

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room. Present: Mayor Di An Putnam, Councilmen Mike Owens, Doug Cain, Ken Tipton, Jim Billingsley and Paige Brooks. Staff present: City Manager Steve West, City Attorney Kent Maher and City Clerk Lorrie Haaglund.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 21, 2014 regular City Council meeting were presented for review and Councilman Brooks moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

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

PROCLAMATIONS / EMPLOYEE AWARDS:

Mayor Putnam read a proclamation recognizing February as “National Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month.” Putnam noted the Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services has always been active in making sure women and teens are safe, they visit the schools and go out into the public to make sure the community is safe. Stephanie Johnson, representing Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services, thanked the Mayor and Council for their.

PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no public or personal communications or correspondence.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

BUSINESS IMPACT DETERMINATION

After review and consideration of 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 Cain moved to make a finding that no item on the 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.

/////////
/////////
/////////

VESCO CITY PARK USE REQUEST / FOURTH OF JULY / LIONS CLUB

Patricia Setzer, Winnemucca Host Lions Club representative, said they are joining forces this year with the Chamber of Commerce for the July 4 celebration. The Lions realized the Fourth of July event needed to be “reinvented.” This year’s celebration will include a “Taste of Winnemucca” event which will showcase Winnemucca restaurants and their chefs and staff. They will be providing a large variety of children’s activities. Mayor Putnam commended the organizations for trying to retain people in town during the holiday. Dawn Baldwin, the event coordinator, stated that everyone is really excited. Councilman Cain moved to approve the request to use Vesco City Park on Friday July 4, 2014 for the annual Fourth of July activities hosted by the Winnemucca Host Lions Club and the Humboldt County Chamber of Commerce. Motion carried unanimously.

NORTHERN NEVADA RACING ASSOCIATION (NNRA)

Joel Murphy, President Northern Nevada Racing Association, presented Mayor Putnam and the City Council with a plaque for their support for the Street Drags and Cruise Night events. NNRA has worked with WCVA, the City, and the Chamber of Commerce on Cruise Night and it has been successful. Murphy thanked City employees Roger Sutton and Jerry Holt for the set up and tear down required to put these events on. Mayor Putnam thanked all the people and organizations that put on these events.

ANIMAL CONTROL BUILDING PLAN-PROPOSAL / SMIT-ALOIAU

Consultants Don Smit and Gordon Aloiau advised the preliminary building design work for the animal control shelter project has been nearly completed. The option of adding onto the existing structure was estimated to cost around \$190,000, and would have involved adding only 12 more kennels, without addressing all of the required building code modifications to the old structure. The consultants came to the conclusion that it made more sense to construct a new facility to meet current and future needs. They put together plans for a shelter based upon the preliminary layout provided by City staff. The total estimated cost of the project is \$764,000 for a 5000 square foot building, which includes 32 kennels (with inside and outside areas), two isolation kennels, reception area, office area, quiet room, storage room, mechanical room, and one bathroom, with radiant heating and a surrounding chain link fence. The kennels alone, without installation, will cost \$70,000. The kennels are premade panels. Masonry block will be used for the outside walls for low maintenance. The cost of the concrete for the building is estimated to be nearly \$60,000. Councilman Tipton asked what the maintenance and upkeep costs will be. Councilman Cain said that the maintenance costs of a larger, newer building will probably be lower than those of the existing building. Councilman Brooks asked Police Chief Silva if the staffing will remain the same with a new building. Silva replied yes, there will be one full time City animal control officer, one full time County animal control officer and a part time shelter tech. Silva noted the shelter is always full and that euthanization takes place too to make room for new surrenders or captures. The current facility doesn’t allow an adequate amount of time for adoption. Cain asked if the building is being designed to allow the addition of kennels in the future. Smit stated the design does allow for future expansion. Tipton asked if the cost of the building will be a shared cost expense between the County and City. City Manager West stated that it will not be shared because it is a City facility and, per the shared cost agreement, only operational costs are split. Brooks questioned if the animal control function pays for itself. Silva answered no. Brooks suggested there are a lot of projects pending; the City needs to prioritize projects in order to keep a positive ending fund balance.

Cain said there has been eight years of discussion on what to do with the animal control shelter. The longer the wait, the more expensive the building materials and labor costs become. Smit was asked if a wood structure is less expensive to build than the proposed steel structure. Smit wasn't absolutely sure if the associated construction cost savings of the wood structure option are enough to offset the lower maintenance advantages of a steel structure, and agreed to research the costs and report results at the next meeting. Councilman Billingsley moved to accept the professional services proposal from the consultants for the Animal Control Shelter Building project with the addition of a detailed cost comparison for the wood structure option. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER / PRELIMINARY PLAN-PROPOSAL / SMIT-ALOIAU

Consultants Don Smit and Gordon Aloiau said the preliminary work on the proposed Community Arts Center project is completed; it is not a finished design, but a design based on a needs assessment done with the Northern Nevada Arts Council and Community Arts Center Committee. The building concept is based on a building 120 feet wide by 172 feet in length. The facility will seat 412 people with the ten planned box seats. The building is multi-level and includes a black box theater with 144 seats. The plans include a concession bar, art gallery and additional offices for renting. Smit stated this is a starting point based on the community needs assessment. Mayor Putnam stated the City wants to make sure the public knows the proposal is proceeding and to find out what interest the community may have in moving forward on such a project. City Manager West stated the preliminary building plans are needed to competitively apply for grant-foundation funding in the future. Construction funding has not been committed for this project and it is West's opinion that it will take substantial grant-foundation funding to get the project completed. Putnam pointed out that the \$2 million Nixon Hall fire loss fund has been earmarked as an endowment fund for future building maintenance purposes which will help when competing for grant funding. No action was taken.

WELL NO. 5 REHABILITATION PROJECT

City Manager West reported that due to a blocked sounding tube, it is not possible to measure the water table level at Well 5 which is located at the City shop property on Aiken Street. It is important to monitor the water table levels, especially during drought periods. West stated the well was constructed in 1988 and has never been cleaned. Staff received a preliminary quote from Hydro Resources which includes pulling the pump, replacing sounding tubes, scrubbing the casing and screens, and a total rehab of the well for \$72,000, which also includes converting to a water lubricated pump system. Mayor Putnam asked how long the well will be non-operational. West stated it would be off line a few weeks, but the well is not used during the winter so now is the best time to do the retrofit. Councilman Owens moved to authorize staff to proceed with obtaining bids for the necessary maintenance on Well #5. Motion carried unanimously.

HASKELL STREET RELINQUISHMENT PROPOSAL

Mayor Putnam recapped the previous discussions concerning relinquishment of Haskell Street by NDOT which include a one-time payment from NDOT to the City in the amount of \$750,000 to be used for the installation of a traffic signal system and for future maintenance of the roadway. The preliminary engineering study to more accurately determine the cost of the proposed traffic signal system, which included the required interconnection with the nearby railroad crossing, indicated the cost of the system is upwards of \$1 million, which is cost

prohibitive. City Manager West stated the NDOT suggested option of a round-a-bout is estimated to cost approximately \$1.5 million. West stated the City may want to consider moving forward with the transfer agreement without the traffic signal component. The City assuming ownership of Haskell Street will allow installation of a four way stop at the Haskell Street-Bridge Street intersection with right hand turn lanes in all four directions, which appears to be the only financially feasible option to improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection. The \$750,000 payment from NDOT will be enough to fund one asphalt overlay project and two chip seal surface projects in the future, which will preserve the asphalt surface for an estimated twenty years. There was discussion about the potential impacts of the proposed four way stop at that intersection. It was pointed out that the Hanson Street-Grass Valley Road-Haskell Street intersection (which has higher traffic volumes) has often functioned extremely well as a four way stop during traffic signal system outages. It was the consensus of the Council to proceed with the Haskell Street relinquishment offer to NDOT as discussed.

STAFF / COUNCIL REPORTS

City Manager West reported that the poles for the military banner project have been completed and are ready to be installed. Further discussion between staff and Anita Paquette suggested a better location for the banner poles is behind the landscaping on Haskell Street. The banners could be placed at the back of the landscaping strip and staggered between the existing poles. There will be eight poles with four banners each. Additional poles could be placed if needed in the future. West reported the sewer interceptor project has been dealing with loose trench sand on Baud Street, which has slowed down the progress. They will be crossing Fourth Street today and tomorrow and should be getting into more firm soil soon.

Councilman Owens reported the City crews are doing a great job with the Saturday-Sunday downtown cleanup. Owens and Councilman Brooks attended a landfill committee meeting; there are still some issues concerning the McDermitt Indian reservation waste disposal. The committee is looking to change the commercial landfill fees from billing based on the amounts being reported by the garbage haulers to a fixed rate system. County Assessor Jeff Johnson is working on developing the billing system. Owens attended a Boys and Girls club meeting and said he is really impressed with the information they are receiving.

Councilman Cain will attend the Airport Board meeting on February 10 and a LEPC meeting on February 5.

Councilman Billingsley reported he also attended the Boys and Girls Club meeting; Alan Means has a proposal for the recreational facility that is impressive.

Councilman Brooks reported she attended the Frontier Coalition meeting. The Drug Free Graduation meeting is tonight and Lowry High School's Winter Fest will be held next week.

Mayor Putnam stated she received a letter from the Paradise Valley Sonoma Conservation District and they requested a representative from the City on their board. Councilman Tipton volunteered. The City Treasurer did a recap of the monthly sales tax revenues; the consolidated tax has been lower the last three out of four months compared to the same months last year. Putnam anticipates this trend will continue. The City has a healthy general fund to draw from and the money placed in the capital improvement fund is meant to be spent for community needs. There is a responsibility during budget time to not only talk about the needs, but to prioritize them.

NOT APPROVED

PUBLIC-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no public or personal communications or correspondence.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Haaglund
City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED: February 18, 2014

VOTE OF COUNCIL:

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Di An Putnam
Mayor

Lorrie Haaglund
City Clerk