

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY APRIL 24, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAYOR: Alfonso E. Ortiz, Jr.

COUNCILORS: Tonita Gurule-Giron
Vince Howell
Joey Herrera
David L. Romero

ALSO PRESENT: Timothy Dodge, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Dave Romero, City Attorney
Christian Montano, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Ortiz Jr. asked for a moment of silence in appreciation of life.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Howell made a motion to approve the agenda as it. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Mayor Ortiz Jr. asked for a roll call. Roll call was taken and reflected the following

Tonita Gurule-Giron	Yes	Vince Howell	Yes
Joey Herrera	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

NOMINATION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Councilor Howell nominated Councilor Herrera for Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilor Romero seconded the nomination.

Mayor Ortiz Jr. asked for a roll call. Roll call was taken and reflected the following.

Vince Howell	Yes	Tonita Gurule-Giroń	Yes
Joey Herrera	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

Councilor Herrera thanked the governing body for the nomination and confidence to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem.

PUBLIC INPUT

Lorenzo Flores spoke to the governing body regarding the status of criminal citations City Attorney Dave Romero received for leaving the scene of an accident. Mr. Flores asked that the governing body and the public work together for the benefit of the community.

Bob Wessely spoke to the governing body about the water system goals and objectives.

Alex Aragon spoke to the governing body about considering increasing the time limit for public input to five minutes instead of the three. Individuals may feel rushed and not be able to fully speak about the issues and concerns that they have. Mr. Aragon also spoke to the governing body on what he feels is a lack of flag etiquette, there is no lights shown on the flags in the evenings and ask that the departments show respect for the flags and make sure they have lighting in the evenings.

Lalo Sanchez also spoke to the governing body that the time limit be increased to five minutes. Mr. Sanchez also advised that there is a section of sidewalk on North Gonzales that is in need of repair before someone gets injured. Mr. Sanchez also requested a crosswalk be made from North Gonzales to the Mills Avenue shopping area; it is very dangerous to try to cross that area during rush hour.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń advised she has addressed the concern of that area with City Manager Dodge for some time and no progress has been made.

City Manager Dodge advised several Councilors have brought concerns about not only sidewalk improvements but streets as well and the Streets Department is undergoing a transportation master plan that is looking and conditions and infrastructure needs city wide and prioritizing those needs.

REVIEW/DISCUSSION

City Manager Dodge advised that according to the City Charter, reorganization consists of three areas, first is to review the Mission and Vision statement.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez read the City's Mission and Vision statements.

City Manager Dodge suggested that as the organization progresses, address these statements in a strategic planning meeting and see if these statements meet the governing body's mission and vision. Departments then create their own vision and mission statement that ties into the mission and vision set by the governing body. City Manager Dodge discussed the retreat from two years ago and the utilization of the SWOT analysis for goals and objectives that the department took back and implemented into their improvement plans. The Charter discusses identifying ten goals and objectives of the previous governing body, but since the governing body has been reelected, there really is not much review but recommends new goals and objectives be identified if the governing body sees fit.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez read the goals and objectives of the governing body.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń asked if City Manager Dodge would be conducting the SWOT analysis or contracting out for those services.

City Manager Dodge advised that they have not started the planning process at this time and while he has facilitated in the past he feels it best to bring in a third party facilitator brings a more balanced approach.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń advised that since City Manager Dodge is more aware of what is going on in the City that he would be appropriate to facilitate the retreat.

Mayor Ortiz Jr. agreed with Councilor Gurule-Giroń that City Manager Dodge would be best to facilitate the retreat.

City Manager Dodge advised he will take the suggestion into consideration and thanked Councilor Gurule-Giroń and Mayor Ortiz Jr.

Councilor Howell asked if the governing body was going to be addressing the current goals and objectives at the meeting.

City Manager Dodge advised that the Reorganization meeting is an informal meeting where newly elected officials are able to review the previous governing body's goals and objectives, since the governing body has been reelected, he recommends that a strategic planning meeting be held and the governing body can create new goals and objectives or continue with the current goals and objectives.

Councilor Howell advised he is looking forward to discussions on whether some of the goals and objectives have been met and would like to see timelines and progress on each and have them posted for the public to see so they can be informed.

City Manager Dodge advised that his City Manager's Report provides the governing body with updates on various projects.

Discussion took place on setting a schedule of departments reporting to the governing body on project updates.

Questions were asked about how the City handles concerns for improvements that are expressed by members of the community.

City Manager Dodge and Mayor Ortiz Jr. advised there are budget constraints to what improvements can or cannot be done within the City, and there are numerous improvements that need to be done and they are being addressed as quickly as they can.

Councilor Howell advised that improvements that pertain to the safety of the community should be a made a top priority. Councilor Howell advised he supports moving the City towards becoming a more eco-friendly community.

City Manager Dodge advised that during the budget hearings the governing body will hear the budget constraints the City is facing.

Questions were asked how complaints from members of the community are being handled.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń strongly recommended that street repairs on the West side of town be considered a priority.

Recommendations were made that reasons need to be given why certain streets are being repaired and how the ones that are repaired are selected.

Councilor Howell advised that there are rumors about departments within the City being privatized and really would like this to be addressed on an agenda if this is being considered.

City Manager Dodge advised that no departments are being privatized.

City Manager Dodge advised that in the City Charter, the governing body is to confirm the appointment of the City Manager and the appointed officials at the organizational meeting following an election.

There was discussion on the inconsistency of the expiration dates of the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Police Chief's contracts and the confirmation of those contracts now.

Mayor Ortiz Jr. advised he had the same questions as the governing body did, but the meeting is just reconfirming the contracts that are in place and no additions or changes are being made to the contracts, just confirming as to the Charter.

City Manager Dodge advised that the positions are at will positions and can be confirmed at this time or closer to the expiration, he is just following the charter.

Councilor Herrera advised he feels there needs to a charter committee to review and amend the charter.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń advised there are several concerns with contracts as far as termination dates, notifications, severance pay, the issue with automatic renewal clauses needs to be addressed and need to be placed on the agenda prior to the expiration.

Clarification was made that confirming the contracts is just till their approved expiration dates.

City Manager Dodge advised the positions are at will positions.

Mayor Ortiz Jr. passed out an evaluation form to the governing body to complete on the City Manager; he advised he would also be asking the directors to complete them as well

Councilors Gurule-Giroń asked that the evaluation be able to be discussed with all members of the governing body.

Councilor Howell asked if the City has fund set aside for emergencies.

City Manager Dodge advised emergency funds are very restrictive as to their use, but there are various reserves within various line items. City Manager Dodge advised those will be explained at the budget hearing.

Councilor Howell advised that he feels the City gets a bad reputation because staff is trying to complete tasks with unreliable equipment and hopes during the budget hearing there can be discussion about updating equipment for the staff.

City Manager Dodge advised that during the budget hearing there will be discussions on efficiency.

Councilor Gurule-Giroñ made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Howell seconded the motion.

Mayor Ortiz Jr. asked for a roll call. Roll call was taken and reflected the following.

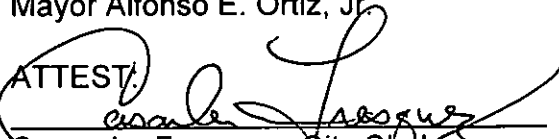
Vince Howell	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Tonita Gurule-Giroñ	Yes	Joey Herrera	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN



Mayor Alfonso E. Ortiz, Jr.

ATTEST:


Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk