

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room. Present: Mayor Di An Putnam, Councilmen Mike Owens, Theresa Mavity, Vince Mendiola, Jim Billingsley and Paige Brooks. Staff present: City Attorney Kent Maher, City Manager Steve West and City Clerk Lorrie Haaglund.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT - PERSONAL COMMUNICATION - CORRESPONDENCE:

Local resident Tom Fransway expressed concern about blight (Fransway's term) on certain private properties within the City. City Manager West noted the nuisance ordinance addresses public safety-health issues. Fransway suggested a joint resolution (with Humboldt County) might help to bring a focus on these issues and that an annual community clean-up program would be beneficial. Mayor Putnam commented that City elected officials and employees take great pride in maintaining the community's overall appearance. Putnam agreed that a joint declaration of community pride and sponsoring a community clean up week may be beneficial.

MINUTES:

The January 17, 2017 joint City Council-County Commission meeting minutes were reviewed and Councilman Brooks moved for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

The January 24, 2017 regular City Council meeting minutes were reviewed and Councilman Brooks moved for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

WARRANTS:

The warrants were reviewed and Councilman Mavity moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION-AWARDS:

Mayor Putnam presented a proclamation recognizing February as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" and thanked Adrienne Marin-Openlander, Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services representative, for the services the organization provides victims of domestic violence and for keeping the community educated.

BUSINESS ITEMS - 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 and Councilman Owens 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.

VESCO CITY PARK USE REQUEST / 2017 KOYOTE KRUISERS CAR SHOW

Kelly Malan, representative from the Koyote Kruisers car club, requested use of Vesco City Park for their annual Show 'N' Shine car show on Saturday, June 17, 2017. Malan said the event

had a record breaking year last year. Councilman Billingsley moved to approve the request to use Vesco City Park for the Koyote Kruisers 2017 Show 'N' Shine car show on Saturday, June 17, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITY USE-FEE WAIVER REQUEST / YOUNG LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Lori Timko, representing Young Life, requested the fees be waived for the third annual Young Life Golf Tournament on Saturday April 22, 2017. Timko commented that the Council waived both the golf course use fee and the greens fees the first year of the tournament. Mayor Putnam said typically the golf course use fee is waived and the individual golfers pay for the green fees and reminded of the need to stay consistent with the fee waiver protocol. Putnam asked if the players were mostly youths or adults that play in this tournament. Timko said it is mostly adults. Putnam noted that they are probably familiar with paying green fees in tournaments. Tournament participant fees are \$75 for an individual and \$300 for a team of four. Timko said the date has been confirmed with the golf pro. Councilman Brooks moved to approve the request from Young Life to hold a golf tournament Saturday, April 22, 2017 and to waive only the golf course use fee. Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITY USE-FEE WAIVER REQUEST / GOLD RUSH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Cory Case, representing Winnemucca Gold Rush Softball, requested waiver of the facility use fees for the annual girls fast pitch tournament to be held on May 27 and 28, 2017. Chad Peters, Executive Director of the Winnemucca Boys and Girls Club, said they are collaborating with the Gold Rush group and will help them get things ready ahead of time. Peters said they pretty much run their own tournament and take care of their own trash, etc. Councilman Brooks moved to approve the request from the Winnemucca Gold Rush team to hold the annual girls fast pitch tournament on May 27 and May 28, 2017 at the Sports Complex and to waive the facility use fees. Motion carried unanimously.

WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY (WCVA) REPORT

Kim Petersen, WCVA Director, and Michelle Hammond, WCVA Marketing and Sales Coordinator, presented the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority annual report which included room tax revenue statistics. Petersen commented that holding more events and activities has helped to maintain the room tax revenue. Petersen discussed facility usage and the economic impact to the City, and reviewed the WCVA and Ag District No. 3 budgeted projects. New events for 2017 include an indoor archery tournament planned for March, an indoor horseshoe pitching tournament in August and the Nevada State Trap Shoot. The Fairgrounds covered area has been condemned (due to structural damage) and Petersen said they received some insurance funds which, along with monies from the Ag District No. 3 and the WCVA, will be used to purchase a larger covered arena replacement structure that will have metal walls and a material roof. The old facade on the East Hall of the Convention Center will be removed. The reports also contained information on visitor numbers and phone calls, booked trade shows, visits to the website and visits on various social media sites. Petersen said they are excited to be a part of the City 100 year celebration and look forward to promoting the centennial during the 2017 events. Mayor Putnam thanked Petersen and Hammond for the presentation and said it is important for all of us to work together to make Winnemucca great.

WAIVER OF UTILITY USE FEES WAIVER / BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Mayor Putnam noted that at the October 6, 2015 meeting, the water and sewer connection fees for the project were waived, but the City failed to specifically address the future monthly use fees. Putnam said that because the City has a vested interest in the land and building, it is important to continue to support the Boys and Girls Club. City Manager West said the City waived the sewer and water use fees for the Convention Center facilities, Hospital Auxiliary and

the Senior Center. West and Putnam felt that it is appropriate for the City to waive the use fees for the 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation as part of the City's long term "sustainability" commitment to the organization. Councilman Owens moved to waive the water and sewer use fees as presented for the Boys and Girls Club. Motion carried unanimously.

NIXON HALL RESERVE FUNDS COMMITMENT / ICON DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Putnam reported the ICON Foundation project has nearly obtained their bonding/funding for constructing a facility for growing fish and hydroponics plants which will also include a 500 seat auditorium building. At completion, the facility should employ 150 people at all skill levels. The educational facility will compliment Great Basin College. Patrick Gray, representing Humboldt Development Authority, said he has been working with ICON as a real estate broker and pro-bono consultant on the project for the past two years. Gray stated he is very familiar with ICON and their proposals. Their relationship with UNR as a teaching facility will enable the growing of fish and hydroponics plants in arid areas and will be used worldwide. Gray said the bonding for the construction will not be difficult to obtain, but they will require start up operational funding totaling about \$11 million. ICON needs to show the bonding company they have funds for the operational side of it. ICON is requesting a \$1 million commitment from the City (the remaining Nixon Hall fire loss funds) for use as operational funding for the first phase of the facilities, which will include the 500 seat auditorium. Putnam reported that the City cannot have an ownership interest in the building without violating the terms of the project bonding. Therefore, to secure the required public benefit, in return for a City funding commitment, the funds must be provided in another way. A City contribution offers a way to spend the balance of the Nixon Hall fire fund towards a cultural experience. The City does not now have funds to build a cultural arts center and probably never will have the money to do so. Staff recommends certain conditions should be met if the Council agrees to provide the requested funding, as follows: 1) The construction of a 500 seat auditorium must begin with 18 months; 2) Progress payments will be made at specific auditorium construction benchmarks; and, 3) ICON will provide a written commitment to make the auditorium available for community events at no charge for the life of the auditorium. Putnam said if the Council is in agreement to move forward with this, City Attorney Maher will work with ICON representatives to come up with an agreement on how the money is used. Putnam said the City will need to impose construction objectives and not just give the \$1 million up front, but release the funds in phases to ensure the fund use is protected. Councilman Owens asked if HDA was providing any financial support. Gray answered no (HDA is not a funding organization). Gray said the time frame for ICON funding approval is now two to three weeks and in sixty days the bonds will be in place. Maher said he has been researching the ability of the City to donate the money and it appears based on the preliminary research that the limiting factor is that donated funds must be used for public purposes. Gray said they predict a \$40 million economic impact to the City during the construction phase and the ongoing economic impact is predicted to be around \$80 million. Councilman Billingsley moved to proceed with plans to commit \$1 million of the Nixon Hall fire loss fund towards the ICON project as presented with the recommended conditions. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF-COUNCIL REPORTS

City Manager West reported the wastewater treatment plant project construction is still on schedule. West is working on the treatment plant permit with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the dam permit with the State Engineer's office. West said the City's budget work has begun and a Council budget workshop will be scheduled for March.

Councilman Owens attended the City centennial kickoff celebration.

Councilman Mendiola attended the Paradise Valley Sonoma Conservation meeting and the City centennial kickoff.

