

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE SAN MIGUEL COUNTY CHAMBERS.

MAYOR: David Romero

COUNCILORS: Marvin Martinez
Barbara Casey **via Google Meet**
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri **Absent**

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Montgomery, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Matias Apodaca, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Romero called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Casey asked for a moment of silence to thank our creator for all the good things and the people that have come into our lives, for the food we have, for our beautiful community and for the work that is done everyday to make it a better place.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Maria Gilvarry thanked the community, staff, the Governing Body and their predecessors for the opportunity to serve the community for the last 12 years. Ms. Gilvarry advised during those 12 challenging and rewarding years she served under seven City Managers, five Mayors, ten different Councilors, oversaw hundreds of employees and assisted thousands of customers with utility and billing needs. Ms. Gilvarry advised that she experienced the good and bad of government life, the intelligence and desire to understand many of the customers and the ignorance and sometimes vileness of the few but vocal. Ms. Gilvarry advised that she experienced the dedication of City employees and when she became the Utilities Director there were a few issues she set out to address such as unequal treatment of customers, reactive maintenance, proper pay, project completion and communication. Ms. Gilvarry advised that she was proud of what Utilities has accomplished. Ms. Gilvarry advised that customers would get their utilities turned back on or special deals even with large debts and cutoff notices based on who they knew.

Ms. Gilvarry discussed the implementation of rules being consistent no matter whose phone number the customer claims to have. Ms. Gilvarry discussed draft pay plan proposals, compensation discrepancies, project management and division staff applying and receiving over 56 million in funding, 48 million in grants and completing over 98 projects. Ms. Gilvarry advised that it was incorrectly stated that there were several plans sitting on the shelf and stated there two plans at one hundred percent awaiting funding and all others were completed or in construction. Ms. Gilvarry thanked all the customers she assisted over the years, City staff and directors she had the opportunity to work with. Ms. Gilvarry also thanked all her staff members, managers, superintendent, supervisors, admins, operators, cashiers, service personnel, drivers and laborers and advised they were

the reason utilities accomplished as much as it has and they will be the reason the City continues to succeed.

MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Appointment of Laura Martinez to the Charter Commission – Ward 1.

Mayor Romero advised that Councilor Ulibarri recommended Laura Martinez.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve the appointment of Laura Martinez to the Charter Commission – Ward 1. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Councilor Montoya asked if there was a consultant for the Charter Commission.

City Manager Tim Montgomery advised that they are in the process of moving forward with an RFP for an Attorney that does not have to reside in San Miguel County.

Councilor Montoya discussed Section 1.05(A) of the City Charter that states, “The Governing Body shall be responsible for modifying the City Charter as necessary, and shall review the City Charter at least once every five (5) years”. Councilor Montoya voiced his opinion that the Governing Body was relinquishing their authority and responsibility. Councilor Montoya advised that he voted no to have a Charter Commission and felt that it's the duty of the Mayor and Council.

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

Michael L. Montoya	No	Barbara Casey	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Appointment of Lorraine Garduno to the Design & Review Board.

Mayor Romero advised that Community Development Director Lucas Marquez recommended Lorraine Garduno. Mayor Romero advised that Ms. Garduno used

to work in Community Development and she understands the policies and ordinances.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the appointment of Lorraine Garduno to the Design & Review Board. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero advised there was a motion and second and 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.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval of a 3 year contract for annual 4th of July Firework display and services agreement with Precision Fireworks, LLC.

Fire Chief Steve Spann advised that the contract would guarantee a firework display for the next three years on the 4th of July. Fire Chief Spann further advised that the price went up from \$30,000 to \$50,000 in order for the vendor to buy the equipment.

Mayor Romero advised that one of the reasons for the contract was to ensure the firework display is on the 4th of July.

Councilor Montoya asked if they would still be utilizing City personnel.

Fire Chief Spann advised that City personnel would be providing security of the grounds along with the County Fire department to make sure fire suppression is there. Fire Chief Spann advised that they would also be cleaning up the debris the next morning. Fire Chief Spann advised that they received a letter from Highlands allowing them to use the Golf Course with no fees or charges.

Councilor Montoya asked if City personnel would be in charge of the firework display.

Fire Chief Spann advised no there would be trained certified personnel setting up and City personnel would be there for fire safety.

Councilor Montoya asked if the location would be secured.

Fire Chief Spann advised yes, they would provide security along with the Police department.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve a 3 year contract for the annual 4th of July Firework display and services agreement with Precision Fireworks, LLC.

Councilor Martinez asked if there was insurance.

Fire Chief Spann advised that Precision Fireworks would be insured by a \$5 million liability combined single limit for personal injury and property, as well as another \$5 million for transportation of class one explosives registered by the DOT.

Mayor Romero advised there was a motion by Councilor Montoya and asked if there was a second. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero advised there was a motion and second and 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.

2. Request approval of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between San Miguel County and the City of Las Vegas.

Community Development Director Lucas Marquez advised that San Miguel County would be having an Association of Counties event that would be taking place on June 18th and 19th and the County would cover the City with their insurance during the event. Community Development Director Marquez advised that the MOA was reviewed by a City Attorney.

Mayor Romero asked if the fifth whereas could have the following language added, "The City of Las Vegas agrees to provide an event permit for the event which would require all City public safety requirements be met".

Community Development Director Marquez advised that he also had a correction on Article VI to change Interim City Manager to City Manager.

Councilor Montoya asked how many days the event would be.

Community Development Director Marquez advised that they would shut down the area of Railroad and Lincoln Avenue on the evening of June 17th and the event would take place on June 18th and 19th.

Discussion took place regarding striping of the area on Railroad Avenue.

Councilor Martinez asked if the businesses in the area were notified about the road closure.

Community Development Director Marquez advised yes they had all been notified and there would still be access to those businesses.

Discussion took place regarding public safety in that area during the event and advertising the closure during the event so the public is aware.

Councilor Montoya asked who would be in charge of traffic control.

Community Development Director Marquez advised that the County would be handling that.

Councilor Montoya asked if the County would also be in charge of the signage for road closures.

Community Development Director Marquez advised yes and that the County would be providing everything for the event and the City could be providing the space.

Councilor Montoya asked how late the entertainment/activities would last.

Community Development Director Marquez advised until 10 pm.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between San Miguel County and the City of Las Vegas with the suggested language. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Martinez made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, Discussion on removal of Utilities Director. Councilor Casey 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.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to exit executive session and reconvene into regular session after being in executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, Discussion on removal of Utilities Director, no other items were discussed and no action was taken. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION ITEMS

1. Request removal of Maria Gilvarry as Utilities Director.

Councilor Casey made a motion to remove Maria Gilvarry as Utilities Director. 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.

ADJOURN

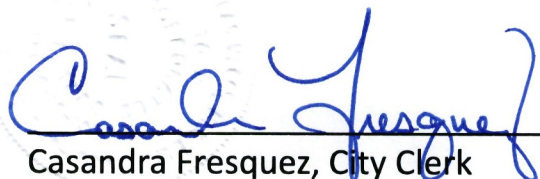
Councilor Montoya made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.



 Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:



 Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

