

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 15, 2011**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room. Present: Mayor Di An Putnam, Councilmen Richard Stone, Doug Cain, Joyce Sheen, Jim Billingsley and Paige Brooks. Staff present: City Manager Steve West, City Attorney Kent Maher and City Clerk Eddy Davis.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Putnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The January 18, 2011 regular City Council meeting minutes were presented for review and Councilman Cain moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

The January 18, 2011 joint City/County meeting minutes were presented for review and Councilman Cain moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

The warrants were presented for review and Councilman Stone moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATIONS / EMPLOYEE AWARDS:

Mayor Putnam read a proclamation stating that February 2011 is "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in Winnemucca.

PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Putnam shared a letter received from 10-year old Etienne Perez who expressed her belief that a dog park in our community would make Winnemucca a special destination.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

BUSINESS IMPACT DETERMINATION

City Attorney Maher and the Council reviewed and discussed briefly the agenda items and the effect each item could potentially have on a "business" as the term is defined by statute. The Council agreed that no item on this agenda appears to impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business or appears to directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business. Councilman Sheen moved to make a finding that no item on this agenda appears to impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business or appears to directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business. Motion carried unanimously.

VARIANCE VW-11-01 / REDUCE SIDE YARD SETBACK / SHEPPARD

Betty Lawrence, Humboldt County Planning Department, reported that notices were sent to all property owners in the area as required by law. The variance request is to allow for construction of two (2) 8x16 foot decks attached to the south side of apartment building #6

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(Mountain View Apartment complex located off Highway 95 North on Dancing Bear Boulevard). Building #6 sits high on the property and there are no buildings between it and the highway. Councilman Sheen moved to approve, based upon staff findings and recommendation, variance VW-11-01 to reduce the side yard setback from 20-feet to 12-feet in a G-C (General Commercial) zoning district on property located at 155 Dancing Bear Boulevard, APN 015-482-03, on behalf of T.G. Sheppard. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution Number 2011-03.

VARIANCE VW-11-02 / INCREASE MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT / NEVADA RURAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mayor Putnam said this building height variance request is to allow for construction of an elevator shaft, according to her conversation with Dave Craig of the Nevada Rural Housing Authority (NRHA). Betty Lawrence, Humboldt County Planning Department, confirmed the request is for a height variance to construct a three story apartment complex, and only the back portion of the building will exceed the height limitation due to the slope of the property with the highest point being the elevator shaft. Councilman Cain moved to approve, based upon staff findings and recommendation, variance VW-11-02 to increase the maximum building height restriction from 35-feet to 43-feet, 9-inches in an R-3 (Multiple Family Residential) zoning district on property located at 242 W. Minor Street, APN 016-171-06, on behalf of the Nevada Rural Housing Authority. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution Number 2011-04.

Councilman Sheen asked if the new building is an addition to the current apartment complex on Minor Street. Dave Craig, NRHA representative, said this is new construction and it will create 60 additional units in the first phase and there will be rehabilitation of the senior buildings already in place, which will eventually become part of a senior campus. Mayor Putnam said the seniors had input on the layout of the sidewalks, walkways, and grounds to ensure ease of use and security. Craig said groundbreaking is scheduled for May 1, 2011. Sheen noted the community can feel good about senior care because of the Senior Citizen Center, the apartment complexes around town, and the Harmony Manor nursing home. Craig said seniors participate at the local senior center in larger number than they do in Elko. Arloa Woolford, a neighboring property owner, said she had some concerns about the distance the elderly will have to walk to get to the elevator in the new building, but approved of the project overall.

REQUEST FOR 2-HOUR PARKING LIMIT / DUBBLE CHECK

Mayor Putnam reminded that an issue that comes up repeatedly with two-hour parking limits is the inability to enforce them without having to hire an enforcement officer to monitor the parking during certain hours. Linda Smith, proprietor of Dubble Check, said the business is getting busier on the block (West Fourth Street between Bridge Street and the alley next to City Hall), and sometimes customers are unable to find parking. Employees of other businesses in the area park in front of the business all day. If two-hour parking is assigned to that portion of the block, at least Dubble Check can lodge complaints to the offenders. The main reason for the request is to free up parking spaces for business patrons during regular business hours Monday through Friday. City Manager West explained that this issue had been discussed by the City Council many times in the past. West said two-hour parking signs are in place in the downtown area but the parking restrictions are only occasionally enforced. A two-hour parking sign can be placed on this block if the Council decides to approve the request, but there is no guarantee that it will be enforced regularly, or that there will be a response when a complaint is received. Enforcement likely will be on an occasional basis. It has been the City's experience that

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whenever parking restrictions are enforced in the downtown area, almost always complaints are received from disgruntled business owners. West said if signs are erected, the issue will be enforcement. Councilman Brooks said she supports the request for parking signs because there are two-hour parking signs in front of City Hall. Councilman Cain interjected that parking is being utilized under the overpasses by downtown and convention center patrons. City Attorney Maher said he has been in business in the Fourth Street area for nearly thirty years and there have been several parking proposals, but no solution to the problem (not enough parking to serve all the needs). Smith noted that her employees and some patrons park in the parking lot behind City Hall when they can. The building owner (Tom Bidegary) is in favor of the two-hour parking limit. Councilman Billingsley said signage will provide enforcement ability. Councilman Sheen moved to direct staff to draw up a resolution that will appropriately define the request made by Dubble Check for two-hour parking in front of their business on West Fourth Street. Motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR USE OF SOFTBALL COMPLEX / LININGER

Mayor Putnam said the use of the softball complex for the girls fast pitch tournament was approved in prior years. Councilman Stone verified with City Manager West that nothing else was scheduled at the softball complex in conflict with the tournament. Councilman Sheen moved to approve the use of the softball complex on June 25-26, 2011 for the Winnemucca Girls Fast Pitch Association Gold Rush Tournament. Motion carried unanimously.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST / RUN-A-MUCCA

Darrel Field, Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority (WCVA) Marketing and Special Events Coordinator, said that the only change in the request from last year was that the closure of Lay Street in front of the Winners Hotel and Casino will begin on Thursday because vendors tend to arrive early for the event. Councilman Cain moved to approve the WCVA request for temporary street closures for the Run-A-Mucca celebration as follows: Lay Street from Winnemucca Blvd. to Wells Fargo entrance on the easterly side of Fourth Street, from 5:00 a.m. Friday May 27, 2011 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday May 29, 2011; Lay Street between Winnemucca Blvd. and Fourth Street from 9:00 a.m. Thursday May 26, 2011 to 5:00 p.m. Monday May 30, 2011; Fourth Street from Aiken Street to Lay Street (including two intersections) from 5:00 a.m. Friday May 27, 2011 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday May 29, 2011; Fourth Street from Lay Street to approximately 130 feet east of the Lay Street intersection (a point just west of the Wells Fargo Bank exit) from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday May 27, 2011 and 5:00 a.m. Saturday May 28, 2011 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday May 29, 2011; and, Aiken Street from Fourth Street south to the curb cut that allows residents ingress and egress (approximately 100 feet up Aiken Street) from 5:00 a.m. Friday May 27, 2011 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday May 29, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST / FIFTIES FEVER ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Darrel Field, WCVA Marketing and Special Events Coordinator, said there were no changes in the request from last year. The event may run a little late, so the times requested are not firm. City Manager West said Second Street could be closed for overflow if needed. Field added there is hope for a larger crowd and greater participation this year. Councilman Billingsley asked if this event will conflict with the Reno Hot August Nights event. Field said it will not. Councilman Sheen moved to approve the Fifties Fever Committee-WCVA request for temporary street closures for the Fifties Fever annual car show as follows: Winnemucca Blvd. from West

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Winnemucca Blvd. intersection with Fourth Street to East Winnemucca Blvd. junction from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday August 7, 2011 for the annual car cruise; and, Lay Street from Fourth Street intersection to Winnemucca Blvd. from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday August 5, 2011 for Winners Casino Car Show; Bridge Street from intersection with Fourth Street to Winnemucca Blvd. intersection and from Winnemucca Blvd. intersection to Giroux Street and Second Street from Bridge Street intersection to Melarkey Street from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. Sunday August 7, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST / TRI-COUNTY FAIR AND STAMPEDE

Darrel Field, WCVA Marketing and Special Events Coordinator, reported that the street closure dates and times were identical to last year. Because of the increased amount of traffic last year on Fairgrounds Road, they are asking to close a portion of the street leading up to the Fairgrounds complex entrance to better accommodate pedestrian traffic and improve public safety. Councilman Stone moved to approve the Ag District #3 request for temporary street closures for the Tri-County Fair and Stampede as follows: Winnemucca Blvd. from West Winnemucca Blvd. intersection with Fourth Street to East Winnemucca Blvd. intersection for the annual Labor Day Parade from 11:00 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. Saturday September 3, 2011; and, Fairgrounds Road from the RV Park entrance to the Indoor Events Center entrance for Fair events from 3:00 p.m. Thursday September 1, 2011 to 11:00 p.m. Sunday September 4, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF / COUNCIL REPORTS

City Clerk Davis reported that the City Clerk's office is working at peak efficiency since the January 4, 2011 reduction in work force.

City Manager West reported that Fire Chief Walt Johnstone is resigning effective June 6, 2011. The last demo light has been delivered and will be installed next week, providing five different lighting options to consider. A summary of the estimated installation costs, lamp life and annual power cost savings will be provided to the Council in the near future for each lighting option. The Sewer back-up policy and procedure brochure, after minor modifications, is now complete. The brochure will be posted on the City's website and is available at City Hall in hard copy. The utility crew will also hand them out to customers when called out on sewer-related problems. Councilman Sheen said the brochure is well done and offers good information to the public.

Councilman Stone attended the HDA meeting last week. The main topic of discussion concerned the possibility of sending a representative to the Trailer Manufacturing Convention, but that did not work out. The Future's program continues to work on different aspects of their project.

Councilman Cain said the Airport Board meeting went fine. Cain noted a meeting will be held this evening to discuss the development of a list of interview questions for Fire Chief candidates. After the Firemen complete the interview and voting process, a recommendation from the group will be made to the City Council for final appointment.

Councilman Sheen will attend the next Landfill Committee meeting on February 22. The award of the recycling grant will be on the agenda. The WCVA meeting is scheduled for next week.

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Councilman Billingsley attended his first RAC meeting. Green energy and wild horses were the main topics of discussion. In March there will be a field trip to view a geothermal plant. This summer, a trip to the Black Rock desert will include a visit to the visitor's center and an opportunity to check out the gas pipeline which crosses that area.

Councilman Brooks inquired about the status of the improvements to the Bloody Shins Trail parking lot. West reported gravel was spread last week. Brooks was notified that a street light on First and Pavilion is illuminated during the day. The NNRC is working on the Sonoma Connector Trail project. The most recent Future's meeting experienced low attendance. There will be a Lowry High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) meeting next week.

Mayor Putnam received notice from POOL/PACT advising that WPD Sergeant Garrison completed the Essentials Management program. A meeting has been set up for March 8 with the Humboldt County Sheriff's office, local EMTs and the Police Department to discuss budgetary issues and coordination of efforts to avoid duplication of services. The Community Hall meeting was held on suicide education and prevention. The lack of attendance was a disappointment, but the information that was shared on the subject for both youth and adults was excellent. The City is currently using the services of a Human Resources expert to review the City employment manuals. A meeting is scheduled with Newmont Mine to discuss their parking lot lights in response to a resident who complained that they are too bright. Putnam plans to attend an NLC board of directors meeting in Carson City tomorrow, depending upon the weather. The Mayor and City Manager participated in an NLC teleconference that discussed Legislative issues that could have an impact on local governments.

Mayor Putnam adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. until the next scheduled regular meeting on March 8, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy D. Davis
City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED: March 8, 2011

VOTE OF COUNCIL:

AYES:	Councilmen	<u>Stone, Cain, Sheen, Billingsley, Brooks</u>
NAYS:	Councilmen	_____
NOT VOTING:	Councilman	_____
ABSENT:	Councilman	_____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Di An Putnam
Mayor

Eddy D. Davis
City Clerk