

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

MAYOR: David Romero

COUNCILORS: Marvin Martinez
Barbara Casey *Via Cell Phone*
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri *Absent*

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 5:42 pm.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Montoya asked for a moment to thank all City employees, City Manager, City Clerk and Police Chief for coping with the Mayor and Council through all the challenges.

Mayor Romero acknowledged Representative Ambrose Castellano who was in the audience.

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.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

NOMINATION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Councilor Casey nominated Councilor Marvin Martinez as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilor Montoya 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		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Romero advised it would take effect January 10, 2025. Mayor Romero thanked Councilor Montoya for his service.

Councilor Montoya thanked Mayor and Council for allowing him to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the last year and also congratulated Councilor Martinez.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Romero along with Council recognized State Representative Ambrose Castellano for his outstanding dedication and unwavering commitment to the betterment of the community.

Councilor Montoya also thanked State Representative Castellano for always helping Las Vegas.

Councilor Martinez also thanked State Representative Castellano for his support and service to the community.

Councilor Casey advised that State Representative Castellano was very much appreciated for all that he's done for Las Vegas and San Miguel County.

State Representative Castellano thanked Mayor and Council and advised that it was an honor serving the constituents of District 70.

Jackie Romero, current Reina de Las Vegas, thanked Mayor and Council and provided an update on what she has accomplished during her reign.

Councilor Montoya thanked Jackie Romero for serving and promoting Las Vegas. Councilor Montoya also thanked Events Planner Chuck Griego.

Councilor Martinez also thanked Jackie Romero for being a mentor for the young ladies in the community.

Councilor Casey also thanked Jackie Romero for all she's done for Las Vegas and was proud of all the work she's done.

Jeff Rudolph, Interim Parks Manager provided a lengthy update on his City Parks audit regarding tree maintenance/safety issues, irrigation repairs/installation, park safety/opportunities, priority parks and parks office/equipment space (at Rodriguez Park).

City Manager Montgomery thanked Mr. Rudolph for the audit of the parks.

Jodi Marquez, Customer Service Manager presented on the TextMyGov communication system, which is done via text.

Water Director Travis Martinez discussed the process when a text is sent to TextMyGov.

Ms. Marquez discussed the cost for implementation, setup fee and annual costs for TextMyGov.

Mayor Romero advised that the water Administrative Order/2021 Sanitary Survey was conducted in 2021 and he as a Councilor was unaware of that Administrative Order.

Travis Martinez, Water Director presented on the water Administrative Order/2021 Sanitary Survey. Mr. Martinez advised that the 2021 Sanitary Survey was conducted by the Drinking Water Bureau from October 13-15, 2021 and was completed on October 30, 2024 which went over 797 days from when it was supposed to be completed. Mr. Martinez advised that the Drinking Water Bureau identified 20 significant deficiencies such as infrastructure issues, operational practices, record keeping and compliance gaps. Mr. Martinez advised that the Utilities Division has undertaken a series of corrective actions to address the concerns.

Mayor Romero advised that it was prior to the fires in 2021, the survey was not completed and it had not been responded to. Mayor Romero thanked Water Director Martinez for responding to it and addressing it.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Martinez advised that he attended the Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce meeting and got a feel of what their mission was and he learned more about it.

Councilor Montoya advised that he was blessed and fortunate to be a part of the Governing Body. Councilor Montoya discussed all of the projects that were done this year. Councilor Montoya advised that he was grateful for all the employees and discussed future projects. Councilor Montoya wished everyone a Merry Christmas and many blessings.

Councilor Casey advised that they have accomplished a lot and there's a lot to be done. Councilor Casey thanked everyone who put together the Light Parade, the tree lighting and events along the Riverwalk. Councilor Casey thanked Mayor and

Council for all the work they've done. Councilor Casey also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

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

- Field Operations Division (patrol) calls
- Communication Division (dispatch) calls
- Animal Care Center-updates/events
- Information Division/Records
- Street Crimes Division updates
- Travel/Trainings/Traffic Operation programs
- Department vacancies (25)

Councilor Martinez thanked Police Chief Marquez and his staff for all their hard work.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Morris Madrid discussed the following;

- General fund revenues
 - Gross receipt tax continues to rise
 - Expenditures-Filling vacancies
 - Large spike in expenditures-health insurance benefits
- Enterprise fund
 - Natural gas (seasonal)
- Recreation fund
 - Programs regenerated
 - Positions filled
- Lodgers Tax
 - Increase in revenues
 - Increase in expenditures (events in the city)

- Cannabis fund
- Opioid fund
- FEMA
- Cash/Investment Report
 - Identified more investments
 - \$118 million invested would increase
 - Revenue generated by the investments \$987,000
 - Averaging \$110,000 per week
- Mid-year budget review

Councilor Montoya advised that the Finance Report was approved by the Finance Committee.

CONSENT ITEMS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Presentation and Possible Action regarding the Gene Torres Golf Course.

Associate Vice President of Finance and Administration Aaron Flure and Dr. Brandon Kempner with NMHU provided an update on the Gene Torres Golf Course.

Councilor Montoya advised that he was amazed with the improvements that have been happening at the golf course and in the future using Lodgers Tax for golf carts or purchasing new mowers. Councilor Montoya thanked them for the accountability.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the 2025, \$60,000 contribution to NMHU Golf Course. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
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Marvin Martinez Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Romero asked City Manager and Finance Director to look into using Lodgers Tax funding towards the Golf Course.

2. Discussion of the natural gas rate increase.

Gas Director David Marquez read a letter regarding an increase in natural gas rates happening nationwide.

3. Request approval of Resolution No. 24-36 for the creation of an Entertainment District on the Plaza Park and Bridge Street Corridor.

Community Development Director Lucas Marquez advised there was a change to the second whereas, to include “existing arts and cultural district”.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-36, for the creation of an Entertainment District on the Plaza Park and Bridge Street Corridor. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Resolution 24-36 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:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

4. Request approval of Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the City of Las Vegas.

Transportation Manager Marcelino Roybal advised that the MOA was for annual funding.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the New Mexico Department of Transportation 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:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

5. Request approval of Resolution No. 24-35 accepting a match waiver in the amount of \$110,942.38 through the New Mexico Department of Transportation Match Waiver Program.

Public Works Director Arnold Lopez advised that they applied for the match waiver and they were granted it.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-35 accepting a match waiver in the amount of \$110,942.38 through the New Mexico Department of Transportation Match Waiver Program. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion.

Resolution 24-35 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:

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

6. Request approval of the Palo Verde Channel Project for redesign and construction of drainage.

Public Works Director Arnold Lopez advised that this project is greatly needed for the area of Palo Verde and Cinder Road due to the drainage not being sufficient enough to carry the amount of water through the channel. Mr. Lopez advised that they would do a complete clean out of the channel and possibly a concrete drainage within the channel.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve of the Palo Verde Channel Project for redesign and construction of drainage. Councilor Montoya 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		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

7. Request approval of Resolution No. 24-37, 1y the adoption of required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Certifications and Commitments, and 1z CDBG Federal Requirements.

Public Works Director Arnold Lopez advised that the resolution is for compliance with CDBG agreement requirements.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-37, 1y the adoption of required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Certifications and Commitments, and 1z CDBG Federal Requirements. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Resolution 24-37 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 Marvin Martinez Yes
Michael L. Montoya Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

8. Request approval of Addendum #3 to Contract #3835-22 awarded to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Public Works Director Arnold Lopez advised that the contract was in its third year.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Addendum #3 to Contract #3835-22 awarded to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya Yes Barbara Casey Yes
Marvin Martinez Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Romero wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for what they do for the City.

Councilor Montoya advised that he looks forward to next year.

Councilor Martinez asked for blessings for the community, staff, and Mayor and Council.

Councilor Casey wished all city employees a Merry Christmas and all the citizens of Las Vegas.

City Manager Montgomery advised that it was a long year, and advised that he couldn't have done it without his staff and thanked Mayor and Council.

ADJOURN

Councilor Martinez made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk