

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 23, 2011**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 23, 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:**

Approval of the August 9, 2011 regular City Council meeting minutes will be considered at the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:**

The warrants were presented for review and Councilman Cain moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously with Councilman Billingsley abstaining from voting on the warrants for Jim Dandy Productions, which is owned by him.

**PROCLAMATIONS / EMPLOYEE AWARDS:**

There were no proclamation or employee awards.

**PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:**

Jim Parrish, Humboldt General Hospital CEO, and Pat Songer, Humboldt General Hospital EMS Coordinator, congratulated Lieutenant Eric Silva on his promotion to Police Chief and presented him with a monogrammed (with his name) EMS rescue jacket. Parrish also congratulated retiring Police Chief Bob Davidson (who was not present) and presented a plaque for Davidson depicting the EMS and Police Department personnel.

**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.

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### **TWIN CREEKS MINE VISTA 7 EXPANSION**

Doug Barto, Newmont Environmental Relations Coordinator, and Sue Hawkins, Newmont External Relations, shared information concerning the future expansion of the Twin Creeks Mine Vista 7 open pit and requested a letter of support for the environmental assessment of the Vista 7 expansion. Councilman Sheen asked what should be included in the letter of support. Barto said the letter should basically support the benefits that the expansion will provide through economic growth due to associated jobs and the extended life of the pit. Mayor Putnam asked about the environmental issues related to the pit expansion. Barto replied an additional 117 acres will be added on to the existing pit along with expansion of the waste dump. Councilman Billingsley asked about the future of the existing Juniper Plant. Barton noted ore deposits were depleted and the Vista 7 expansion is needed to continue using the Plant. The life of the mine will be extended until approximately 2020. Barto expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their support. Mayor Putnam directed staff to write the letter of support for her signature.

### **ENCROACHMENT PERMIT REQUEST / ANGIE'S BOUTIQUE-GOMEZ**

Mayor Putnam stated this was not an unusual request. The owners of Angie's Boutique (Manuel and Angelica Gomez) have requested an encroachment permit to allow for an extension of a window awning on their business located at 331 South Bridge Street. Councilman Cain moved to approve the encroachment permit, per staff recommendation, that would allow the extension of a window awning over the sidewalk in front of their business, Angie's Boutique, located at 331 South Bridge Street. Motion carried unanimously.

### **DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS WAIVER REQUEST / FURRH**

City Manager West said this was an unusual request because it was received from a prospective purchaser of the property located at 450 E. National Avenue. The Humboldt County Planning Department noted the stated address is incorrect, and the property does not have an assigned address, but the Assessor's Parcel Number is correct and matches the property location. West said preliminarily there does not appear to be any reason to object to allowing a waiver of the development standards in that location; however, only a property owner can make the request. City Attorney Maher confirmed that only the property owner may authorize requests dealing with the property status. Staff recommends postponing action on this request until the property is purchased by Furrh. The item was tabled.

### **CITY MASTER PLAN DESIGNATIONS / HUMBOLDT COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Dana Toth, Humboldt County Planning Department, presented a tentative listing of master plan designations and definitions which are being reviewed with the intention of making the designations more user friendly. Toth said overlay maps of flood prone zones-areas will be added to the City master plan maps. The work on the rural areas was started first and the overall City plan will be considered last. It is anticipated the updates and changes will be requested later this year. Toth questioned if now was the time to consider rezoning procedures. City Attorney Maher replied that rezone requests are typically handled one at a time as requests

are made and to date there has not been City initiated rezoning. Mayor Putnam thanked Toth for the work she is putting in on this project.

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT PROJECT CONTRACT AWARD**

Mayor Putnam said two bids were received for the energy efficiency retrofit project from CR Drake & Sons in the sum of \$867,585 and PAR Electric in the sum of \$1,168,116. City Manager West said the bid difference is attributed to the portion pertaining to the carriage lights. West noted the overall bid amounts exceeded the budget. An award will require a City match of \$108,585 (\$759,000 stimulus grant funding plus \$108,585 City match = \$867,585 low bid for the project). Cam Drake, CR Drake & Sons representative, said he would like to work on a sample of the finished light pole product for review before the project moves forward. Councilman Stone moved to accept, based upon staff recommendation, the low bid received from CR Drake & Sons in the amount of \$867,585 for the energy efficiency retrofit project. Motion carried unanimously.

### **AIRPORT PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROJECT CONTRACT AWARD**

City Manager West distributed a summary of the three bids received for the airport pavement maintenance project. West said he was not familiar with the three bidders but that Armstrong Consultants reported good results with the low bidder on other airport projects. The FAA notified the City there is approximately \$489,000 in grant funding available for airport projects, and indicated that Congress may appropriate additional FAA funding in 2012. West recommended, at a minimum, slurry sealing (which provides a 5-7 year life) the runways and taxiways, and fog sealing everything else. Mayor Putnam asked why the City couldn't expend the additional funds needed to slurry seal everything and split the additional cost with the County. West said he was worried that there may not be entitlement funding available in 2012. Councilman Billingsley asked if the unavailability of FAA funding would adversely affect the City. West said if funding is not set aside for airport maintenance, it will cost more over time because the asphalt will have to be replaced. Staff recommends awarding Option Number 2 which provides for the application of the slurry seal as outlined in the first two bid schedules and fog-sealing the rest of the pavement areas. Staff is hopeful that slurry seal funding will become available within a few years for the areas that are fog sealed. The County should be asked to equally contribute to the required additional local match. Councilman Cain moved to approve, per staff recommendation, the award of the contract to Gordon Paving for the sum of \$617,102.53 for the airport pavement maintenance project (inclusive of the design and inspection costs) for Option Number 2, subject to the County agreeing to split the local match. Motion carried unanimously.

### **STAFF / COUNCIL REPORTS**

City Manager West reported the SCADA project was complete and the final payment retention was released. Staff attended training on the system last week. The flusher truck had engine problems and is in Reno for repairs. West said he is experiencing frustration with the media which resulted in a letter to the editor (to be entered into the minutes of this meeting). The letter briefly explains the City obligation to the media along with a draft City media policy. West said the current way of dealing with the media is not very effective and he wants to improve the

response by providing written records of what information is released and when. Mayor Putnam added she would like the City to use a consistent means of providing information to the media. West said he is requesting a directive from the Council on how to respond to the media. A temporary policy has been initiated that doesn't provide for requests for information via email or by telephone. A request in writing (paper) itemizing the information needed is required, and the response will be returned in writing. Councilman Sheen said she would like to discuss this as a Council. Sheen noted the media likes information to be available as fast as possible and the proposed format appears to be a slow process. Councilman Stone agreed. Councilman Brooks asked what transpired to warrant the change and if the Council could discuss it now. West replied he had explained everything in the letter to the editor and is frustrated with being attacked without all of the facts being considered. West believes the proposed process will remedy the inaccuracies by making answers submitted specific to the questions. Mayor Putnam suggested this issue be placed on an agenda for discussion.

Councilman Cain said he was invited to participate in the planning of the proposed dispatch center as a representative for the City and County. The proposed center is in the preliminary stages and will be located adjacent to the current dispatch center. The possibility of creating a fishing pond for kids and seniors, which was brought up a few years ago, is being discussed again.

Councilman Sheen attended the WCVA meeting. Carl Hammond, an original organizer of the Buckaroo Hall of Fame, suggested the Hall of Fame be expanded. The Winnemucca Trap Range intends to purchase two more trap machines, and is asking the WCVA to purchase one machine, which will provide enough machines to host the state scholastic trap shoot event. Improvement to the intersection at Winnemucca Blvd. and Melarkey Street was discussed. The architect for the hospital expansion and proposed dispatch center (CTA Architects) was asked to come up with estimated costs for construction of improvements at the intersection and present them to the County, City and WCVA boards at a later date. Sheen said she researched the effect of round-a-bouts in other communities and learned most people accept them because traffic flows easier and keeps moving. West said truck traffic would create a problem with a round-a-bout at the intersection of Bridge and Haskell Streets. A traffic signal will cost an estimated \$350,000 while a round-a-bout will cost \$1,500,000.

Councilman Billingsley said he would like to see the Council become more involved when appointments are made to vacated board seats or certain employee vacancies. This would show the public that the Mayor is not the only one who contributes to the choices made, and provide a more consistent process, as the process seems to be inconsistent. West stated there was a resolution in place that outlines the appointment procedure. Sheen said appointees are not actually appointed until the Council concurs with the Mayor's recommendation. City Attorney Maher pointed out that the Mayor, by law, makes the appointments to various positions such as Chief of Police, City Clerk, or City Manager, as well as to other committees and boards. Councilman Stone said he understands Billingsley's comments, but he (Stone) has participated in various appointments and likes the process currently in place. Maher suggested that the process be reviewed. West suggested placing this issue on the next agenda.

Councilman Brooks said she missed the last NNRC meeting and the group was taking the summer off but meetings will resume in the fall. Brooks said she would like to review at the next

meeting the procedure for submitting the minutes to the Council. In her opinion, the minutes are not always received in time for sufficient review. Councilman Stone added he is able to review the minutes in plenty of time before the meeting.

Mayor Putnam reported she attended the Debt Management Commission meeting, reporting that the local governmental entities are in good financial shape. A grand opening was held for the new Veteran's Outreach Clinic on August 22. Projections are that the clinic will experience an increase of use in hopes of obtaining full clinic status in the future. Councilman Cain added the Fallon veterans' clinic is very busy with talks of expansion.

**PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no public, personal communication or correspondence.

Mayor Putnam adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m. until the next meeting on September 6, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy D. Davis  
City Clerk

**PASSED AND ADOPTED:** September 6, 2011

**VOTE OF COUNCIL:**

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Di An Putnam  
Mayor

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Eddy D. Davis  
City Clerk