

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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
Ambrosio Castellano, Contracted City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Martinez thanked the City Manager and all the employees for their involvement in removing the snow.

Mayor Romero asked for a moment of silence for Dianna Medrano who passed away.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Clerk Fresquez advised there was a recommendation to remove Business Item 5 due to waiting on the contract to be reviewed by the water attorney.

Councilor Martinez asked to move Business Item 1 after the City Managers Report.

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

PUBLIC INPUT

RaeDawn Price spoke on issues regarding the location of the Samaritan House and the decline of one beloved park and neighborhood in Las Vegas. Ms. Price advised she is no longer able to take her children to Lincoln Park and feel safe. Ms. Price advised that the money allocated to revitalize Lincoln Park should have been used at a different park. Ms. Price advised that she's aware of the homelessness issue happening throughout the country but as a business owner they are constantly having to hire people to clean the alley due to needles being all over and fires being lit. Ms. Price discussed her staff having to be escorted to and from the bank due to safety concerns. Ms. Price voiced her concerns regarding the shelter not being a place to help people get better.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Romero provided an update regarding his opportunity in joining other Mayors throughout the state via zoom to discuss issues that communities are facing. Mayor Romero advised he attended the Veterans Day celebration and the NMHU community game. Mayor Romero acknowledged City Manager, Public Works staff, Gas department staff, Public Safety Officials and other staff for helping to clean the streets. Mayor Romero advised that he and Community Development Director Lucas Marquez attended the Pass Forward Conference and they would be presenting on it next week.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Casey also thanked all the hardworking City employees who were out in the terrible blizzard conditions trying to clean the streets and for checking on people. Councilor Casey advised that she was honored and proud to work with those wonderful employees and hopes other people recognize their hard work and valuable service. Councilor Casey also thanked Fire Chief Spann and his staff for being kind, passionate and patient human beings.

Councilor Martinez advised that he attended a meeting with New Mexico Highlands University regarding the swimming pool at NMHU.

Councilor Montoya thanked City Manager Montgomery for his leadership and for being proactive during the snow storm. Councilor Montoya also thanked department heads for stepping up during the snow storm. Councilor Montoya advised that residents in the area of the 1200 block of 6th Street and John Street have requested speed bumps in those areas. Councilor Montoya advised that residents in the area of Tilden and 11th Street reported a vacant property that is boarded up and has overgrown weeds and a vacant property on Calle Dulce also had overgrown weeds. Councilor Montoya thanked Father Rob for cleaning the property on West National.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Tim Montgomery discussed the following;

- Welcomed new staff to the City of Las Vegas
- City department updates
 - Invested \$113 million with NM State Treasure's Local Government Investment Pool, total interest earnings \$552,686.27
 - Inclement weather update (Incident Command System)
 - Incident Command Training

Councilor Casey thanked City Manager Montgomery for his report and advised that she's taken the Incident Command training and how it's important for people to take the training.

Mayor Romero acknowledged Mary Jean Aragon at the Recreation Center and the Senior Center for preparing meals for the seniors during the snow storm.

Councilor Martinez thanked City Manager Montgomery for his report and for taking care of the community during the snow storm.

Councilor Montoya also thanked City Manager Montgomery for his report.

Mayor Romero thanked Police Chief Marquez for making sure the homeless were taken care of during the snow storm.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval to enter into contract with Samaritan House Inc.

Community Development Director Lucas Marquez advised the amount of funding would be \$58,331 for the next seven months.

Mayor Romero asked if Police Chief Marquez had data regarding the amount of calls for service in the area of the Samaritan House.

Police Chief Marquez advised there were 121 calls for service to 501 7th Street (the Samaritan House), 82 calls for service to Lincoln Park, 2 calls for service at 700 Lincoln Avenue and 46 calls for service in the area surrounding the Samaritan House.

Councilor Martinez advised that the item was tabled and there were rumors going around that the City of Las Vegas was not helping the homeless. Councilor Martinez advised that he disagreed with the way Mr. Lyon portrayed him as a Councilman and the City of Las Vegas. Councilor Martinez advised there has been \$312,000 spent on the Samaritan house since 2015. Councilor Martinez asked Mr. Lyon to give a general idea of where the homeless are coming from.

George Lyon with the Samaritan House advised that they are from the community.

Councilor Martinez asked for a signature list that shows that they are from the community.

Mr. Lyon advised that they have a sign in sheet that has their signature, the services they got and where they reside.

Discussion and questions took place regarding the hours of operation from 6 pm until the next day depending on the temperatures, whether there are felons staying at the shelter and the total calls for service in the area of the Samaritan House being 351.

Councilor Martinez advised that he understands the need to help the homeless and asked about options to move the Samaritan House.

Mr. Lyon advised that they had community meetings to discuss the purchase of the building and people didn't attend. Mr. Lyon advised the only option for them to move is if someone purchases the building from them.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Samaritan House and them not applying for HUD funding due to people staying on drugs and not fixing the problem of addiction and mental illness.

Mayor Romero discussed speaking with Mr. Robert Chavez with YDI (Youth Development Inc.), who helps the homeless in Albuquerque under a state program. Mayor Romero voiced his concerns regarding paying the Samaritan House for services that don't seem to help the same homeless individuals in the community.

Mr. Lyon advised that the City pays for someone to sleep and eat, and the Samaritan House manages everyone, they have assessments and set goals for the homeless individuals. Mr. Lyon advised that their goal is not about addiction or housing, it's about getting them to become contributing community members.

Councilor Montoya asked Mr. Lyon if the Samaritan House had rules posted in their building.

Mr. Lyon advised everyone who goes into the Samaritan House must sign off on the rules.

Councilor Montoya asked if law enforcement had access to the outdoor cameras.

Police Chief Marquez advised at one point they did and he would check to make sure they still have access.

Councilor Montoya asked if there was a phone and voicemail for the public.

Mr. Lyon advised yes.

Councilor Montoya read the following from the contract and asked if it's being done, "twice a month for 30-45 minutes, the Samaritan House will open a zoom session updating the public on the most recent efforts to combat addiction stigma and mental illness in San Miguel and ask questions of experts".

Mr. Lyon advised that they would be starting that again.

Councilor Montoya asked the following questions; if they had one board member appointed from the neighborhood, if a fire inspection had been done by the Las Vegas Fire department, if they had staff for the night shift, if the Samaritan House was safe, if it was heated, if there were showers available and if they had a license to cook.

Mr. Lyon advised that they don't have a member from the neighborhood because people don't want to participate, a fire inspection was done, they do have staff on the night shift, he considers the Samaritan House to be safe, they have showers available and no they only do ready made food.

Councilor Montoya asked City Manager Montgomery if Mr. Lyon submitted all the financial statements.

City Manager Montgomery advised yes.

Councilor Montoya voiced his opinion regarding the need to approve the Samaritan House contract. Councilor Montoya advised that all the funding should be going towards food and services not salaries.

Mayor Romero asked City Manager Montgomery if they go over \$60,000 then an RFP would be required.

City Manager Montgomery advised yes.

Councilor Casey voiced her opinion regarding the treatment Mr. Lyon receives when going before Council and was glad that Councilor Montoya recognized the need to fund the Samaritan House. Councilor Casey advised that they can't blame Mr. Lyon for the actions of people and many unsheltered people choose to be unsheltered. Councilor Casey agreed with Councilor Montoya to fund the Samaritan House.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the contract with Samaritan House Inc.

Councilor Montoya asked if the motion could include that the funding only be used for services and not for salaries.

Councilor Casey advised yes.

Councilor Montoya 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	No		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS/POSSIBLE DIRECTION

Tim Hagaman with the Economic Development Department provided a lengthy presentation regarding an update on Economic Development.

Elias Trujillo with Las Vegas-San Miguel Chamber of Commerce presented their quarterly report. Mr. Trujillo advised that they were fully staffed at the Visitor Center 7 days a week and as of October 31st they've had 4,446 visitors. Mr. Trujillo advised that the Meadow City Motor Show in September had a good turnout. Mr.

Trujillo advised that they were looking for one more member for their board. Mr. Trujillo recognized all the contributions and hard work Mr. Philip Martinez made, who passed away in September.

Councilor Montoya advised that he would be interested in being on the Las Vegas-San Miguel Chamber of Commerce board.

Gas Director David Marquez presented on collaborative efficiency and best practices in the Gas Department to promote teamwork. Mr. Marquez discussed public awareness and the importance of natural gas and the safety that comes with it. Mr. Marquez discussed the future of the Gas department.

City Manager Montgomery advised that he was proud to have Mr. Marquez as the Gas Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from October 9 and October 16, 2024. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked if all were in favor. All were in favor.

Councilor Martinez advised a closed meeting of the Governing Body was called on October 21, 2024 for the purpose of discussing matters subject to the attorney client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation pertaining to discussion with the Sulzer Group and Singleton Schrieber contracted by the City for services related to the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire in which the City of Las Vegas is or may become a participant, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H)(7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. After proper notice the meeting was convened at 2:05 p.m., roll call was taken and all members of the Governing Body were present with the exception of Councilor David Ulibarri. Only those matters mentioned were discussed and no action was taken, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Fresquez read the Consent Agenda (1-2) into the record as follows:

1. Request approval of Addendum #3 to Contract #3825-21 with AECOM for dams and reservoirs engineering services.
2. Request approval of Addendum #3 to Contract #3827-21 with Souder Miller & Associates for water distribution services.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (1-2). 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.

BUSINESS ITEMS (cont.)

2. Request approval of contractual agreement for inmate confinement with the Las Vegas Police Department and San Miguel Detention Center.

Police Chief Caleb Marquez advised that they negotiated with the County with several changes to the contract such as language and the cost to detain the inmates. Police Chief Marquez advised that the daily rate to detain inmates went from \$90 to \$125 for Municipal Court detainees only. Police Chief Marquez advised that there was a \$20 booking fee for anyone not charged under Municipal Statutes or ordinances.

Councilor Montoya asked if the contract was reviewed by an attorney.

Police Chief Marquez advised yes.

Mayor Romero asked if the City would be financially okay with the additional costs.

City Manager Montgomery advised yes.

Discussion took place regarding the annual cost.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the contractual agreement for inmate confinement with the Las Vegas Police Department and San Miguel Detention Center. Councilor Martinez 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.

3. Request approval of Out-of-State travel for Commander Elias Rael to attend 2025 AXON week conference in Phoenix, AZ on April 21-26, 2025.

Police Chief Caleb Marquez advised that the conference is through AXON and advised that they use technology/equipment from AXON.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve Out-of-State travel for Commander Elias Rael to attend the 2025 AXON week conference in Phoenix, AZ on April 21-26, 2025. Councilor Casey 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.

4. Request approval of Resolution No. 24-32, a budget adjustment for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Finance Director Morris Madrid advised that the BAR was for the Santa in the Park event.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-32, a budget adjustment for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Resolution 24-32 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
Marvin Marinez	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.



 Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:



 Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk