



CITY OF CODY  
WYOMING

For Immediate Release

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Amanda Watson

208.407.8850

[amanda@idahoatlas.com](mailto:amanda@idahoatlas.com)

**CITY OF CODY ISSUES BUILDING PERMIT FOR LDS TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION**

September 18, 2023 (**Cody, WYOMING**) - The City of Cody has issued a building permit to the applicant of the proposed LDS temple on Skyline Drive in Cody. Many factors led the City to issue the building permit.

The applicant, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), submitted a site plan and an application for a conditional use permit for the proposed temple earlier this year. Following a comprehensive review process of the applications and site plan, solicitation of public comments, and subsequent agreement by the applicant to modify the lighting for the proposed temple, the City of Cody Planning and Zoning Board approved the site plan and conditional use permit. Since then, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS of Salt Lake City) and the Protect Our Cody Neighborhoods group have filed multiple appeals of these rulings in the District Court.

With careful deliberation and a profound commitment to addressing community concerns, the City Council dedicated its efforts toward easing tensions and fostering collaboration among these groups to seek a resolution. During this time, the LDS Church representatives from Salt Lake City expressed that any further delay in the permit issuance would result in construction setbacks and significant financial losses, necessitating them to take legal action in federal court to recover damages and legal expenses. This federal lawsuit would be separate from the ongoing appeals in District Court.

Based on the current City Code, the Cody City Council does not have the authority to overturn decisions by the Planning and Zoning Board to approve a conditional use permit or site plan.

For these reasons, the City of Cody has issued the building permit.

"Over the past months, we've received impassioned public comment, both in favor and against this project. People both in favor of and opposed to the proposed temple have

argued that property rights are at stake and that the law supports their view. Recognizing the merits of both views and the limitations of the authority granted to the Cody City Council per City code, we believe it is prudent to allow the District Court to decide the future of this project through the appeals that have been filed," stated Cody Mayor Matt Hall. "The City of Cody has always been committed to fiscal responsibility and safeguarding the interests of our residents. Engaging in a protracted legal battle does not align with our values, and we have a responsibility to be prudent stewards of taxpayer dollars."

The City of Cody remains open to facilitating discussions between both parties to reach a solution that respects the rights of all involved.