

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

MAYOR: David Romero

COUNCILORS: Marvin Martinez
Barbara Casey
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Montgomery, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Caleb Marquez, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Romero called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Ulibarri asked for a moment of silence for all City employees and for all the residents in Las Vegas.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked if all were in favor. All were in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

City Clerk Fresquez advised that there was no public input.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Romero welcomed Representative Elect Anita Gonzales who was in the audience.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Casey advised that she received a very distressing text regarding a pack of dogs that are attacking people and the texter also indicated that her dog was killed by the pack of dogs. Councilor Casey voiced her concern regarding the pack of dogs running at large. Councilor Casey advised that she received calls from senior citizens who live on 3rd Street and N. Gonzales who are concerned about fallen fruit and branches that are on the ground and making it difficult for them to walk. Councilor Casey advised that she also received calls from people regarding their water bill. Councilor Casey thanked those who put the commercial together regarding the Fall Fiestas.

Councilor Montoya discussed overgrown weeds still being an issue. Councilor Montoya thanked and acknowledged the citizens in Las Vegas for being patient during the construction on Legion Drive. Councilor Montoya advised that Council and Directors attended the 67th NM Municipal League Annual Conference in Clovis, NM.

Councilor Martinez advised that he also attended the 67th NM Municipal League Annual Conference. Councilor Martinez advised that he was contacted regarding weeds on City property but it was being taken care of.

Councilor Ulibarri thanked the Streets department for trying to keep the weeds cut and advised that he hired someone to cut the weeds and keep his yard clean.

Councilor Ulibarri advised that he also attended the 67th NM Municipal League Annual Conference.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Caleb Marquez gave a detailed presentation regarding the statistics for the Month of July on the following:

- Field Operations Division (patrol) calls
- Communication Division
- Animal Care Center-updates/events
- Information Division/Records
- Street Crimes Division updates
- Travel/Trainings
- Community Events
- (2) Animal Control Vehicles purchased
- Recruitment updates
- Department vacancies (25)

Councilor Montoya asked if any money was spent that was allocated from the Cannabis fund.

Police Chief Marquez advised that they purchase certain items depending on the season to hand out at events.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Morris Madrid advised during the flooding event they obligated and spent money directly from the Water fund before setting up a special fund. Finance Director Madrid advised that the expenditures would be moved back into the special fund. Finance Director Madrid advised that the special fund is not in the finance report but he would update Mayor and Council monthly on the activity. Finance Director Madrid advised that they have not received the final approval letter from DFA regarding the final budget. Finance Director Madrid advised that they would be starting the process of adjusting the budget and

bringing forth budget adjustments to include monies that have been appropriated but not budgeted.

Finance Director Madrid discussed where they're at with the Investment Policy and Cash Management and advised that their internal control would consist of a minimum of two people to authorize every transaction in or out of the State Treasurer's Office. Finance Director Madrid advised that they would also need to get authorizations in place at the banks. Finance Director Madrid advised that they don't need to wait for the policy to be done and he has identified the minimum amount of money that can be invested. Finance Director Madrid advised that they would start off with investing about ten million dollars. Finance Director Madrid advised that they have encumbered about nine million in relation to the obligation and expenditure of funds related to the flood event.

Deborah Sulzer with the Sulzer Group discussed two submissions to FEMA, one for \$6.1 million for money that was spent for hauling water, bottle water distributions and repairs to Taylor Wells and the second one for a temporary water treatment facility for \$11.1 million.

Councilor Martinez thanked Ms. Sulzer for all her hard work during and after the flooding event.

Councilor Montoya thanked Ms. Sulzer and all those who were involved during the flooding event. Councilor Montoya thanked Mayor Romero for his leadership.

Councilor Ulibarri also thanked Ms. Sulzer for all she did for Las Vegas.

Mayor Romero discussed all the decisions the Governing Body made such as hiring Tim Montgomery as City Manager and Clarity Collins with the North Central NM Economic Development District helping to get fourteen million dollars. Mayor Romero advised without that money we would have been in trouble. Mayor Romero thanked Ms. Sulzer for all her help.

City Manager Montgomery advised that they built a strong team and got things done that seemed impossible like bringing water from Louisiana and bringing the pretreatment plant from Canada. City Manager Montgomery advised that a PSA was sent out regarding water restrictions being lifted. City Manager Montgomery advised that there's a lot more to do to get the new plant in but they continue to make improvements.

PRESENTATIONS/POSSIBLE DIRECTION

Darren Deyapp, CEO with El Centro spoke on the services offered, their 50th year anniversary event on September 25, 2024 and rural clinics.

Councilor Martinez advised that he learned about El Centro during covid and thanked them for being available for the community.

Councilor Casey also thanked them for the services they provide at the school based clinics.

Councilor Ulibarri also thanked them for all they do for the citizens in Las Vegas.

Councilor Montoya also thanked them for being part of the community and for providing good services.

Mayor Romero advised that his first encounter with El Centro was the school based clinic and discussed the importance of healthcare services in the community.

Angie Lyster spoke on a possible Film Museum and advised that she's been volunteering as the San Miguel County Film Liaison and spoke on possible partnerships between the City, San Miguel County and the private sector. Ms. Lyster advised that a Film Museum could create a boost for tourism. Ms. Lyster spoke about the different film sets that she was able to obtain and discussed assisting businesses with attracting tourism with certain props from films.

Councilor Martinez thanked Ms. Lyster for helping the Chamber and for her efforts in making sure that Las Vegas is a film community.

Ms. Lyster advised that the production designer for Longmire had a drawing if a Film Museum is built from scratch or there are some private buildings that owners are willing to lease.

Councilor Ulibarri also thanked Ms. Lyster for all she's done.

Councilor Casey advised that Ms. Lyster focuses on making Las Vegas a better place with everything she does.

Councilor Montoya advised that he appreciates everything she's done and advised that he would support an MOU.

Consultant Robert Archuleta provided a lengthy discussion regarding the list of Capital Outlay projects, the different grants that were received and reimbursements that were received. Mr. Archuleta advised that the City needs to consider the Comprehensive Plan update that is due, the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act Plan for the three mainstreets is also due and to continue to look at land acquisitions for a new City Hall and a Film Museum.

Councilor Casey thanked Mr. Archuleta for all the work he's done and asked if there was a way of reauthorizing the money for something that could benefit the veterans in the community.

Mr. Archuleta advised that he checked with DFA and they could reauthorize the money. Mr. Archuleta advised that it would be up to the Governing Body and City Manager to decide where they want to put it.

Councilor Martinez also thanked Mr. Archuleta for all his hard work and advised that they need to make sure that the deadlines are met so they don't lose out on the funding that wasn't spent.

Councilor Ulibarri thanked Mr. Archuleta for his help with the Animal Shelter and the Rodriguez Park project.

Councilor Montoya thanked Mr. Archuleta for his detailed report regarding legislative funding and grants. Councilor Montoya asked where they were regarding Rodriguez Park.

City Manager Montgomery advised that there is a meeting scheduled to discuss what is going to be phase II of Rodriguez Park.

Discussion and questions took place regarding Lincoln Park.

Mayor Romero asked to possibly schedule a work session to discuss Rodriguez Park. Mayor Romero discussed the importance of making sure monies are spent that are given from legislative requests.

Amanda Shurtz, Corporate Director of Operations for Alta Vista Hospital provided a lengthy update on Alta Vista Hospital. Ms. Shurtz advised that they would be going through the process of selecting a new CEO from Las Vegas or from New Mexico. Ms. Shurtz advised that they hired fifty six new employees, they are interviewing a provider from Florida, they have an offer out for an Orthopedic Surgeon, they are engaging with a recruiting firm, and they invested in a new 3-D mammogram machine. Ms. Shurtz advised that they would be opening up four beds in ICU, they are working with Cardiology on equipment needed and have ordered new ventilators. Ms. Shurtz thanked Police Chief Marquez for helping with public safety in the ER. Ms.

Councilor Casey spoke about the excellent care she received at Alta Vista Hospital.

Ms. Shurtz advised that they spent three million dollars last year to bring in traveling nurses.

Councilor Casey asked if they were planning on hiring a Sexual Assault Nurse.

Ms. Shurtz advised that they have one.

Councilor Casey asked if the Labor and Delivery unit would be opening up again.

Ms. Shurtz advised no, but they are working with larger hospitals to see what they could do for women's health. Ms. Shurtz advised that they currently leased the OB area to be used as a Detox unit.

Councilor Martinez advised that Alta Vista Hospital is the hub for the northeastern part of the state and voiced his concerns regarding the hospital not taking care of the community.

Ms. Shurtz advised that Alta Vista Hospital was not a Trauma Hospital, it's a Critical Access Hospital.

Councilor Ulibarri advised that he was happy that they were opening the ER and hopes they succeed.

Councilor Montoya asked how many doctors the hospital had.

Ms. Shurtz advised that they don't have enough and they are trying to recruit more.

Councilor Montoya voiced his concerns regarding the hospital not having enough doctors. Councilor Montoya advised that it's a burden for people to have to travel out of town to see an OB doctor. Councilor Montoya voiced his concerns regarding AMR ambulance services being tied up when having to transport patients out of town.

Ms. Shurtz advised that Java Medical Group chose to come to Las Vegas to help the community have a hospital. Ms. Shurtz advised that she hopes that they give Java a chance, who have had ownership of the hospital for the last six months. Ms. Shurtz advised that they were sorry for what happened in the past but they want to move forward.

Mayor Romero thanked Ms. Shurtz for being there.

Public Works Director Arnold Lopez and Public Works Manager Danny Gurule provided an overview of the following city roads;

- Legion Drive Road project
- University Avenue project
- 6th Street and Baca Street storm drain replacement
- Mountain View Drive MAP project
- Lutheran Drive project

- El Creston project
- Great Blocks project
- Daily pothole patching
- Daily weed cutting

Councilor Ulibarri asked if the project on Hot Springs Blvd. was almost complete. Public Works Director Lopez advised that the contractor was finishing the utility work and then Public Works could complete it towards Mills Avenue.

Councilor Casey asked for drainage in the future on Reynolds.

Public Works Director Lopez advised that they have had discussion with an engineering service and they are seeking funding for that type of improvement in the area.

Councilor Martinez asked about Independence Avenue.

Water Director Travis Martinez advised that they would be working on Independence Avenue and it should get done within a week and a half. Water Director Martinez advised that they should also have Hot Springs Blvd completed by the end of the month.

Councilor Montoya thanked City staff and NMDOT for their help with funding projects.

Mayor Romero also thanked Public Works Director Lopez, his staff and City Manager Montgomery for making sure projects get done.

City Manager Montgomery thanked Public Works Director Lopez and Public Works Manager Gurule for always getting things done. City Manager Montgomery also recognized Safety Officer Adrian Jaramillo for making sure sites are safe.

CONSENT ITEMS

There were no consent agenda items.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Conduct a Public Hearing and request approval to adopt Ordinance No. 24-09 an amendment to the City of Las Vegas Official Zoning map from an O-1 (Office Zone) to an R-2 (Multi-Family Residential Zone) for property located at 815 3rd Street, Las Vegas, NM 87701.

Councilor Casey made a motion to enter into a Public Hearing for Business Item 1. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

City Clerk Fresquez swore in Community Development Director Lucas Marquez and Flora Gallegos.

Community Development Director Marquez advised that Ms. Gallegos had gone to the Community Development department about two years ago to get her property rezoned back to its original zoning but the application was never received. Community Development Director Marquez advised that she had saved her receipts of payments. Community Development Director Marquez advised that they had her reapply and go through the Planning and Zoning process.

Councilor Casey made a motion to close the Public Hearing and reconvene into regular session. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

1. Conduct a Public Hearing and request approval to adopt Ordinance No. 24-09 an amendment to the City of Las Vegas Official Zoning map from an O-1 (Office Zone) to an R-2 (Multi-Family Residential Zone) for property located at 815 3rd Street, Las Vegas, NM 87701.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-09 an amendment to the City of Las Vegas Official Zoning map from an O-1 (Office Zone) to an R-2 (Multi-Family Residential Zone) for property located at 815 3rd Street, Las Vegas, NM 87701. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Ordinance 24-09 was presented as follows: *Due to the length of the document, a complete copy may be obtained from the City of Las Vegas, City Clerk's Office.*

Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Request approval of agreement with Tierra Y Montes Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Water Director Travis Martinez advised that the purpose of the agreement was to implement trash racks at Bradner and Peterson reservoirs to hold back debris and sediment. Water Director Martinez advised that NRCS and Tierra Y Montes would be providing extra protection from debris going into the reservoirs after the flooding. Water Director Martinez advised that the project would be fully funded through the Emergency Watershed Protection act.

Gerald Romero advised that the project was beneficial for the City and the constituents. Mr. Romero asked Mayor and Council to give the City Manager authorization to sign agreements so they aren't having to wait months to move

forward. Mr. Romero advised that they could provide a report to Council regarding the agreements City Manager signs.

Councilor Casey asked if the landowner on the agreement was referencing the City.

Mr. Romero advised yes.

Councilor Montoya asked who would maintain the trash racks.

Mr. Romero advised that they would remain in place for a year and it is the sponsors responsibility to maintain them which would be DFA or Tierra Y Montes.

Councilor Montoya asked what the lifespan of the trash racks were.

Mr. Romero advised that they could last several years depending on the flow but it's a temporary structure.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the agreement with Tierra Y Montes Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

3. Request approval of Amendment #1 to Memorandum of Agreement between North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) Non- Metro Area Agency on Aging (Non-Metro AAA) and the City of Las Vegas.

Community Services Director June Tafoya advised the amendment would be for additional funding in the amount of \$17,000 for the Chore and Homemaker programs.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Amendment #1 to Memorandum of Agreement between North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) Non- Metro Area Agency on Aging (Non-Metro AAA) and the City of Las Vegas. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

4. Request approval of Memorandum of Agreement between North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) and the City of Las Vegas for Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) Appropriations.

Community Services Director June Tafoya advised that the MOA was for a new program for San Miguel and Pecos Senior Center programs for food in the amount of \$40,000.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement between North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) and the City of Las Vegas for Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) Appropriations. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Montoya made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining strategy and Limited Personnel Matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(5) and 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, Discussion regarding the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4625 (IAFF) Collective Bargaining Unit agreement, Discussion regarding the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2851 Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement (AFSCME) and Discussion on City Manager’s Evaluation. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to exit executive session and reconvene into regular session after being in executive session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining strategy and Limited Personnel Matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(5) and 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, Discussion regarding the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4625 (IAFF) Collective Bargaining Unit agreement, Discussion regarding the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2851 Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement (AFSCME) and Discussion on City Manager’s Evaluation, no other items were discussed and no action was taken. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration to approve the International Association of Fire Fighters Local (IAFF) Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the International Association of Fire Fighters Local (IAFF) Collective Bargaining Agreement. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN


Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.



Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk