

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2021**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room, which was also accessible via teleconference and videoconference. Present (in the meeting room): Mayor Richard Stone; Council members Mike Owens, Theresa Mavity, Vince Mendiola, Jim Billingsley and Pam Coats; City Manager Alicia Heiser, Deputy City Clerk Ruth Fitzpatrick, City Attorney Kent Maher and Police Chief Dave Garrison.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no public comment.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 10, 2021 regular City Council meeting were reviewed and Council member Mavity moved for approval as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

WARRANTS-EXPENSES:

The reports for payments of warrants and expenses were reviewed and Council member Owens moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously with Council member Billingsley abstaining from voting on the Jim Dandy Productions warrant(s) because he is the owner of the business.

PROCLAMATIONS-AWARDS-PRESENTATIONS:

There were no proclamations, awards or presentations.

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 Mendiola 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.

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

Dana Toth, Chair of the Historic Resources Commission (HRC), requested a temporary closure of Bridge Street from Second Street to Fourth Street on October 30, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to accommodate haunted historical tours of the downtown area. The HRC has planned six guided tours that will require pre-purchased tickets. However, anyone can participate in a self-guided tour by using a smart phone app for free. Guided tour tickets will cost \$10. Toth also presented a proposed map of the tour with the haunted descriptions for each of the buildings on the tour and mentioned that Northern Nevada Arts Council will be participating by dressing up in

historical costumes. Council member Owens moved to approve the street closure request as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CEMETERY SECTION RENAME PROPOSAL

City Manager Heiser explained that there is very little vacancy in the existing Catholic sections at the cemetery, and several requests are received each year for plots within a Catholic section. The cemetery expansion completed in 2018 added two additional public sections, and the smaller Public No. 5 section could be renamed to Catholic No. 3 to provide an additional 85 plots for a Catholic section. Council member Billingsley asked how many plots in the proposed section have already been reserved or already contain remains. Heiser explained that approximately ten have been reserved and only two contain remains, and all those that have previously reserved plots in the proposed section will be contacted and allowed to move their reservations to another section if they do not wish to own plots within the new Catholic section. The two plots that have already received remains could be excluded from the Catholic blessing if the family members do not wish to receive it. Council member Mendiola moved to approve the proposal to change the name of the Public No. 5 section to Catholic No. 3. Motion carried unanimously.

FAA AIRPORT RESCUE GRANT AGREEMENT

City Manager Heiser explained that the City was awarded a \$22,000 Airport Rescue Grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The submission of the grant application was authorized at the July 13, 2021 meeting. Approval of the grant agreement and authorization for the Mayor to sign the grant agreement is required to receive the funds from the FAA. Council member Owens moved to approve the grant agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. Motion carried unanimously.

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 FINANCIAL AUDIT ENGAGEMENT

Andree Rose presented a letter to engage the professional services of Drake Rose and Associates to perform an audit of the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The engagement letter outlines the Auditor's responsibilities and City management's responsibilities for a timely and successful audit. Council member Mavity moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 financial audit engagement letter as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS AND AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS USE

City Manager Heiser reported July expenditures of \$4,966 and total expenditures to date of \$1,173,308 for the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds. Heiser reported that the City has a remaining balance of \$242,733 with approximately \$30,000 allocated to wastewater testing, \$73,000 to the Boys and Girls Club for a meal delivery truck, and \$75,000 for typical monthly expenditures. This leaves an unallocated balance of approximately \$63,000. No funds have been allocated to reimburse the time spent collecting wastewater samples or analyzing wastewater and other coronavirus related data, which are eligible reimbursement expenses. No action was taken.

City Manager Heiser presented a table summarizing several projects that could be eligible for American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding, including the proposed aquatic center, water and sewer projects, and a downtown streetscape project. Staff has not received approval in writing to expend ARPA funds on an aquatic center; if aquatic center funding is not approved, a large portion of the ARPA funds could be used to finish the build-out of the Recreation Complex. Outdoor recreation

is an eligible use of ARPA funding, and all the remaining Recreation Complex projects are eligible. Broadband projects are also eligible uses of ARPA funding, but it is anticipated there will be several other broadband-specific funding programs available. No action was taken.

BODE HOWARD MEMORIAL POOL-AQUATICS CENTER

No information from the League of Cities or the Treasury Department has been received on the eligibility of an aquatic center for use of ARPA funds. No action was taken.

STAFF-COUNCIL REPORTS

City Manager Heiser reported: 1) staff is moving forward with the pump selection of Well #8 and any Well #8 project is eligible for ARPA funding; 2) the West-Side curb and gutter project is almost complete; 3) there are no updates on the proposed transloading facility at the Airport Industrial Park; 4) there are no updates on the marketing of the former Loon site at the Airport Industrial Park; 5) there are no updates on the BLM expansion project at the Airport; 6) the Hardgrave Lane project design is almost complete and will be put out to bid soon; 7) due to the recent uptick in development on Ada Vista, extending the water and sewer infrastructure in the area has become a higher priority and design of the project is started and staff expects it to go out to bid this fall; 8) the Recreation Complex projects could potentially be completed using ARPA funding; and, 9) the AARP grant agreement for the Community Garden site improvements has been approved, and once funding is received items will be purchased in accordance with the grant agreement.

Council member Owens reported: 1) on the Regional Transportation Commission meeting and noted that the missing letter on the I-80 overpass has been replaced; 2) LEPC will be having a hazmat training with Cyanco in September; 3) the community drive-through flu shot event will be September 29, 2021; 4) he has heard that people are being paid to protest the lithium mine; and, 5) he is not in favor of mask or vaccine mandates.

Council member Mavity reported attending the August 23, 2021 County Health Board meeting and the recently held Boys and Girls Cub fundraiser.

Council member Mendiola reported attending the Humboldt Foundation meeting where they voted to award 20 scholarships for the upcoming school year and were introduced to Becky Coleman, the new Great Basin College Director.

Council member Billingsley reported: 1) Bill Macdonald announced his retirement at the last WCVA meeting; 2) WCVA is pursuing action for return of WCVA funds granted to a rodeo organizer for a Winnemucca event but who spent the funds on a Spring Creek event; and, 3) room tax is above average for the summer.

Council member Coats reported on the last Main Street meeting, noting the group filed for a 501(c)(3) tax exempt designation. Coats commented some Main Street members want to request City funds for projects and asked for clarification on the \$10,000 in funding the City budgeted for the Main Street program. Mayor Stone explained that the City budgeted \$10,000 to contribute to Main Street for a part-time director once the program was up and running.

Mayor Stone reported: 1) the Nevada League of Cities conference is August 25-27, 2021; 2) the new Dollar Tree store held their grand opening ceremony; 3) the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program is set to end September 4, 2021; and, 4) the Tri-County Fair and Stampede will be held over Labor Day weekend. Stone noted that the County

Health Board voted to make a recommendation to the County Commission to not support or enforce mask and vaccine mandates and to not cancel any large events scheduled in Humboldt County. The Mayor also noted that organizations under State control, such as casinos, are still subject to State mask and vaccine mandates.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments.

Mayor Stone adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Heiser
City Manager

PASSED AND ADOPTED: September 7, 2021

VOTE OF COUNCIL:

AYES: Owens, Mavity, Mendiola, Billingsley, Coats
NAYS: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Richard Stone
Mayor

Ruth Fitzpatrick
City Clerk