

**MINUTES
CITY OF FALLON
55 West Williams Ave
Fallon, Nevada
February 4, 2025**

The Honorable City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date in the Council Chambers, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada.

Present:

Mayor Ken Tedford
Councilwoman Kelly Frost
Councilwoman Karla Kent
Councilman Paul Harmon
Chief of Staff Bob Erickson
City Clerk Treasurer Michael O'Neill
Deputy City Attorney Trent deBraga
Deputy City Attorney Sean Rowe
Deputy City Clerk Elsie Lee
Public Works Director Brian Byrd
Deputy Public Works Adrian Noriega
Deputy Public Works Marco Guerrero
Deputy Public Works Erik Fain
Captain John Riley
Captain Daniel Babiarz
City Engineer Derek Zimney
Emergency Manager Steve Endacott

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tedford at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Tedford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tedford inquired if the agenda had been posted in compliance with NRS requirements.

City Clerk Treasurer Michael O'Neill advised that the agenda was posted in compliance with the NRS requirements.

Public Comments

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments. He noted that comments are to be general in nature, not relative to any agenda items. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place greeted the Council.

- Made comments regarding an 86 letter.
- Made comments regarding government and the Declaration of Independence.

- Made comments regarding street preaching and getting his glasses knocked off his face.
- Made comments regarding political philosophy and ideology.
- Made comments regarding preaching and speaking his mind.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any further comments.

No further comments were noted.

Approval of Warrants

- A) Accounts Payable
- B) Payroll
- C) Customer Deposit

Councilwoman Kent motioned to approve the accounts payable, payroll and customer deposit warrants; seconded by Councilman Harmon and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

Presentation of the Churchill County Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Plan 2024 by Jennifer McClendon from Turning Point, Inc.

Shannon Ernst, Churchill County Social Services Director and Public Guardian, addressed the Council. I want to provide an overview of how we came about developing our behavioral health and suicide plan. It was back in January 2024; I was at an event and Dr. Mandie Hammer approached me. We had a very in-depth conversation about the increase of suicide ideations that we are seeing in our adult and youth population. At that point, we found it a priority to develop a plan in how we can increase services and strategies to assist our community. We reached out to the State of Nevada, and they were able to provide us with funding, with a match with Churchill County and the School District. This brought us to move forward with a contract with Moving Forward, Inc. Today, Jennifer McClendon is going to provide you with all the work that has been done since March of last year and present the plan that you have before you.

Jennifer McClendon with Turning Point, Inc. addressed the Council. We have been working with Churchill County from March through December of 2024, which resulted in a plan for addressing some of the behavioral health issues that are here in the community. We were brought in, as Ms. Ernst was saying, because there is this recent impact of suicide in the schools and communities. We also found, early on, that behavioral health is having a significant impact on the court system, and with Law Enforcement, it is just taking a really heavy toll, in terms of resources of people, time, and energy through our people that are circling back through these systems, multiple times. So, there is just some thought and concern about how we can address this situation and give people access to the care that they need. So, Turning Point came in, and in March, we started talking to as many people as we could get information from. So, we did in-depth interviews with the community leaders. We did focus groups with people who are receiving services in the community, we did focus groups with people that are delivering services in the community, and we also did three large open-invitation community convenings, where anyone could come and sort of have a say of what this process could look like, and what it should look like for the community. What we found was that there were several strengths and weaknesses, as there always are in communities, and one of the great things that was such a pleasure to find is how strong

the relationships are between people that are leading and managing the organizations in Churchill County that are trying to address this issue. Even as we heard earlier, just the partnership between the County and the School District is strong, we had Tribal Health in the room, we had Fallon PD, the Sheriff's Office. Many people were coming together. Religious organizations were there to address this concern and talk about what needed to happen. That dedicated leadership really made a difference. There are also some new initiatives that are happening in the schools. We have Gabby Stone as our FAST Case Worker, in the jails. So, there are lots of new ideas and new programming that is here to make a difference. However, there are also some challenges, as we all know. One of the ones that came up, over and over again, is the shortage of mental health professionals. Specifically, licensed clinical Social Workers and Psychiatrists. There are just not enough people to provide the care for the level of need that there is, in this community. People have to go outside of the community, to find care that's particularly difficult for those who have limited economic resources and who are involved with the justice system. Transportation is a barrier. There are gaps in crisis response, and follow-up care services. So, we have a lot of good services to try to get people access to care, when they need it. When there is a crisis, the community comes together, in really meaningful and profound ways, but then after the crisis is over there is kind of a gap in how we sort of help each other create a system for moving forward. How do we work together to try to heal, put some prevention efforts in place? There is a tendency to kind of want to quickly move on, which can be both good and bad, but there is the gap there in services and in sort of a procedure for moving forward. We also found that there was a need for better coordination between agencies, despite the fact that all of the leaders of these community agencies have each other's cell phone numbers, and call each other, and have good communication. There is not any really strong standard policy, or procedure, for exactly how this collaboration should look. What should it look like? Who we should call, in case of an emergency? Who needs to be notified? How should that notification go? How should we prioritize the communication pattern, in times of a crisis? Housing was a concern that came up over and over again, both as a precursor to mental health problems. If you don't have a safe and stable place to live, it is very hard to feel safe and stable, in your own mind. Also, as something that is difficult for folks who are immediately involved with mental health systems, justice-involved, and they get released, back out on their own with nowhere to go because housing is so expensive. They end up going back into a community and a situation where people are abusing substances. Where people are also unwell, in terms of their mental health, and so it creates this cycle, where it is hard to stay well when you are going back into the situation that makes them unwell in the first place. That is, in part, that there is not a lot of housing opportunities for people to maintain independence from those systems that they are part of. So, when we came together, in our large groups, we kind of presented, you know, here is the state of things, as we see them. We need to develop a plan, as a community. Together, these groups of people, we had about 25-30 people that came to each of these meetings. They came up with three priorities that they thought were important for the County and the City to focus on, over the next 3-5 years. So, those three priorities were number 1. Agency Collaboration and Resource Mapping. So, figuring out what do we actually have in town, what is working, how people can access what is working, how do we create sort of a roadmap, so that people can find what they need. So, that the services that we have in town are actually being used, and are accessible to the folks who live here. Number 2. To Promote Open Communication around Mental Health. This was a very broad priority. Not just like we need to start talking about mental health, but that we need to start addressing things as a community. There was

also an underlying factor, of, people feel better when they feel like they are a member of a community that is rich and vibrant. They talked about meaningful things like, the Christmas Tree Lighting every year. They want more community events, more times and opportunities for people to feel like they belong, like they are a part of this community. They think that this will help strengthen health, across the board, and have a sense of belonging that will help to be preventative towards mental health problems, down the road. Number 3. To Create a Fully Resourced System to meet Community Needs. So, priority 3 is really all about, how do we leverage every single resource that we have access to? Can we figure out what is available from the State? Can we figure out what's happening statewide, what are the initiatives that we become a part of? How do we get on what is already happening, as opposed to trying to reinvent the wheel in our own community? Which can be really pricey. So, how do we find the resources, how do we find the services, and how do we bring those in? A big part of that priority, moving forward, is figuring out what are the number 1 and number 2 issues that we really want to try to leverage these resources around. Is it going to be housing? Is it going to be creating a pipeline for mental health workers, like LCSW's and psychiatrists? So, each of these priorities has now an action group attached to it, with a list of people. Each priority action group met once before the end of the calendar year, last year, with a kickoff, to get them started. Each group is set to meet every month, approximately, in 2025. If you are interested in joining any of these priority groups, we would love to have you. You can let us know. These priority groups have a pretty clear agenda of what they are going to accomplish in 2025, what their goals are, and how they are going to move forward. We are excited about that and feel like it has some legs, some traction, for moving forward. That work will not be happening under the umbrella of Turning Point. We are done; our contract is over. So, we are excited to hand this back over to the community to move forward, but we are of course available for assistance, as needed. This has been an incredible project to work on. It has been a real honor to work with people who are so incredibly dedicated to this community, to the work that they do, and to the neighbors that they serve. Many of those organizations are referenced on the last slide provided. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any questions or comments from the Council or the public.

Councilwoman Frost inquired on who the key contact will be, now that it will be handed back over to the community.

Jennifer McClendon stated that it would be turned over to the Regional Behavioral Task Force, which Gabby Stone is chair of.

Mayor Tedford inquired if Ms. McClendon believed that providers would be the number one priority, or if housing was the number one priority.

Shannon Ernst stated that providers are a concern. This is something that we have dealt with in our rural community, such as ours, for years. So, one of the things is I am actually working on priority Group 3. It is building more resources for our community. How can we afford that, and how can we work with the State? So, we were offered a great opportunity, at the Wellness Center at the Life Center. We have a room there that was not being utilized, and we were approached by Silver Summit, to build a Hub, by Silver Summit for telehealth. We will actually be cutting the ribbon, for the new center, on March 5, at 10:00 a.m., tentatively. You will all be invited. It is getting that access, and as I was building this telehealth center, it also showed that we don't have psychiatrists, especially forensic psychiatrists here. I was linked to Sugi Psychiatry, out of Reno, Carson, and they just opened a location in Fernley. I reached out to them and asked why they didn't come to

Fallon. They said that they just couldn't find space. They couldn't find where we were receiving referrals from that area. So, one of the things, their mission is to reduce individuals from going to the hospital, which I am sure Banner will appreciate, and really dealing with the crisis at hand, in front of them. They have decided that they will be coming to the Wellness Center, at the Life Center, the 4th Wednesday, of every month, starting February 26th. They will be there from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. One of the great things about them, is that they are willing to come here more once they build a cliental, but also they can be accessed through a walk-in, through telehealth. So, through our new telehealth system we will have somebody that is dedicated to coming in, and you need telehealth services, you could actually pick the button for your provider. So, they will have a button that goes directly to them. So, these are some of the resources we are looking to show that we have the need. How do we bring more providers here because we have that need? Lastly, I wanted to point out, I handed out flash drives. Every legislative year, the Nevada Association of Human Service Administrators builds a legislative guide. It really talks about what we are doing in the rural areas, what our priority needs within the rural areas are, and statewide. It goes out to all of our new Legislators, and then we take it to Capitol Hill. I will be there in the last week in February. This year, we had so much going on. We released our opioid response plan. We had this behavioral health suicide prevention plan. We also have our Point-in-Time Homeless Count for all the different areas. These are all loaded on the drive. So, they are very valuable if you are looking for data, looking at what our priorities are, our working groups, all these are here and also located on our website. This is just kind of one step forward. I know that the groups are meeting, and Gabby is doing a great job of coordinating this from our office. She is our Behavioral Health Case Worker. I want to thank everyone that came and worked, over the last 8 months, on this, it is great depth, as you see the whole plan.

Mayor Tedford wanted to touch more on the Silver Summit. What are the age groups they will see on the 4th Wednesday?

Shannon Ernst stated they would see all age groups and take all insurances. We have intake packets, and actually just received them last night. So, if someone wanted to get started sooner, and didn't want to call, our office can help link, and start the intake packet, so that they have time to sit down with our representative.

Mayor Tedford inquired if he could receive all this information in a packet. On many occasions, I sit down with folks that need some kind of mental health help. Many times, it is a young age group, and on up, that need this, and there are not a lot of referrals, as you know, locally.

Shannon Ernst stated she would provide the information. We are building flyers with, not only Silver Summit, but with Sugi, so we can get the word out, and the media. This was received last night, at 5:30 p.m. I have some brochures and things I will leave with you, but we will be getting more information out. This is our goal. We have a great resource at Banner Churchill. We have New Frontier Behavioral Health Center, but some individuals don't feel comfortable going to a local agency because they don't want others to know. It is that perception. How will this be perceived? So, this is an outside resource that we are bringing in. You can do it from the comfort of your home if you don't want to access an office. Some do not agree with telehealth, so we want to have that access for all types.

Mayor Tedford commented about the PD hardly going one day without dealing with mental health calls.

Councilwoman Frost stated that she had a question regarding the process. If someone

needs these resources, they receive a packet from Social Services from you?

Shannon Ernst stated that they can get the information from her or access Sugi directly. They can walk-in to any of the Sugi locations. I was speaking to the owner of Sugi, the Dr. He said, 'my biggest thing is, if someone needs help now, I am going to take a walk-in.' So, my clients understand that if they were in that same situation, possibly before. So, they might be a few minutes late. Someone was telling me about a case that he just accepted, that day. He said, 'I will see this person twice a day, until I know that they are comfortable and we get them seen on a regular basis.' They can come to us; they can go directly to Sugi. That's what we will be putting out.

Councilwoman Frost inquired if PD, the Sheriff's Department, and Banner will be able to direct them to the correct people.

Shannon Ernst stated that they brought her a whole box of flyers and information last night. We will be helping get those distributed to all of the agencies.

Councilwoman Kent asked for clarification. Sugi will be going to the William Pennington Life Center the 4th Wednesday, of every month? What is the facility that will be having the ribbon cutting?

Shannon Ernst stated that they are partnering with Silver Summit Health Care. They approached us and have been building telehealth centers across rural Nevada. So, what they do is provide the equipment and the process so you can have the center. That will be open, as long as the Life Center is open. You can call and make an appointment when your Dr.'s appointment is going to take place. So, say you have a regular check-up that is in Reno, but transportation is a challenge. A lot of doctors will approve for you to do it via telehealth. So, they can make an appointment to come in and use the telehealth center and we will have someone that can help link them to that appointment. So, the facility for the ribbon cutting, is called, The Hub by Silver Summit, at the William N. Pennington Center. One of the goals is when we took over operations at the Life Center, it was really to build every resource possible for the community. There is a Wellness Center there that was not being accessed. Now you have Central Nevada Health District coming in. We partner with New Frontier Behavioral Health Center to do grief and loss counseling there once a month, and groups there. So, we want to build that Hub as much as possible. We will be sending out invitations for the ribbon cutting.

Councilwoman Frost stated that she is aware this service, of being able to access mental health care, has been lacking in the community. Thank you.

Shannon Ernst stated that they have done a lot of work. We have faith-based community, we had other community members, and many different agencies dedicated. The ones that have come forward signing up for these priority groups has been exciting, and we hope to see more join. Thank you.

Mayor Tedford thanked Shannon and Jennifer. Are there any further questions or comments from the Council or the public?

Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Placed addressed the Council. I would like to make a comment. Looks good on the surface. But I read this, uh, in 1963, it is called the Communist Goals. Ya' see communism wants to bring in the ideology...solely creep things to make it look good. But a long one is about total control.

- Read excerpts from a book he stated was called Communist Goals.
- Made comments regarding children and different media outlets.
- Made comments stating that this would take over the children.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any further comments or questions from the Council or public.

No further comments were noted.

Report on efforts to establish a University of Nevada, Reno Rural Family Medicine Program at Banner Community Hospital.

Dr. Tedd McDonald greeted the Council. Thank you for allowing us to be here today and report the community efforts to have a Rural Medicine Residency Program in Churchill County and Fallon. With me, today, is Dr. Amy McGaha, and Robb Carnahan, CEO with Banner Hospital. I am going to give a quick background and let Dr. McGaha continue with current efforts. The reason why I am here is because I am the old guy. I have been here long enough, where I have seen the efforts that have occurred in Churchill County and in Fallon to bring more medical resources into the community, primarily, Primary Care Providers. Back in 2008, we came very close to having a residency program, we were just short of having the first residents come in. 2008 hit and it was considered not to be financially stable, at that time. In 2014, Banner Hospital approached the University of Nevada School of Medicine and asked for consideration of having a residency program. At that time, it was determined that the million dollars that it would cost to initiate the program, again, was going to be a burden. My notes go back to 2022, after a community evaluation of needs, it was once again determined there was a lack of Primary Care Providers. At that time, I was the County Health Officer, and I had members of the Board approach me and ask me the history and why we don't have a program here. Moving along, Mayor Tedford has also been very interested in this and supportive in the process. So, I had the opportunity to reach out to a lot of the players that were available for the other programs, and they were definitely still on board. Some things have changed in the world now. There is more grant funding available because of the national crisis of a lack of Primary Care Providers in small rural areas. It just turned out that things started slowly and now have cascaded to the point where we have had an evaluation of the community, called the Green Evaluation by experts from Utah. What they found is the soil here is fertile. There is enough need to have a residency program and it can be financially successful, over time. In November of last year, we had a review by a consulting group looking at the resources that are available in the hospital, in the community for places to put people, like exam rooms. Do we have people that are available to serve as proctors and teachers? At that point, we were given the advice to move forward to it. So, we are now at point, after 18 years, where a lot of things are in alignment and it has been a program that has a lot more together with the research, background checking, and making sure that we have committed players at the table. It is one of the first times, I am happy to say, that we have a great working relationship with the players. Banner Health is onboard, both on their clinic side/hospital side. The University of Nevada School of Medicine in 2014, they formed a coalition with Renown Hospital, Renown Incorporated, and they are working with us in this program too, in the overall growth of bringing primary care residents to small rural areas. At this point, everyone can see the benefit of not only this happening to be a good thing for Fallon/Churchill County, but also for other rural areas. So, with that long history I will turn things over to Dr. McGaha.

Dr. Amy McGaha greeted the Council. I have handouts for you today. I am a family physician, and I am happy to be here to talk to you about the Rural Family Medicine Residency Development. One of the first things that I did want to share with you, as you kind of think of what this could mean for the community, is that when rural health is looked at in terms of what is the contribution of a family physician into a community. A family

physician that is practicing in a community where there is also a hospital associated, brings in about 23 jobs and 1.7 million dollars into the community, in terms of additional workforce and just the activities that are stabilizing of the community. So, it is really a privilege to be able to talk to you about this. Just to give you a little bit of landscape of what this would look like. So, after undergraduate education, then a student will go into medical school and have four years of training in medical school. And then, in their last year they choose their specialty; family medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, or whatever they choose. Then they go into that program. For family medicine training, that is a three-year training program. At the end of that three-year residency program, you're eligible to be Board Certified in that specialty. Rural family medicine tracks, what they look like, you could do it in a couple of different ways, but the way we are planning to do it here, and proposed to do it, is that they would spend the first year in Reno, as part of the integrated family medicine residency. We have a family medicine residency at UNR, it's been present for about 30-years. So, they would still do their first year in Reno. Then they would transfer here and complete the last 2 years of their training in the Fallon Clinic and the Fallon Hospital. The reason is that this is really important, and I am a family physician and have been together for more than 20 years, the purpose of those last two years is that they develop continuity relationships with their patients. So, they actually establish with a panel of patients that they care for the rest of their training. One of the people we are missing, who is very important today, Gerald Ackerman, who is the Associate Dean for Rural Programs and the Director of the Office of Rural Health for the State. When we look at the workforce for the State of Nevada, if a student graduates from the Medical School, they have a 40% chance of staying in the State of Nevada. If they graduate from one of our Residency Programs, not just primary care, but any of our residency programs, they are 60% likely to stay in the state. If they do both, they are medical students from UNR, and they stay in a UNR Residency Program, they are 80% likely to stay in the state. Currently, about 20% of the physicians practicing in the State of Nevada trained at UNR. So, we do think this will give you a good opportunity to have the seeds grow together, as Dr. McDonald said, very fertile ground. I really want to come to you, to let you know that this is going on and give you a little bit of the scope of the timeline. So, now that we have had the assessments of this work, we have assembled a steering committee. I am grateful to the Mayor, for sitting on that steering committee of experts that are going to be looking at everything from the credentialing via accreditation process we have to go through. The funding process, the material needed, so all of that comes together. So, we have established our steering committee, and we are now working to get everyone going. If everything goes, as we hope, our first residents would match into this program and start in July of 2026, in Reno, and be in Fallon in July of 2027. So, that is the plan. I would like to introduce the Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Paul Hauptman. When he hired me a year ago, this was the number one thing that Dean Hauptman put on my book of work.

Dr. Dean Hauptman thanked Dr. McGaha and greeted the Council. We are really focused on rural outreach at UNR. This is something we recognize and require to meet our vision of a healthy Nevada. We previously had rural track in Elko and when I first arrived, I was told that it was failing, and in fact it ended up being a financial problem, a hospital withdrawing support and we couldn't sustain the program. At that time, I realized, we really needed to establish a program we could sustain in a community closer to Reno, so our residents could go back and forth. We are just delighted to have this opportunity now, and we are getting closer every day, to its reality. There are a number of elements that need to fall into place. I think that community support is key. Our residents will be housed here, they will be part of the community here, and I think that is part of the message. We are

really enthusiastic about this, it is really an important initiative. Part of our strategic plan that we launched last year for 2024-2029. Thank you for the opportunity.

Dr. McGaha stated that one more key person is Mr. Robb Carnahan from Banner Churchill.

Robb Carnahan, CEO of Banner Churchill, greeted the Council. This has been a long journey, but I think it is a very thankful journey. Shannon, as you were talking about mental health, the key is access to care and the ability to bring providers into our community to take care of all of us. Everyone in this room needs that care. I have been the CEO now, going on 8 years, and I tell you, access to care has been one of our thorns in our sides. We have had positions opened in our clinics for five years, or more, for these positions, just because there is such a limit out there. I think a program like this is really creating that pipeline. We do other things at the Hospital too. We are sponsoring a CNA program with TMCC, we also house nurse externs to make sure we keep them in our community. We don't want them to go out and work in Reno or Carson, we want them to come here because our community needs that. A lot of times if you grab them at the beginning, like this, they stay in our community. I think with physicians, it's really the same thing. I think we are ranked 45th per capita, in the Country, for Nevada, for physicians for family practice. It is a big deal for us, and I think this is another one of those things to really help with the pipeline, for our community.

Dr. McGaha stated that she had one more thing to add. The most important slide is the last slide, which has my contact information. So, it has my email and my personal cell phone, so please feel free to contact me.

Mayor Tedford thanked everyone. Are there any questions or comments from the Council or the public?

Councilwoman Frost inquired on the number of residents that would be here in Fallon.

Dr. McGaha stated that they are planning for two residents per year. So, when the program is staffed, then you will have four residents at a time, in Fallon.

Councilwoman Frost inquired if all the residents would be coming from UNR.

Dr. McGaha confirmed. This is technically a tied-together program. It will have its own accreditation number, but it is tied to the UNR program. One of the things that I think is really important here, is Dr. Rich Williams, who is the Residency Program Director for the Core Family Medicine Program in Reno, he has been Program Director for a dozen or so years. All of the things that we have to look at, of how many patients over the age of 65 is a resident required to see, how many children under the age of 10, how many deliveries, all these sorts of things Dr. Williams will be helping us with. What has really made this a true, successful opportunity now is that you have some great family physicians here who are willing to teach this because we can't teach it from Reno. We can support, and we will but you really want physicians, who are in the community, as the faculty.

Mayor Tedford stated that it was a good point to mention. The current staff are going to have to teach and mentor those residents.

Councilwoman Frost inquired on the number of students that enter the medical program each year. I know that it is capped, at a certain number, and I am wondering if UNR has any plans to expand the medical school and program.

Paul Hauptman stated that they accept 70 students a year. Our total class size is 280. There are also 24-25 PA students in a 26-month program, so at any given time we have about 48 PA students, many of whom practice in the rural setting. Right now, we do not have plans to increase class size. Part of that is related to some limitations in clinical

rotations, in Reno, itself, and we are working on that. As you just heard, the statistics really suggest that if you build residency programs, that is how you are going to retain physicians, going forward. So, our first goal is to expand that. We are planning, in Reno, to launch an OBGYN Residency Program in 2026 and an Addiction Medicine Fellowship in 2026, plus this Rural Track. So, we think retention, first and foremost, is about post-graduate medical education.

Councilwoman Frost stated that she is excited about this program. This is something that has been needed in our community. I know that I have struggled, personally, trying to find a family provider for myself and my family. Thank you everyone for all the work, and I am excited to see what becomes of it.

Dr. McGaha thanked Councilwoman Frost. This will be made possible because of the support and collaboration of the community. Thank you so much.

Councilman Harmon stated that he echoes Councilwoman's comments of the importance of the program. I think this program is fantastic and it was mentioned that the residents would be housed in Fallon. I am a huge supporter of that, as you know, it is a pretty easy drive from Reno to Fallon. We have people that work in Reno and live in Fallon. I think that they need to be housed, and required to be housed, here. So, like you said before, they can get engrained in the community and that will help them possibly stay after graduating. I just wanted to be sure that was an actual requirement to be housed in Fallon, not just an option.

Dr. McGaha stated that she cannot mandate where people live but can require to be available to the hospital within 15 minutes. Yes, you are absolutely right, because they will be taking care of patients during their pregnancy and being required to be at the Hospital for their delivery, and those sorts of things, they do have to be immediately available. So, yes, they have to have housing here. That is one of the biggest challenges, and I have shared the report from the consultant. I have to say that the consultant that we had in November, a lot of time you get who are consultants, she is a family physician, who has created graduate medical education programs, rural programs. So, she really knows, boots on the ground, what she is talking about. That is one of the biggest charges she put to the Steering Committee, was that you need to make sure we have affordable housing for these residents.

Councilman Harmon inquired if Fallon was the only town being looked at for this residency and reiterated that Elko was one in the past.

Dr. McGaha stated that was correct. To be honest, I would love to have rural tracks at a number of other locations, but I am only working on one thing, right now. Because of the community's support, the support from the hospital...I also could mention too, that Mr. Carnahan mentioned to me that their leadership came from sort of Banner General, to come and tour a number of different sites. One of the physicians, Dr. Jeff Bacon, actually created a rural residency program in Colorado. So, we have some sort of support from above, support from below, support from the sides. So, I really do think that this is a great place. I do a lot, again, my boss is here, but I don't think I could do more than one at a time.

Mayor Tedford stated we should add that we are members of Central Nevada Health District. We are committed to improving health in those four counties we are in. We have to think like a state. This is immense work to get this going in just one hospital. I think from the University's standpoint, they need to get this running in other rural areas after they get Fallon going. This is such a great program to establish doctors in the other 14-15 counties, or whoever we call rural now a days. We also have to look at how we handle Mineral, Eureka, and Pershing, as well as Churchill County. Not that you set up residency programs there, but we somehow use this to improve their healthcare there. Most people

know that I have been involved in hospital boards since the early 1980's, and have been working on improving doctors here, ever since. When I brought this up to Central Nevada Health District, they all seemed quiet about their need for doctors. They didn't seem as worried about it, as we were here, or as proactive, I guess. So, maybe they all have their problem solved, I don't know. I am not trying to speak for the University, but I do think that there are a whole lot of other counties that need to be served, other than just Churchill County. This is going to take 3 years, just to get it here. So, it is an immense job just to get it started in one hospital.

Paul Hauptman stated that the Mayor makes a good point. I believe one of the Senators is a co-sponsor in Washington, attempting to get more federal money. She wants to set aside about 25% of that for rural residencies. Unfortunately, there hasn't been any meaningful increase in federal support since 1996, for residency programs. So, Dr. Mark Kahn who is the Dean of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and I have been to the State House multiple times, and we are planning on going this Legislative session. We have also met with the Governor, one-on-one, to encourage him to increase State support for GME, and the Governor has talked about doubling the budget for GME. We agree with you completely. We really need to grow this and we are very hopeful we can get this launched, and this could be a model program for the rest of the State.

Mayor Tedford stated that this program may be something they could pattern after, once this one is complete. I think model is a good term to use. That is why this one has to be done right. Thank you. Are there any further comments or questions from the Council or the public?

Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place addressed the Council. I looked up Turning Point, and different websites there. A bunch of progressives.

- Made comments regarding preaching at UNR.
- Made comments regarding the ideology and philosophy of UNR.
- Made comments regarding having oversight for this program.
- Made comments regarding students and atheism.
- Made comments regarding former Governor Brian Sandoval and supporting the LGBTQ community.
- Made comments regarding smiles on people's faces.
- Made comments regarding meat.
- Made comments regarding Washoe County being wicked.
- Made comments regarding sexual connotation in books for kids.
- Urged the Council to be careful when making decisions and having oversight of the program.
- Made comments regarding castration.
- Made comments regarding what the program will do.
- Urged people to think.

Mayor Tedford stated that his grandad graduated from the University of Reno in the early 1900's. Since then, I believe that his descendants now have graduated from there and that number is somewhere over 40. His children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren, from that institution, including myself, 3 of my 4 kids, and 3 of my 4 siblings. We haven't subscribed to any of the things you are worried about. You may or may not trust me, but I am in the middle of this thing. So, if you ask about oversight, I will see what is going on. I don't see the harm of what you are concerned about. It is good for our community. This was only a presentation today, nobody is voting on anything.

Consideration and possible action to approve a zoning change at 210, 220, 230, 250-252, 270, and 298 South Taylor Street from R-2 Limited Multiple Residence District to the proposed C-1 Limited Commercial District.

City Engineer Derek Zimney stated that the notice of this public hearing was duly published in the Fallon Post on January 10, 2025. A public hearing was held on January 21, 2025. Letters were also sent out to property owners whose property is located within 300 feet of the proposed change. The properties proposed to change all have frontage on U.S. Highway 95, and the intent of the proposed change is to rezone these properties to a zone that better represents the characteristics of the area, and their current future use. At this point, I have received no public comments, letters, or phone calls. We did discuss this, in depth, at the last meeting, but I am happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Tedford reiterated that there were no comments, letters, or calls from the surrounding area.

City Engineer Derek Zimney confirmed that there has been no form of communication from the surrounding areas.

Councilman Harmon inquired why 445 Center Street was not included in the zoning change but included in the block.

City Engineer Derek Zimney stated that it does not front Taylor Street and does not have Highway access. If they had contacted me and requested it, we could have looked at it. It is kind of an oddball, in between, and as it is being currently used, as a residential home, myself and the development group, did not see a purpose to include it, at this point. If circumstances change, we could readdress that one.

Mayor Tedford inquired whether there were any further questions from the Council or the public.

Councilwoman Kent motioned to approve a zoning change at 210, 220, 230, 250-252, 270, and 298 South Talyor Street from R-2 Limited Multiple Residence District to the proposed C-1 Limited Commercial District; seconded by Councilwoman Frost and approved with a 3-0 vote by the Council.

No further comments were noted.

Fallon Police Department Monthly Report for October 2024.

Captain Daniel Babiarz presented the October monthly report. The report will compare the 2023 crime, traffic stops, and traffic accident statistics to October 2024. Total calls-for-service this month were 765.

- Crime Summary: 2 total Domestic Batteries; 3 Battery.
- Theft Calls: 12 total thefts for various items.
- Arrest Summary: 30 total arrests.
- Moving Citations/Traffic Warnings: 110 traffic stops were made; 22 issued citations.
- Public/Private Property Accidents: 22 total accidents.
- Animal Shelter Services: Total – 118; Churchill County – 53; City – 63; Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe – 2.
- Volunteers in Police Services: 116 Contributed hours.
- Various training courses were provided for sworn-in and non-sworn-in officers.
- 0 requests were made through the Citizen Assistance Program.

- Police officers participated in several various public relations events.
- Citizen Surveys were all positive.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any comments or questions.

No comments were noted.

Public Comments

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any public comments.

Geoff Knell of 261 Serpa Place greeted the Council.

- Stated he is turning 67 this year and has been around the world and has seen some things.
- Made comments regarding different cultures he has seen.
- Made comments regarding President Trump being in office.
- Made comments regarding running for Mayor and Council and being defeated each time.
- Made comments regarding his jokes and people being grumpy and not laughing at them.
- Made comments regarding getting flipped off.
- Made comments regarding his preaching incidents.
- Made comments regarding repeating himself.
- Referenced Galatians 6 and Colossians 4.
- Made comments regarding the LGBTQ community.
- Made comments regarding it being a new year and encouraged people to be in the Word of God.
- Made comments regarding asteroids and being prepared.

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any further comments.

No further comments were noted.

Council and Staff Reports

Mayor Tedford inquired if there were any Council or staff reports.

No reports were noted.

Executive Session

Mayor Tedford tabled the executive session, as it was not needed at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Tedford adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Attest:



Michael O'Neill, City Clerk-Treasurer



 Mayor Tedford