

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo *Absent*

COUNCILORS: David G. Romero *Absent*
Barbara Casey *Mayor Pro Tem*
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri

ALSO PRESENT: Leo Maestas, City Manager
Danielle Sena, Deputy City Clerk
Devin Adkins, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Casey called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem Casey introduced Deputy City Clerk Danielle Sena and mentioned she was a Certified Municipal Clerk and was happy she was there to serve the community and the City in that capacity. Mayor Pro Tem Casey advised City Clerk Casandra Fresquez was absent due to her home being in the line of fire.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked to take a moment of silence for the passing of Tim Nix who worked at the Water Department, he also served as the Cabo Lucero Fire Chief for over 10 years, he served at the WasteWater Plant for 4 years and had recently earned his certifications to hold the Supervisor position, he was a very valuable employee and will be greatly missed. Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked to keep Chris Rodarte in our thoughts, as he recovers from surgery. Mayor Pro Tem Casey also asked to keep those in our community who are ill and those who are in the area of the fire that is burning in our minds.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Montoya requested that Mayor Pro Tem Casey introduce Sergeant Devin Atkins who was filling in as Sergeant of Arms for Police Chief Salazar.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Casey recognized Jonathan Korte from Robertson High school for auditioning and earning a spot in the Macy's Great American Marching Band to perform during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey read a proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness month.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Ulibarri asked about the two little league fields at Rodriguez Park that are in need of water.

City Manager Maestas advised the two effluent water pumps had given out and they are being replaced. City Manager Maestas advised the Parks department is manually watering the fields.

Councilor Montoya thanked the Streets department for doing a fine job of cleaning out the culverts on 8th Street extension and Williams Drive. Councilor Montoya advised he got complaints about watering the Plaza Park and Lincoln Park. Councilor Montoya asked the community to be cautious during the summer months and asked motorists to be careful when parking vehicles on the side of the road so vehicles don't cause brush fires. Councilor Montoya also advised not to throw cigarettes out windows so another fire doesn't start. Councilor Montoya mentioned a fire in Ocate and to be cautious.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Maestas discussed the following;

- Welcomed new staff to the City of Las Vegas
- Senior Center Grant for ADA compliance for parking lot
- Legion Road project (1st week in June)
- LED City street light conversion
- Sewer line improvements (Keen St., Camp Luna)
- University Avenue (60% design)
- NERPTO-North Eastern Regional Planning Transportation Organization meeting (May)
- 4th of July Fiestas update

Councilor Ulibarri asked about the painting of crosswalks.

City Manager Maestas advised that NMDOT has started painting crosswalks.

Councilor Montoya advised they received Congressional Direct spending from Senator Heinrich for \$2.13 million for sewer projects and a Congressional Direct spending from Senator Lujan for \$1.15 million for sewer projects for FY 2023. Councilor Montoya advised they received Capital Outlay of \$8.8 million for Peterson. Councilor Montoya asked City Manager Maestas to send a thank you letter on behalf of the Mayor and Council. Councilor Montoya advised that the monies are earmarked for Councilor Casey, Councilor Romero and Councilor Ulibarri's wards. Councilor Montoya advised none of that money would be spent in his ward.

Councilor Casey asked if the money was in.

City Manager Maestas advised not yet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the minutes from April 12 and April 19, 2023. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

J.P. Romero with Cordova Construction gave an update on the progress at Rodriguez Park. Mr. Romero discussed the existing conditions of the softball and baseball fields and the current progress of construction.

Councilor Montoya asked if there was fencing in between their project area and the other fields.

Mr. Romero advised yes they do have it fenced off with signage but people could still find a way in.

Councilor Montoya advised there was no fencing before and had requested there be fencing. Councilor Montoya asked if they are experiencing any issues.

Mr. Romero advised no and thanked the City for working with them to get effluent water to them to minimize the dust.

Councilor Ulibarri asked about the drainage between the fields.

Mr. Romero advised they are finalizing the interior improvements and will be grading to get water away from the new fields.

Councilor Montoya asked what they are doing for security around the whole complex.

City Manager Maestas advised they were left with \$30,000, which wasn't enough for a large fence on the Valencia side of the property. City Manager Maestas advised they are looking into other methods of securing the property. City Manager Maestas advised they received appropriations this year to address other things in the next phase of the project.

Councilor Montoya recommended asking NMDOT for jersey barriers to be placed around the fields to help keep four wheelers and other vehicles out.

Public Works Director Lopez advised he had gone out on the Valencia side with a motor grader to cut substantial barriers and fixed the fencing within the area.

Councilor Montoya asked if the project is on time for completion.

City Manager Maestas advised they are projected to finish the smaller field by early June and the larger field by the end of June.

Councilor Montoya asked how the payments were going.

Mr. Romero advised they haven't had any problems, and the City staff has been diligent at processing their invoices.

Fire Chief Spann discussed the International Association of Fire and Chiefs Wildland Urban Interface mentorship program and Wildland Urban Interface Conference. Fire Chief Spann advised they had reached out to him shortly after the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. Fire Chief Spann advised they have been helping and mentoring them and San Miguel County to prepare proactively for any future fires they may have.

Marshall Braun Wildfire Program Coordinator with the International Association of Fire Chiefs introduced Justice Jones, Wildfire Mitigation Officer for Austin Fire Department and Erik Litzenberg, a retired Santa Fe Fire Chief and advised they both sit on the Wildfire Policy Committee at IAFC.

Mr. Litzenberg advised he was the Senior Wildland Fire Advisor for IAFC and discussed how fires are happening all over the United States, what the cohesive strategy was and three categories that fall into the cohesive strategy.

Mr. Jones discussed having a Community Wildfire Protection Plan to help mitigate risks from wildfires spreading into town. Mr. Jones advised the Community Wildfire Protection Plan would be the primary mechanism for future funding and mitigation resources.

Fire Chief Spann advised San Miguel County was awarded a grant, and Wildland Urban Interface had applied on behalf of the City.

Councilor Montoya asked if there was an action plan.

Fire Chief Spann advised there's an older one that they share with San Miguel County and are working with Chief Duran to update new standards with the recommendations that they are receiving from IAFC.

Councilor Montoya discussed the need for a Fire Training Center. Councilor Montoya asked what they are doing to prevent fires locally in abandoned houses.

Fire Chief Spann advised that was part of the plan but the main focus is for Wildland Urban Interface to help them with the Riverwalk area and surrounding Counties to help prevent and create fire breaks by thinning of wildland. Fire Chief Spann advised the abandoned structures are falling more on Code Enforcement and they are working hand in hand to try to get them resolved.

Councilor Montoya discussed the misunderstanding when evacuations were happening during the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. Councilor Montoya advised there needs to be clarification regarding what part of the town is being evacuated. Councilor Montoya advised the biggest thing is communication and that should be part of the plan. Councilor Montoya asked what their jurisdiction was and advised they wouldn't be fighting wildland fires in the City.

Fire Chief Spann advised they protect within the City and also provide mutual aid to San Miguel County. Fire Chief Spann advised in the future they would be taking an MOU for approval for automatic aid to allow them to extend their response to the County three miles outside of city limits. Fire Chief Spann advised they are also looking into joining the resource mobilization plan to escape fire which allows them to provide resources if available anywhere in NM and in return would allow more resources for the City.

Councilor Montoya stated they currently are only authorized to serve inside city limits.

Fire Chief Spann advised they could go out to the County limits, and advised they currently had three apparatus on the fire in Sapello, which was authorized by the Chief of the department at that time.

Jamie Aranda, Local Community Manager with PNM introduced her colleagues Taylor Allen and Susie Sollien from Burns & McDonald. Ms. Aranda advised Burns & McDonald have assisted PNM with several system improvement projects across the state. Mr. Allen gave an overview of the Baca 12 Feeder rebuild system improvement project in the City of Las Vegas. Mr. Allen advised the project would help with reducing outages in the area. Ms. Sollien discussed their customer outreach plan and advised that 1,012 postcard notifications were sent out to residents regarding the upcoming project.

Councilor Montoya asked if the City would be publishing information regarding the project so customers are aware.

City Manager Maestas advised they could work with PNM to broadcast it through social media and public websites.

Councilor Montoya asked where they would be stationed along with all their materials.

Mr. Allen advised their contractors would obtain a laydown yard with fencing and security.

Councilor Montoya asked if construction in different areas of the City would be an issue for them.

Ms. Aranda advised they would coordinate with the City as necessary on all the projects.

Councilor Casey advised she was happy they were doing this because of the numerous power outages.

Ms. Aranda discussed the streetlight conversion of PNM owned assets within the City of Las Vegas. Ms. Aranda advised there would be 900 company owned lights within the City of Las Vegas that would be converted from high pressure sodium or mercury vapor to LEDs. Ms. Aranda discussed the date of completion and the benefits of converting to LEDs. Ms. Aranda advised they would also be working with the City to convert city owned assets.

Councilor Ulibarri asked if they did a survey regarding the darker parts in the city that may need LED lighting.

Ms. Aranda advised they could work with City Manager Maestas and staff to see if they need additional lighting in those darker areas.

Councilor Montoya asked if PNM had redone the City of Albuquerque and City of Santa Fe's lighting.

Ms. Aranda advised they converted PNM owned assets and the City of Albuquerque converted their own lights. Ms. Aranda advised the City of Santa Fe converted their own assets and have yet to convert PNM owned assets.

Discussion took place regarding streets in the City that need lighting, budgeting \$80,000-\$100,000 for new lighting to be split between wards and the process for contacting PNM when a customer calls regarding street lights that are out that may belong to the City.

CONSENT ITEMS

Deputy City Clerk Sena read the Consent Agenda (1-2) into the record as follows:

1. Request approval of Addendum #2 to Contract #3825-21 with AECOM for engineering services for dams and reservoirs.
2. Request approval of Addendum #2 to Contract #3850-22 with HDR Engineering, Inc. for professional engineering services as needed for the water treatment plant facility.

Utilities Director Gilvarry discussed AECOM working with the City for several years on both Bradner and Peterson and HDR has also worked with the Water Treatment Plant facility.

Councilor Montoya advised it was a recommendation by the Utility Advisory Committee.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (1-2) as presented. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce 2023 First Quarter Report.

San Miguel Chamber of Commerce President Phillip Martinez gave a lengthy discussion regarding the MOU between the City of Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce, completed deliverables, the Visitor Center, working with the film industry and new businesses that have come to Las Vegas.

Councilor Ulibarri asked if they plan on working on the red caboose at the south end of town.

City Manager Maestas advised they have not discussed anything but would engage in the conversation with the Chamber of Commerce. City Manager Maestas advised they looked at landscaping improvements and repainting the caboose.

Discussion took place regarding the building by the red caboose and the repainting of the caboose.

Councilor Montoya thanked Mr. Martinez for his report and advised it shows what they're doing and what is requested of them. Councilor Montoya stated other organizations should follow that same pattern. Councilor Montoya thanked Angie Lyster for her involvement and asked who did the report.

Mr. Martinez advised Angie Lyster and her staff.

Councilor Montoya advised the report showed some things weren't accomplished but they put it in the report showing they are working on it. Councilor Montoya advised he liked the format. Councilor Montoya requested the visitor forms have questions like, "How did you get here?", "How did you find out about Las Vegas?" or "Did you see a billboard?".

Mr. Martinez advised they could also do a survey because people like to ask questions when they go in.

Discussion took place regarding what types of questions to ask visitors and having transportation services available for anyone on Saturdays.

Mr. Martinez thanked the Council for their help.

Councilor Montoya advised that he likes that Ms. Lyster keeps the community informed of what's going on in the community.

Ms. Lyster discussed various businesses in town that rent vehicles or a limousine service that would help those who need transportation.

Mr. Martinez thanked Ms. Lyster for all her help.

Councilor Casey thanked Mr. Martinez for his leadership for keeping the Chamber of Commerce thriving and Ms. Lyster for her help with the film portion, for the communication and for inviting Council to participate.

2. Request approval of Resolution No. 23-14, Repealing and replacing all previous resolutions and adopting an updated City of Las Vegas Meadow City Express Zero Tolerance FTA Drug & Alcohol Testing policy.

Councilor Ulibarri made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-14.

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised there was a correction to the resolution.

Transportation Manager Marcelino Roybal advised there were updates to the current Drug and Alcohol policy. Transportation Manager Roybal advised he had the wording wrong in the resolution and HR Director Arguello helped him to correct it.

Councilor Casey asked if the resolution that was handed to them was the revised resolution.

Transportation Manager Roybal advised yes.

HR Director Arguello advised the second paragraph of the resolution stated, that it needed adoption of the FTA template. HR Director Arguello advised it had already been adopted when she was in transportation. HR Director Arguello advised that needed to be changed and all Mr. Roybal needed were updates to the policy.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey advised there was a motion by Councilor Ulibarri and asked if there was a second. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Councilor Montoya advised he was concerned that the revised resolution was not publicized. Councilor Montoya advised that the original resolution was publicized but the revised one wasn't and anything in the packet should be publicized. Councilor Montoya advised that is why they publicize it in the Optic and in different places.

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised that ordinances are what makes a difference when there are changes to it in regards to publishing and it was a minor change.

Councilor Montoya advised that anything that takes a vote in City Council makes a difference. Councilor Montoya advised the Open Meetings Act states it needs to be publicized.

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised only ordinances need to be published because they are laws.

Councilor Montoya advised resolutions and ordinances needed to be published and anything they vote on.

Councilor Casey advised she didn't think it was such a major change that would violate the Open Meetings Act but was unsure.

HR Director Arguello advised if Mr. Roybal needed to take it back to the next Council meeting they could.

Councilor Montoya advised that would be appropriate because otherwise they would be breaking the Open Meetings Act, and they would set a trend that people can slide things in at the last minute. Councilor Montoya advised that he isn't saying there is nothing wrong with it, but the public was unaware of it and it wasn't advertised and it would be breaking the Open Meetings Act.

Councilor Ulibarri and Councilor Casey rescinded their previous motion.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to continue Resolution No. 23-14 for the May 17, 2023 Council meeting. All were in favor.

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

3. Request approval to award RFB 2023-14 to Arthur Regional for Solid Waste tipping fees for municipal solid waste (MSW) per ton.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they had one respondent which was Arthur Regional, which is the landfill out in Wagon Mound, there was a change in ownership and change of name. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised it did go before the Utility Advisory Committee and they did recommend approval.

Discussion took place regarding if costs could be changed at any given time.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve RFB 2023-14 to Arthur Regional for Solid Waste tipping fees for municipal solid waste (MSW) per ton. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

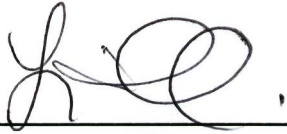
ADJOURN

Councilor Montoya made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk