work plan, there was a little bit of dialogue on the project that Brian's going to run through with you very briefly. He's been the city representative on that project team at ACHD, so he's just going to show you some of those design elements, get into a little bit more of the detail as we follow up on the conversation last week on, again, some of the design elements that ACHD currently has for the project. So, with that I'm going to pass the mic to Brian.

McClure: Mr. Mayor, Members of Council, I'm going to give you an abbreviated version of this presentation. As Caleb mentioned, I'm here to speak to you about the Eagle, Victory to Overland -- Overland roadway widening project. The existing roadway is two lanes, sometimes with a center turn lane, and numerous bike and pedestrian paths. The expansion project is a five lane roadway, including center turn lane and multi-use sidewalks on both sides of the street. ACHD would put a pathway crossing at the Ten Mile-Cedar Creek, and there are two roundabouts for this project, one at Zaldia and one at Amity. There is also an existing single lane roundabout at Amity, which is to be rebuilt as a double lane roundabout with a bypass lane. Generally the multi-pathways are ten feet. If they are adjacent to county parcels they will be eight feet. The project began in 2018 and included two public open houses and online commentaries. Since, then, ACHD has completed -- largely completed design and been acquiring right of way. This is largely finished with the project on the 90 day bid list and construction is slated for FY-2021. Look at this lopsided exhibit here for a moment. You are looking at the new dual lane roundabout at Eagle and Amity and probably deserves some backstory. North is at the top. Recently ACHD expense projects include this intersection, which was previously noted as an existing roundabout. The pedestrian crosswalks were approved by the city in 2017 and located on the northwest corner of Eagle and Amity intersection, had originally agreed to complete the expansion of a single lane roundabout into a dual lane configuration. However, this development, as it moved forward, and ACHD determined they will need to complete the intersection to retain the benefits of the project to the north. The complexity of the design and relationship -- the concept design to the entitlement maintenance necessitates divisions either to do some property access or to the intersection design. Staff has had some concerns with this. The -- the project is fairly complicated as you can see. It is a dual lane roundabout, which is relatively new to Meridian and, then, the bypass lane is on the northeast corner. On the west side of this project we have three lanes merging into one. That section of Amity is not in ACHD's integrated five year work plan and ACHD has been prioritizing improvements to Lake Hazel, which is the mobility corridor one mile to the south. I guess with that and given time constraints, I will just very briefly mention that the crossing on here, if you are not familiar with that, there is two roundabouts, there is a multi-use pathway, which will have some concerns and, then, there is this roundabout here, which is definitely made to our area. And with that I would stand for questions.

Simison: Brian, just because I know it's come up, but the Transportation Commission, do you have any slides to show the -- at least the roundabout at Zaldia and the proposed stacking pedestrian crossings facility?

McClure: So -- yes, Mr. Mayor. This is the roundabout at Zaldia. This is a two lane roundabout north-south along Eagle Road, probably just north and, then, east-west on Zaldia is a single lane roundabout. So, the inside lane of the roundabout you can go round and round, if that suits your fancy, and the outside lanes you have to either turn right or go straight through. The pedestrian crossings that were of interest look like this. So, at the local streets the -- ACHD has moved the crossings for those pathways back behind what would be a typical -- typical entrance for a single second vehicle and then -- yes, it speaks for itself. Staff has had concerns with this as well. We have raised them with this project. We also discussed them previously with Council on the Locust Grove project from Victory to Amity -- or from Victory to Overland, but ACHD provides the designs of that and removed the multi-use pathways from that project. So, this is the only location proposed in Meridian right now.

Hood: Mr. Mayor? Sorry, Brian.

Simison: Yes, Caleb.

Hood: And just to follow up on that, we did discuss both of those topics at the Transportation Commission earlier this month. The Transportation Commission did share concerns about this design for the crossings of the local roadways there and did request that Council send a letter to ACHD requesting them to relook at the design of these -- these crossings. We have not sent that letter yet. We wanted to see if there is anything else that you wanted to talk about if we do send a letter to ACHD. But that was the recommendation of the Transportation Commission that -- that we request ACHD to relook at this design.

McClure: I have a bit of the screen to show some of the things of that multi-use crossing by the Transportation Commission and by staff.

Simison: Okay. Brian, several people want to weigh in right here. I can -- let's see. Jessica? Council Woman Perreault?

Perreault: Yeah. I didn't want to weigh in, I was just wondering if Brian could e-mail us a copy of this slideshow. It doesn't sound like there is any decision to make right now, we are just getting information. So, would that be possible to have this e-mailed to us?

McClure: Mr. Mayor, Council Woman Perreault, I can certainly e-mail that to you. I abbreviated the slides -- or this presentation, so I should note this project is rapidly nearing start, so this portion of Eagle Road has been designed for some time. They have completed or largely completed the right of way acquisition. It is on the ACHD's 90 day bid list and they are planning for construction in FY-21. So, I can certainly send it to you, but I don't know how much time Council will have to weigh in on this.

Strader: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Strader.

Strader: It just seems like a lot of these projects we have significant concerns and that our significant concerns are not heard. So, I guess starting to cut down to it, we should send a letter and we think it would be helpful to improve either of these projects. I'm okay with that. You know, whatever improves the -- the pedestrian experience. Like these charts to me are like really mind boggling, because I don't -- I just don't see how they will work. I had a different question, which is -- I saw in this memo 9,000 dollars to pay for mulch. That feels like a lot for mulch. So, this is a different -- different topic for a different day, but maybe we could take a look at that. That seems like a lot. Any letters that would improve these I'm happy to get on board with.

Cavener: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: I'm in concurrence with Council Member Strader. My only hesitation is I think staff have done an excellent job of communicating some of their concern about specifically the crossing. I think previous Council has done the same. I am not a traffic engineer, but the common citizen in me when I look at this, it's almost a little frightening. So, I'm happy to send another letter. I just -- I'm -- maybe I'm too cynical to think that it's going to have a lot of impact. Again, specifically taking into the time of which case I would just choose moving forward on this project. We think it's helpful, let's do it.

Simison: And just for the -- you know, we are trying to get a joint meeting set up with ACHD and this potentially could be a topic and I think that the general question for Council is, you know, to what level is this a topic that you would want to engage ACHD on. Is it the overall concept of a roundabout at Eagle and Amity and the related roundabouts at Zaldia and -- help me with the other one, Brian. Amity and, then, another one is planned at Taconic to the south.

Simison: At Taconic. Or there is something more specific that there are issues with and this is -- I think I may have mentioned this last week, but there is a light that's being proposed at the half mile on Amity to the east where you have the Hill and a future high school site. So, my conversation more recently has been why are we putting a roundabout with a -- with a bypass lane in the middle of three lights, putting three lanes into one road, potentially limiting access to commercial on that corner. There seems to be a whole host of reasons why I personally am not in favor of a having -- and I don't care if ACHD is ready to bid, they should not build this in my personal opinion, but I'm not going to crusade against a roundabout, because sometimes my -- my comments get misconstrued, but I don't think this is a place where this roundabout should be built. But this is one person's opinion and then -- and before we -- I don't want to over -- go on a letter or a topic if the rest of Council has said this decision is past and we need to move on and just work on making this one favor.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: I have had similar conversations with property owners in the area and with you and with other Council Members regarding the -- specifically whether there should be a roundabout or a light at Eagle and Amity. Have a lot of concerns about their being a roundabout there for pedestrian safety -- safety, future business owners, et cetera. Not to go into too much detail, but I -- I -- I believe -- I think that we should have a conversation about all three, but only to the extent that we think we can -- we can have an effect on ACHD's plans. And I don't know how we measure that.

Cavener: And Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Cavener.

Cavener: To that point, I think that should be the bigger topic with -- with ACHD, not about -- I mean I think we should -- we can talk about this specific project, but what do they need from the city to change their mind? If we have -- we have staff that voiced concerns, if we have elected representatives that voice concerns and they still move, you know, full speed ahead, why ask us in the first place.

Simison: Fair enough.

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: Whether it's a letter or we expedite meeting with ACHD, whichever one is going to be most prudent, I believe that that's what we should do. Setting aside the design issue, this -- this is a public safety issue and that's our number one concern here, especially those crosswalks that go behind parked, you know -- not parked cars, but stopped cars. You can't see those people if it's -- if it's in the morning or if it's at night and it's getting a little bit dark. I know that there was a little boy that was killed over there recently, just right near where this is going to be. It's possible. And ACHD can't say that it is. It's happened and it's going to happen. These are -- these are serious safety concerns for this -- for this area of Meridian. So, they need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Perreault: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Council Woman Perreault.

Perreault: To that end, West Ada owns property on the north side of where that light will potentially go at the half mile and so we are -- if there is going to be a middle school potentially in that location, I have even greater concerns about the design of that roundabout at Eagle and Amity. That -- that was what spurred the original -- my original

interest and concern in that is if we now add a school in addition to commercial property that's been approved in two different corners -- absolutely we should have that conversation with them as soon as possible.

Simison: If I see -- hear no objections, I do have a meeting with the Commission President on Thursday. But, quite frankly, I'm going to ask Councilman Cavener's question very pointedly. You know, what does it take to get ACHD to actually listen to these feedbacks when we have grave concerns on things.

Cavener: And Mayor? Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Yes.

Cavener: It's -- it's late for dinner time and so I'm probably a little more salty -- that came across maybe a little more salty than I intended. I appreciate the collaborative relationship that we have with the highway district. I just think that we have seen kind of time and time again that we have voiced concern, we have asked for different approach and it hasn't necessarily been responded to.

Simison: And I will keep your name out of it.

Cavener: I think that --

18. Community Development: Discussion Regarding School District Data for Staff Reports

Simison: And I think Justin's on the call anyways, so -- from that perspective. So, with that we will end there. Miranda, I'm sorry, we are not going to get to you, but we will try to add it on to the next one. If there is a problem with that, please, communicate that to Caleb and Caleb can let us know if we need to bring it back next week, instead of tonight, before we do -- start our 6:00 o'clock meeting. So, with that, Council, do I have a motion?

Bernt: Mr. Mayor?

Simison: Councilman Bernt.

Bernt: I move that we adjourn the meeting.

Hoaglund: Second.

Simison: I have a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. Any discussion on the motion? If not, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. And we are adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED: ALL AYES.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:44 P.M.

(AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS)

MAYOR ROBERT SIMISON

_____/_____/_____
DATE APPROVED

ATTEST:

CHRIS JOHNSON - CITY CLERK