

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 10, 2022**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room; the meeting was also accessible via teleconference and videoconference. Present (in the meeting room): Mayor Richard Stone; Council members Mike Owens, Theresa Mavity, Vince Mendiola and Pam Coats; City Manager Alicia Heiser; City Attorney Kent Maher; Administrative Assistant Brandy Grimm; Deputy Police Chief Mike Rangel; Guests Ashley Maden, Julia Maestrejuan (Humboldt Sun), Teddy Swecker, Kitty Norcutt, Debra Kitchen, Joe Miller (BLM), Sue Rice (A&H Insurance), Marianne Dente (A&H Insurance), Kayla Woods (A&H Insurance), Dave Roden (Main Street), Jane Studebaker (Main Street), Wayne Smith, Sharon Smith, Joyce Lacaillade, Dan Lacaillade, Leland Miller, Lori Miller, Dora Miller, Rob Johnson, Sunny Johnson, JoAnn Johnson, Sundae Orwick, Dale Orwick, Martin Larraneta and Cecil Martin; Historic Resource Commission members Dana Toth and Jessica Huber; and; Museum Board members Tom Hoss, Skip Hammargren, John Arant, Karen Rogers, and Dick Robie. Present (via teleconference): Gina Rackley (Humboldt County Comptroller), Abel Del Real-Nava (Humboldt County) and Jan Morrison (95-80 RDA). Absent: Council member Jim Billingsley.

**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, personal communication, or correspondence.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the April 19, 2022 regular City Council meeting were reviewed and Council member Owens moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**WARRANTS-EXPENSES:**

The reports for payments of warrants and expenses were reviewed and Council member Mavity moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROCLAMATIONS-AWARDS-PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Stone proclaimed May as Historic Preservation Month and presented the proclamation to Historic Resource Commission member Dana Toth.

**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 Owens 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.

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## **POOL-PACT PROPERTY-LIABILITY INSURANCE UPDATE**

Marianne Dente and Kayla Woods with A&H Insurance reviewed the annual service timeline including a pre-renewal meeting to explain the POOL/PACT insurance for the coming year. Quarterly loss review visits will be conducted to ensure risk management claims are closed out in a timely manner, which helps reduce the total cost of losses. Also included in the provided documents is an MVP (member valuation and performance) review. Woods said that participating in various programs the POOL offers reduces risk, however this year there is a 12% average increase in premiums for all POOL members. To calculate the premiums, they take exposures from all POOL members to establish a set increase and then evaluate each entity individually for true exposures and risk to determine their percentage of the increase. Although there will be an increase in premiums for fiscal year 2022-2023, A&H Insurance believes POOL/PACT provides better value than going into the market with other for-profit insurance companies.

Mayor Stone remarked that even though the POOL/PACT cost has gone up, they provide such a wide variety of benefits to the city, in addition to insurance, that it is worth the expense.

No action was taken.

## **FERAL CAT PROGRAM REQUEST**

Teddy Swecker and Kitty Norcutt reported on the feral cat program they started in 2017 to locate colonies of feral cats to trap, spay-neuter, vaccinate and then release, rehome or take to Reno shelters to help alleviate the stray cat problems in Winnemucca neighborhoods. Ninety-nine cats have been spayed or neutered. The city-county currently offers a discount of 50% on spay/neuter costs, and they (Swecker and Norcutt) have also helped city residents with additional costs for their personal cats in the past. They are requesting: (1) continued use of the room in the Sage Heights building where they take the cats for recovery after being spayed or neutered, as well as the use of a non-functioning restroom in the building (for a recovery room), and (2) the city to cover 100% of the spay/neuter and vaccination costs for the stray/feral cats they trap.

Mayor Stone commented the city has had a feral cat problem for quite some time. City Manager Heiser said the spay/neuter program is funded through the cost share agreement with the county and last year they spent almost \$50,000 combined. The funding request will have to be addressed at the city-county cost share joint meeting.

Council member Mendiola moved to approve the continued use of the city building at Sage Heights, including the restroom, and to cover 100% the cost of the spay/neuter and vaccinations for only the Swecker-Norcutt program stray/feral cats. Motion carried unanimously.

## **WINNEMUCCA MAIN STREET PROGRAM REPORT**

Dave Roden and Jane Studebaker with Winnemucca Main Street requested the report be postponed to a later Council meeting date.

No action was taken.

## **VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION REQUEST-ADA VISTA DRIVE-CASSINELLI**

City Manager Heiser reported the property owners want to connect to the nearly completed city water-sewer utilities in the Ada Vista Drive area and to have the services at the city rate, which is the reason they are requesting annexation (the property abuts property inside the city limits).

Council member Owens moved to accept the voluntary request to annex the property located at 4811 Ada Vista Drive identified as APN10-0681-07 into the City and to introduce and set for public hearing at the next available City Council meeting the annexation ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

### **HUMBOLDT MUSEUM MASTER PLAN PROPOSAL**

Dana Toth with Humboldt Museum presented the proposal for a master plan design submitted by CTA (Architects and Engineers) and requested the city-owned land adjacent to the museum be transferred to the North Central Nevada Historical Society. The upfront cost to the museum for the master plan will be about \$30,000. Toth said the city gifted land to the museum in the past and she would like to see the city-owned 5.75-acre parcel gifted as well. Toth stated the museum is a benefit to the entire community, and they are currently at capacity of items and in great need of expanding.

Mayor Stone stated that the decision of what to do with the land is not an agenda item and will not be discussed today; this agenda item is only for the museum to present their proposal for use of the land.

City Attorney Maher noted that an appraisal of the property is necessary before the city can make a decision regarding the possibility of selling or gifting the parcel.

Staff was directed to add an item to the next Council meeting agenda to consider whether to move forward with procuring an appraisal of the property.

### **FY 2022-2023 HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSAL**

City Manager Heiser reminded that the city-county insurance benefits committee has been working for a couple of years on a self-insurance plan, but it is still not cost effective. Hometown Health (the current provider) offered a renewal proposal at a 35% increase in premiums (over the current year cost) with no explanation for the increase. A&H insurance solicited quotes from Anthem insurance who offered plans that match the current Hometown Health plan coverages with only a 15.7% increase in the premium cost. Humboldt General Hospital currently uses Anthem and the HGH providers accept Anthem, so there will be no adverse effect to the insureds in regard to local care.

Heiser said the city is still in the negotiation process with employee bargaining units and the employee-employer insurance cost allocation will not be known until negotiations are complete.

Council member Owens moved to approve the Anthem offer as explained to provide health insurance plans and coverage to city personnel for FY 2022-2023 and authorize payment of the policy premium. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FY 2022-2023 DENTAL-VISION-LIFE INSURANCE PROPOSALS**

City Manager Heiser reported that Kansas City Life offered to renew the dental and vision plans at the same premium as the current year and the life insurance at a slight increase in the premium.

Council member Mavity moved to approve the renewal of the FY 2022-2023 city personnel dental, vision and life insurance programs with Kansas City Life as explained and to authorize payment of the policy premiums. Motion carried unanimously.

### **WNDD MEMBERSHIP DUES PROPOSAL**

City Manager Heiser advised that Western Nevada Development District (WNDD) is raising their rate for city membership from \$3125 in FY 2021-2022 to \$5,000 for FY 2022-2023.

Council member Owens expressed concern about whether or not membership in WNDD is a benefit to the city and how long it will take to realize recovery of the associated cost.

Jan Morrison, Humboldt County Economic Development Officer, noted the county is actively working on a \$27 million wastewater treatment plant project, and WNDD is assisting with the grant writing. Morrison suggested WNDD could also help with city grant writing, which is a benefit.

Council member Mendiola moved to approve the \$5,000 payment of the city membership dues for the Western Nevada Development District for FY 2022-2023. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIME PROPOSAL**

City Manager Heiser said the City Council meeting start time is set by ordinance and recently some council members have expressed a desire for an earlier start time.

After discussion, staff was directed to move forward with the ordinance process to consider changing the Council regular meeting start time to 1:00 p.m.

No action was taken.

### **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS**

City Manager Heiser submitted the first ARPA report to the state. The projects listed include the: Well 8 project; recreation complex improvements; downtown street scape project; server upgrade; project hydraulic modeling and Well 6 project; Ada Vista water-sewer project; Tank 1C interior painting project; WNDD broadband mapping project; and, wastewater testing. Also included was the general government services six million-dollar revenue replacement. The total is \$10.4 million.

Heiser reported that Nevada League of Cities director Wesley Harper believes the congressional bipartisan infrastructure bill may provide funds for infrastructure projects and suggested the city send him plans for proposed infrastructure projects, which includes Ada Vista, Tank 1C, Well 8, Hardgrave Lane, Stuart-Paiute and Two Angel.

No action was taken.

### **BODE HOWARD MEMORIAL POOL-NEW AQUATICS CENTER**

City Manager Heiser met with Christine Johnson and Wesley Harper with Nevada League of Cities regarding potential funding for a new aquatic center. Harper believes EDA (Economic Development Administration) funds may be available and they are working on the EDA funding and other possibilities.

No action was taken.

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## **STAFF-COUNCIL REPORTS**

City Manager Heiser reported: 1) the selection and installation of a pump for Well 8 and the pump house construction is proceeding; 2) Public Works Supervisor Ken Howard is preparing a list of the locations to be included in the East side curb and gutter project; 3) there are no new updates at the Airport Industrial Park (AIP), and the FAA is still performing the section 163 review; 4) no new interest in the AIP Loon site; 5) staff and BLM discussed alternatives to the proposed BLM airport lease agreement; 6) the Hardgrave Lane design is finished and staff is working on acquiring the necessary right-of-ways; 7) the sewer portion of the Ada Vista project is complete and the water portion is nearly complete; 8) the City can use some ARPA funding for development of the Recreation Complex planned projects which include outdoor lighting, an urban pond, an amphitheater and a fourplex; 9) work to clean up the community garden is continuing; 10) the Tank 1C project is underway and is estimated to be complete by the end of May; 11) the hydraulic model and design for blending of Well 6 for arsenic remediation is complete and staff is reviewing the report; and, 12) the general aviation concrete hardstand reconstruction project at the Airport started and is expected to be complete by June 15, 2022.

Council member Owens reported: 1) employee negotiations continue tomorrow with the hope of completion; 2) attending the Chamber luncheon; and, 3) attending the airport board meeting.

Council member Mavity asked about: 1) the current wastewater testing results; and, 2) the status of the fire department previous requests.

Council member Mendiola reported attending the Humboldt Foundation meeting.

Council member Coats reported attending the Chamber luncheon.

Mayor Stone reported: 1) meeting with the Lions Club about a potential dog park; 2) participating in the League of Cities call with Mayors; and, 3) attending a street cleanup event promoted by the Main Street Committee.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dana Toth, Historic Resources Commission (HRC), stated: 1) a research outreach will be going out to the public for input regarding historic preservation; 2) HRC has members reaching the end of their terms; and, 3) there is a historic preservation conference July 13-17, 2022 and HRC will be requesting a 60/40 grant match from the city at a future meeting.

There were no other comments.

Mayor Stone adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy Grimm  
Administrative Assistant II

**PASSED AND ADOPTED:** May 24, 2022

**VOTE OF COUNCIL:**

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Richard Stone  
Mayor

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Ruth Fitzpatrick  
City Clerk