

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Montoya asked for a moment to pray for peace around the world and within the community.

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.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Romero asked City Clerk Fresquez to read a proclamation for Small Business Saturday on November 30, 2024.

Mayor Romero advised that it's important to shop local as the community has been through many devastations the past couple of years.

Mayor Romero and Community Development Director Lucas Marquez provided a lengthy presentation regarding their experience during the Past Forward Conference in New Orleans. Community Development Director Marquez discussed the power of heritage, the importance of collaboration with the public, adaptive reuse of historic buildings, sustainable preservation and educational outreach with the public.

Mayor Romero discussed many grants available for historic buildings/homes and looking into a GIS system for historic buildings.

Community Development Director Marquez and Mayor Romero discussed the water treatment facility they were able to visit in New Orleans.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Casey thanked City staff for being helpful with constituents. Councilor Casey advised that a constituent called her about the water level at Storrie Lake and some properties flooding.

Councilor Martinez advised that a constituent contacted him about drainage issues on Kavanagh Street.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Caleb Marquez gave a detailed presentation regarding the statistics for the Month of October 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
- Recruitment updates
- Community Events
- Department vacancies (25)
- New hires (2)

Discussion took place regarding an update on the new Animal Care Center.

Mayor Romero acknowledged what is being done at the Animal Care Center.

Police Chief Marquez advised that there was a 28% decrease in violent crimes related to people, a 40% decrease for property crimes and a 36% decrease for social crimes.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Morris Madrid discussed the following;

- Update on the Investment Policy
- Mid year budget review process

- General fund
 - Gross receipt tax revenues/property tax revenues had an increase
- Enterprise fund
 - Seasonal utilities are down (gas and water)
- Recreation fund
 - Wellness center revenues are significantly low
 - Employee expenses are a little high
- Lodgers Tax
 - Increase in revenues
- Cannabis fund
 - Had a decrease
- Opioid fund
- FEMA
- Cash/Investment Report
 - Invested \$118 million into the Local Government Investment Pool
 - Earnings at \$552,000
 - 73% of total cash has been invested

Mayor Romero asked when the bonds for the Recreation Center would be paid off.

Finance Director Madrid advised at the end of 2025.

Discussion took place regarding why there was an increase in attorney fees.

CONSENT ITEMS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Conduct a Public Hearing and Approval of a Variance to place a doublewide home on property located at 919 New Mexico Avenue.

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

Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

City Clerk Fresquez swore in Community Development Director Lucas Marquez and Jesse Montoya.

Community Development Director Lucas Marquez advised that it was taken to Planning and Zoning on October 28th and they recommended approval. Community Development Director Marquez advised prior to ordinances being in place there was a second dwelling on the property and it was removed but the footprint was still there. Community Development Director Marquez advised that they would be placing the doublewide behind the house, they meet setbacks on both sides and between the property and the house is over 15 feet, which meets fire department regulations. Community Development Director Marquez advised that the backside of the property near the alleyway is 5 feet and the setbacks are in compliance. Community Development Director Marquez advised that they are within a R3 zone which requires 5000 square feet per living dwelling and they are short by 1500 square feet.

Councilor Montoya asked how wide the entrance to the property was.

Jesse Montoya advised there were two entrances, one off New Mexico Avenue and the other off Kavanagh Street. Mr. Montoya advised that the one on New Mexico Avenue is going to be widened and is about 12 feet and the one off Kavanagh is about 15 feet.

Discussion took place regarding utilities being in place.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to exit the Public Hearing and reconvene into regular session. 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
Marvin Martinez	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

1. Conduct a Public Hearing and Approval of a Variance to place a doublewide home on property located at 919 New Mexico Avenue.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve of a Variance to place a doublewide home on property located at 919 New Mexico Avenue. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Request approval to award Request for Proposal #2025-11 On-Call services for maintenance & emergency repairs to the City’s natural gas systems and enter into contract.

Gas Director David Marquez advised that the RFP was for on-call emergency services for the transmission and for the distribution systems. Gas Director Marquez advised only one bid was received.

Councilor Montoya asked what the backup plan would be should the contractor not be available.

Gas Director Marquez advised they would then isolate and run off a line pack and the contractor should be able to respond.

Councilor Montoya asked if the contractor had a time limit for responding.

Gas Director Marquez advised yes they should respond within a 24 hour period.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the Request for Proposal #2025-11 On-Call services for maintenance & emergency repairs to the City’s natural gas systems and enter into contract. 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.

3. Request approval of Resolution No. 24-27, Fiscal Year 2026 Section 5311 Grant Application Funding Requests.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-27, Fiscal Year 2026 Section 5311 Grant Application Funding Requests. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Discussion took place regarding matching funds available.

Resolution 24-27 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.

Transportation Manager Roybal discussed the City of Las Vegas being one of three cities to be selected within the state of NM for a Microtransit system using a phone app.

4. Consideration to approve the 2025 Holiday Leave and Pay Period Calendar for the City of Las Vegas employees.

City Manager Tim Montgomery advised they were asking for consideration to approve the 2025 holiday leave and pay period calendar. City Manager Montgomery advised that language in the administrative regulation needed to be corrected under Authorization which states, holidays may be added yearly as per the state holiday calendar and it should read federal holiday calendar. City Manager Montgomery discussed the following changes for the proposed 2025 holiday calendar; Good Friday on April 18, 2025 would allow eight hours of leave and the day after Christmas on December 26, 2025 would allow eight hours of leave. City Manager Montgomery advised that the holiday calendar should be taken yearly to council for approval.

Councilor Montoya thanked City Manager Montgomery for taking the holiday calendar for approval and advised that he's asked that it be taken for approval the last two years.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the 2025 Holiday Leave and Pay Period Calendar for the City of Las Vegas employees. Councilor Casey 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		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

City Manager Montgomery thanked Mayor and Council.

5. Consideration to approve the restructuring of the Parks & Recreation Department Organizational Chart by placing the department under the direction of the Executive Office/City Manager, removing the Director position, adding a Parks Manager, combining the positions of Adult Program Coordinator and Youth Program Coordinator and modifying the job title as a Programs Coordinator and restructuring the Chain of Command.

City Manager Tim Montgomery advised there were changes within the leadership of the Parks & Recreation departments. City Manager Montgomery explained that Jeff Rudolph stepped into the Interim Manager position for Parks and Arnold Lopez as the Interim Director over Parks. City Manager Montgomery advised that the Recreation department would do well with a manager specifically for the Recreation Center. City Manager Montgomery advised that Parks and Recreation had a deficit of \$47,000 and by removing the director position that could hopefully bring them back up. City Manager Montgomery advised he wanted to combine the Youth and Adult Program Coordinator positions into one.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the restructuring of the Parks & Recreation Department Organizational Chart by placing the department under the direction of the Executive Office/City Manager, removing the Director position, adding a Parks Manager, combining the positions of Adult Program Coordinator and Youth Program Coordinator and modifying the job title as a Programs Coordinator and restructuring the Chain of Command. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Councilor Montoya voiced his opinion regarding Parks being under the Public Works department and each department needing a director.

Councilor Martinez asked if they would be violating any ordinances should they move forward.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the City Manager wouldn't be violating any ordinance or the Charter because the Charter states as long as there is oversight by a director which he would be overseeing those departments.

City Manager Montgomery advised that it's difficult to find one individual with a background in recreation sports, fitness and parks.

Mayor Romero advised that the Charter states that the City Manager is allowed to be a director of a department with the exception of the Finance director.

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

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	No		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

6. Request approval of Contract with AECOM for the Peterson Dam Replacement Project - Phase 3 Final Design and Phase 4 Engineering during construction scope of work.

Water Director Travis Martinez advised that the contract was approved by the State Engineers Office.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve a Contract with AECOM for the Peterson Dam Replacement Project - Phase 3 Final Design and Phase 4 Engineering during construction scope of work. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion.

Water Director Martinez discussed what would be covered regarding the Peterson Dam replacement phase III final design and phase IV bid support for construction.

City Manager Montgomery advised that the contract with AECOM would allow them to seek a professional opinion on dredging Peterson Dam.

Discussion took place regarding the cost of both phase III and IV and when to expect the plan and design to be completed.

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.

7. Discussion/Action regarding Las Vegas Night.

Mayor Romero explained with the leadership and individuals within the Governing Body they could showcase the community and request funding, should they consider Las Vegas Night.

Councilor Casey advised that Las Vegas Night used to be a wonderful event and over the years people stopped showing up. Councilor Casey advised that they need to be better prepared and notify people in advance to build connections with the legislators.

Councilor Montoya advised when he went last year there weren't any representatives there. Councilor Montoya advised that Las Vegas Night started eighteen years ago and it was dynamic, influential and they made a difference. Councilor Montoya advised that there is a different atmosphere of Representatives and Senators now. Councilor Montoya advised that they need to invite Senators and have them commit to what the City is requesting. Councilor Montoya advised that it's a waste of money unless you go as a team, with your priorities, with your documentation and meet with the Governor, Senators or Representatives.

Mayor Romero advised that the President of NMHU, Commissioner Garcia and himself were working on a breakfast and would be inviting the local legislators.

Discussion took place regarding how much has been funded towards Las Vegas Day/Night in the past and ensuring that a priority list is ready.

Mayor Romero advised that they would continue with Las Vegas Day.

8. Request approval to reschedule the December 11, 2024 regular Council Meeting to December 10, 2024.

Mayor Romero advised that he had committed to participate in a Mayor's summit in California. Mayor Romero advised that he wanted to ensure that they have a quorum, which is why he's asking Council to consider changing the meeting from December 11th to December 10th.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve to reschedule the December 11, 2024 regular Council Meeting to December 10, 2024. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Romero advised he was paying for his own flight.

Councilor Montoya wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Romero advised they were grateful for all the employees.

ADJOURN


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

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.



Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk