

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL, HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSION, AND  
HUMBOLDT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OCTOBER 5, 2020**

The Winnemucca City Council met in a special joint meeting with the Humboldt County Commission and Humboldt Development Authority on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the City Hall meeting room. City Officials-Staff present (at the meeting room): Mayor Richard Stone; Council members Theresa Mavity and Vince Mendiola; and, City Manager Alicia Heiser, City Attorney Kent Maher and City Clerk Lorrie Haaglund. City Officials present (via videoconference): Council members Mike Owens and Paige Brooks. City Officials absent: Council member Jim Billingsley. County Officials-Staff present (via videoconference): Commission Chairman Ken Tipton; Commissioners Ron Cerri, Mike Bell, Marlene Brissenden and Jim French; and, County Manager Dave Mendiola, County Clerk Tami Spero and Assistant District Attorney Wendy Maddox. Humboldt Development Authority Officials-Staff present: Chairman Harold Gudmundsen (via videoconference) and Development Officer Jan Morrison.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Stone called the City Council portion of the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no public comment, personal communication or correspondence.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**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 Council member Mavity 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.

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PROPOSAL**

County Manager Mendiola gave an overview of Humboldt Development Authority (HDA) which, in 2017, joined with Northern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA). Jan Morrison, NNRDA Economic Development Officer, was assigned to Humboldt County/City of Winnemucca and Lander County. The advantages of being a member of NNRDA include: (1) any company applying for state incentives must go through a Regional Development Authority (RDA), (2) the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) resources are available only through an RDA, (3) GOED funding for an RDA is by a formula which accounts for the area covered, and (4) there has been good energy working as a large RDA. The disadvantages of being a member of NNRDA are: (1) the vast amount of territory to be covered, (2) the lack of qualified applicants to fill a second economic director position has necessitated that the executive director covers that position, and (3) the coronavirus pandemic has affected the five member counties in very different ways. Some reasons for realignment include: (1) more efficient use of staff, whether NNRDA or local government, (2) more in-depth knowledge of local markets, growth, needs and resources when an economic development professional is located in the area they serve, and

(3) an economic development professional is freer to develop loyalty with the area they serve and also foster stronger teamwork with local government. Specific Pershing/Humboldt reasons for re-alignment include: (1) they already share common major employers (particularly mining) and employee base; (2) both counties have strong, active economic development authorities; (3) both counties are served by Great Basin College; (4) Pershing County/City of Lovelock employs a full-time economic development professional, and (5) Humboldt County/City of Winnemucca is prepared to employ a full-time economic development professional. City Manager Heiser reported that the County membership fee as members of NNRDA (FY21) is \$10,046 and the City membership fee is \$8,693 for a net cost of \$18,739. Currently, the City does not receive any contributions from GOED; the County received approximately \$40,000 this year. There will be no county or city membership fee for a new RDA. The proposed budget as members of the new RDA (FY22) will be the \$102,860 for salary and benefits of the economic development officer. The \$40,000 contribution from GOED revenue will no longer go to NNRDA but will come to the new RDA. The resulting net additional program costs will be approximately \$62,860, which is an increase of \$44,120 over the current cost. It is anticipated the costs will be shared as part of the City-County cost share agreement. The net increase per entity, if split 50-50, will be \$22,060. If the concept is approved by the City and County and the new RDA begins January 1, 2021, there will be costs for half of the fiscal year. It is anticipated the prepaid NNRDA fees will be refunded. Six months salary and benefits for the economic development officer will result in a net budget increase of approximately \$42,059 which is a per entity (50-50 split) cost of \$21,030. The benefit is the economic development officer becomes a County employee and is shared between the County and the City through the cost share agreement and each entity has direct input in the efforts of the economic development officer. GOED funds are allocated based on a population formula for each county and should remain constant. Mayor Stone commented that there will be additional costs to the budgets to be considered such as location (office space) and future projects. Stone indicated he is in favor of moving forward and suggested directing the City Manager and County Manager to pursue this further. There will be a job description for the economic development officer. Council members and Commissioners voiced their approval for moving forward with a new regional economic development authority. Commissioner Brissenden moved to approve moving forward with creating a regional economic development authority with Humboldt County and Pershing County. Motion carried unanimously. Council member Mendiola moved to direct the City Manager and County to move forward with forming a joint Pershing County and Humboldt County development authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Harold Gudmundsen, Humboldt Development Authority Chairman, said the HDA board is in favor of the proposal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Haaglund  
City Clerk

**PASSED AND ADOPTED:** October 20, 2020

**VOTE OF COUNCIL:**

**AYES:** Owens, Mavity, Mendiola, Brooks  
**NAYS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ABSTAIN:** Billingsley  
**ABSENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Stone  
Mayor

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