

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
CITY COUNCIL AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

The Winnemucca City Council met in a joint meeting with the Humboldt County Commission on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. via video conference and teleconference. City Officials-Staff present: Mayor Richard Stone; Council members Mike Owens, Theresa Mavity, Vince Mendiola, Jim Billingsley and Pam Coats; and, City Manager Alicia Heiser, City Clerk John Millard and City Attorney Kent Maher. County Officials-Staff present via video conference and teleconference: Commission Chairman Ron Cerri; Commissioners Jim French, Jessie Hill, Tom Hoss and Ken Tipton; County Manager Dave Mendiola; and, County Clerk Tami Spero.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Stone called the City Council portion of the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no public comment.

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.

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.

SELF-PAY HEALTHCARE INSURANCE PROPOSAL

The joint city-county benefits committee has been working for over two years to develop a self-pay health insurance program to replace the current fully funded healthcare program of the city and county. The committee analyzed the past five years of data and believes a self-pay program could provide considerable savings over time (approximately five years) and possibly reduce employee premiums without compromising the quality of insurance products provided to the joint workforce. The committee believes the key to a successful self-pay program is two-fold, that is, the use of a third party administrator to ensure costs are contained and that applicable regulations are being followed, and the purchase of stop loss coverage to guard against the risk of an abnormally high cost health care year. Cost figures for a self-pay program are not currently available, but the committee recommends the city and county continue to consider the self-pay option.

Council member Mendiola moved to accept the committee recommendation to continue consideration of a self-pay health care insurance program. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner French made the same motion for the County, which carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE SALARY INCREASE

County Manager Mendiola said Jan Morrison started as the economic development officer employee of Humboldt County on January 1, 2021. During the hiring process, the assumption

was made and agreed to by all parties that the compensation for the position will include certain health insurance benefits that were comparable to the benefits provided by Morrison's previous employer. The assumption was invalid and Morrison had to pay out of pocket to maintain the same coverage level she had with her prior insurance. Staff believes the insurance oversight should be corrected in the form of a one-time salary increase of \$5,000.

Council member Owens moved to approve the one-time increase of \$5,000 to cover the additional health insurance costs for the county economic development officer. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner French made the same motion for the County, which carried with Commissioners Cerri, French, Tipton and Hill voting aye and Commission Hoss voting nay.

MORMON CRICKET 2021 MITIGATION PLAN

Historically, the county and city have not received the expected support from state or federal government agencies to assist with mitigation of Mormon cricket infestations in Winnemucca and rural Humboldt County areas. The local mitigation efforts last year were successful in spite of the lack of support from outside agencies. Staff recommends the county and city again employ a mitigation plan for 2021, regardless of any state or federal support. The agreement with the Bureau of Land Management will remain in effect for the next four years, and an updated pesticide use proposal will be all that is required for the 2021 treatment program.

Council member Coats moved to proceed with the local mitigation plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner French made the same motion for the County, which carried unanimously.

BROADBAND SERVICES

A summary of recent efforts of the county-city broadband action committee was provided by County Manager Mendiola. Zito Media, formerly Cal-Neva Broadband, gave a presentation highlighting the progress being made by Zito in the areas of infrastructure extension, equipment upgrades and system changes that have improved both quality of service and increased capacity to accommodate new subscribers. The presentation focused on the immediate past upgrades and current service and the ability of the new system to expand and accommodate even more users with service upgrades capable of up to a gigabit performance.

Joe Fredosso, from the Governor's Office of Science, Information and Technology shared information about state efforts to continue service upgrades in rural areas. The Federal Communications Commission most recent reverse auction allowed interested bidders to propose costs for building-out broadband infrastructure and providing specific service levels for various areas in rural Nevada. The successful reverse auction bidders are committed to building approximately \$4 million in broadband infrastructure over the next 10 years and improving the existing service options in Humboldt County.

No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stone adjourned the Winnemucca City Council at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Millard
City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED: March 9, 2021

VOTE OF COUNCIL:

AYES: Owens, Mavity, Mendiola, Billingsley, Coats

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Richard Stone
Mayor

John Millard
City Clerk