

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
JOINT CITY COUNCIL / HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

The Winnemucca City Council met in a special joint meeting with the Humboldt County Commission on Monday, November 24, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., in the Humboldt County Courthouse meeting room at 25 West Fifth Street. City Officials present: Mayor Di An Putnam, Councilmen Theresa Mavity, Jim Billingsley, and Paige Brooks. City Officials not present: Councilmen Mike Owens and Ken Tipton. City Staff present: City Manager Steve West, City Attorney Kent Maher and City Clerk Lorrie Haaglund. County Officials present: Commission Chairman Dan Cassinelli, Commissioners Jim French, Mike Bell, Garley Amos, and Marlene Brissenden. County Staff present: County Administrator Bill Deist, County Clerk Tami Spero and Deputy District Attorney Gabrielle Carr.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Putnam called the City Council portion of the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**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 Billingsley 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.

**WESTERN LITHIUM UPDATE**

Dennis Bryan, Senior Vice President of Development, and Catherine Clark, Environmental Manager, of Western Lithium Mining Co. reported their company is developing a major lithium deposit located approximately 60 miles northwest of Winnemucca in the Kings River Valley area. In the 1970's, Chevron began exploring the area for uranium; five large pods of lithium were discovered concentrated in hectorite clay deposits. The clay is easy to mine; it is ten feet down under overburden and can be mined with an excavator. The potential pit will last for about 20 years and produce 20,000 tons per year. Lithium is used in the production of batteries for electrical vehicles. Lithium batteries have a higher cell voltage, greater charge efficiency and a longer operating life. The clay can be used as an additive for specialty drilling muds; making it possible to drill faster, farther and deeper. A hectatone organoclay plant has been opened in Fernley, Nevada which will produce a line of hectatone drilling fluids. Clark stated the initial plan includes stock piling small amounts of clay on the Kings River site to be transported to the Fernely facility. Bryan stated Western Lithium Mining Co. expects to be in production for the lithium in three to four years. The company expects to employ about 500 persons during construction and 100 to 150 full time persons during production. Commissioner French asked if they anticipate any ground water issues. Clark stated the ground water is 100-200 feet deep and they will eventually hit ground water with the open pit. French asked if they are looking into

dewatering; possibly pumping water into evaporative ponds. Clark said they are looking at several possibilities. French asked if there were any environmental issues. Clark stated the sage grouse will not be an issue in the initial mining in the basin, but they may be as they move into the Montana Range. They are currently working on getting the air quality permit. French asked if Tesla is interested in the lithium production; Bryan stated yes.

**PROPOSED INTERSTATE II PRESENTATION**

Sandra Rosenberg, NDOT Assistant Planning Director, said in 2012 Congress designated a plan to link Phoenix to Las Vegas with an interstate highway which is being considered. The Interstate 11 proposal is undergoing a two year 2.5 million dollar study to examine proposed routes, the feasibility of the project and the potential benefits. Because of the lack of funding, no options are being ruled out, including establishing the new link between Phoenix and Las Vegas as a toll road. Commissioner French asked what the community can do in support of the proposal. Rosenberg suggested the County Commission and City Council may want to consider resolutions in support of the concept. Commissioner Bell asked if anything was being considered for a West to East connection. Rosenberg stated it is felt the North-South connection is more important now; then comes the West to East connection.

**PUBLIC-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION:**

There were no public or personal communications.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Haaglund  
City Clerk

**PASSED AND ADOPTED:** December 16, 2014

**VOTE OF COUNCIL:**

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Di An Putnam  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorrie Haaglund  
City Clerk