

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS**

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: David G. Romero
Joseph P. Baca
Michael L. Montoya
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: William Taylor, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Scott Aaron, City Attorney
David T. Bibb III, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trujillo at 5:30 PM.

Mayor Louie Trujillo welcomed Councilor Joseph P. Baca.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Baca asked for a moment of silence for families who are losing loved ones because of COVID-19, to pray for our community and to pray the Governing Body be led by wisdom, for all the decisions that affect the community and employees.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Romero made a motion to move the executive session which is item 10, after public input which is item 7.

Councilor Baca asked if he could say a few words.

Mayor Trujillo afforded Councilor Baca three minutes to speak.

Councilor Baca advised he was glad to be there and it's an honor to serve with Mayor Trujillo and the rest of the Governing Body. Councilor Baca stated he's convinced they will do a good job and is pleased with the personnel Mayor Trujillo appointed. Councilor Baca stated he knows they will help turn the community around and make it shine. Councilor Baca advised the Governing Body will respect the City employees, even though the Governing Body makes decisions, it's the employees that keep the City running daily. Councilor Baca praised all the City employees for all the work they do.

Councilor Romero repeated his motion to move the executive session which is item 10, after public input which is item 7. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr., seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Joseph P. Baca	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Baca made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 8 and April 15, 2020 minutes. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Joseph P. Baca	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

City Clerk Fresquez advised she did not receive any public input for the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Romero made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing matters subject to the attorney client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the City of Las Vegas is or may become a participant, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 and also for personnel matters, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Joseph P. Baca	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo advised they would make the executive session as brief as possible.

Councilor Romero made a motion to reconvene into Regular session after being in executive session for the purpose of discussing matters subject to the attorney client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the City of Las Vegas is or may become a participant, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 and also for personnel matters, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, only those matters were discussed and no action was taken. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Joseph P. Baca	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

Emergency Manager Leo Maestas from the Office of Emergency Management and Dr. Jesus Tafoya gave an update on COVID-19 (coronavirus) and recommendations regarding big City events. Emergency Manager Maestas discussed how mass gatherings can spread COVID-19 rapidly and how they want to avoid that from happening during Fiestas and the Bike Rally. Emergency Manager Maestas advised how social distancing can help the spread of the virus, which is highly contagious. Emergency Manager Maestas advised there are a total of 5,364 cases in New Mexico, 155 new cases, 200 hospitalized, 12 new deaths, and 115,011 tests administered in New Mexico.

Councilor Baca asked if there were 7 cases in Las Vegas.

Emergency Manager Maestas advised the Department of Health's website was reflecting 7 but there were 8 cases.

Dr. Tafoya discussed how measures and more testing could help lower the numbers of cases. Dr. Tafoya advised measures such as social distancing, requiring masks, and people to stay home will lower the number of cases. Dr. Tafoya advised all it takes is one person from out of state to come and introduce the infection into our community. Dr. Tafoya discussed how the virus is mutating at a rapid rate and bringing people from out of state could bring new strains of the virus into the community. Dr. Tafoya advised that is a big reason to not have the Fiestas or the Bike Rally, because if we do we will see a big spike of infection during the summer.

Councilor Romero thanked Emergency Manager Leo Maestas and Dr. Jesus Tafoya for all their work and awareness they are providing to the community and also thanked Mayor Trujillo for listening to them and taking steps to protect the community.

Councilor Baca thanked Mayor Trujillo and members of the Council for the stand that he took in making a difficult decision. Councilor Baca also thanked City Manager William Taylor and Police Chief David Bibb for enforcing wearing masks at stores.

Discussion took place regarding testing at Alta Vista Hospital, El Centro and the Public Health Department.

Fire Chief Billy Montoya gave an update regarding the Fire Department's improvement plan and gave a brief breakdown of the employees in the Fire Department. Fire Chief Montoya spoke about the replacement of aging fire trucks and the purchase of two new fire trucks and equipment. Fire Chief Montoya spoke about the E. Romero Fire and Hose Museum project.

Councilor Baca advised Fire Chief Montoya about recording commercials at KFUN to let the community know about fire prevention.

Utilities Director Maria Gilvarry gave an update on the City's water supply. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised the primary source of water comes from the Gallinas River and they are diverting water to top off reservoirs. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised Peterson Dam was at 88% capacity, Storrie is at 99% capacity, and Bradner Dam is at 58% capacity which is currently unavailable.

Councilor Montoya asked if there would be any water restrictions during the summer.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised no, since she's been there they have not had to go above stage 0 restrictions.

Mayor Trujillo suggested getting information about stage 0 restrictions out to the public.

Councilor Baca asked if they should consider planning in case of a drought.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised with the amount of storage they have and keeping the reservoirs topped off there is enough water in case of a drought.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion with NMDOT Chairman Walter Adams and District four Engineer James Gallegos providing an update on current and future projects.

NMDOT Chairman Walter Adams and District four Engineer James Gallegos gave an update regarding projects and spoke about accomplishing projects and working together with the City of Las Vegas and San Miguel County. NMDOT Chairman Adams spoke about building another welcome sign if the City could maintain it.

District Four Engineer Gallegos spoke about different projects within the City of Las Vegas and the outskirts of Las Vegas that would tie into each other.

Mayor Trujillo asked about a call for projects for the City of Las Vegas and asked if the money had already been allocated.

NMDOT Chairman Adams advised the money was allocated and gave a brief breakdown regarding the projects that were allocated for the City of Las Vegas.

Mayor Trujillo asked if there was a possibility that money that was allocated could be pulled.

NMDOT Chairman Adams advised no, that money is there to complete that project.

Councilor Montoya thanked NMDOT Chairman Adams and District Four Engineer Gallegos for their help and all their work.

2. Discussion/Recommendation of tourism recovery and tourism related City events.

Community Development Director Bill Hendrickson gave an update regarding City events. Community Development Hendrickson advised that Fiestas and the motorcycle rally have been put into a delayed mode since they rely on other police agencies to come in and help out during those events which is not going to happen right now. Community Development Hendrickson spoke about the possibility of having a Las Vegas recovery celebration as time goes on. Community Development Hendrickson advised their recommendation for those types of events are either delayed or cancelled depending on the time frame.

Community Development Hendrickson advised the budget for Lodgers Tax is going to be tight and he doesn't expect additional monies until the lodging increases. Community Development Hendrickson stated the board will be working with New Mexico Tourism for a recovery plan.

Councilor Baca asked about restricting the sales of fireworks.

Mayor Trujillo advised no, they are prohibiting the City holding the fireworks display but firework sales would still be allowed.

Councilor Romero asked if they had to give direction or a recommendation regarding the item.

City Manager William Taylor advised a decision would be made at the next meeting based on the information given.

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr., advised he would like to see the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

3. Discussion/Consideration of Resolution 20-17 Rules of Order and Decorum for all City of Las Vegas Council Meetings.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez advised she met with City Attorney Scott Aaron regarding the resolution for rules of order and decorum for all City of Las Vegas council meetings and he made minor changes. City Clerk Fresquez advised she would take any suggestions or changes.

Councilor Montoya advised he wanted to add under item 3, during this pandemic the City Clerk could receive emails for public input.

City Clerk Fresquez stated adding language to say, during unforeseen circumstances, public input may be forwarded to the City Clerks email address.

Mayor Trujillo also recommended that public input be limited to items on the agenda.

City Clerk Fresquez advised placing the item on the next meeting's consent agenda with the recommendations from Councilor Montoya.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

4. Resolution 20-14 Transfer of three (3) vehicles to Animal Welfare Coalition.

Police Chief David Bibb advised on behalf of the Police Department is seeking approval to transfer three vehicles to the Animal Welfare Coalition in their capacity.

Councilor Romero asked if the Animal Welfare Coalition was aware the vehicles come as is.

Police Chief Bibb advised yes, and there was a letter drafted stating that.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

5. Resolution 20-18 Transfer of two (2) vehicles to West Las Vegas Schools.

Police Chief David Bibb advised seeking approval to transfer two vehicles to West Las Vegas School District, in as is condition and would serve a better purpose for them instead of the Police Department.

Mayor Trujillo asked what they needed the vehicles for.

Police Chief Bibb advised one would be used for security and the other for staff.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

6. Resolution 20-19 Transfer of two (2) vehicles to Las Vegas City Schools.

Police Chief David Bibb advised seeking approval to transfer two vehicles as is, to Las Vegas City Schools, for the purpose of their security staff. Police Chief Bibb advised the vehicles have no value to the Police Department.

Councilor Baca asked about removing stickers that represent the Police Department.

Police Chief Bibb advised all stickers were removed.

Discussion took place regarding the transfer of vehicles to NMHU and the purchase of two vehicles for the Police Department.

Mayor Trujillo asked who will receive those vehicles.

Police Chief Bibb advised they would go to two patrol lieutenants.

Councilor Romero thanked Police Chief Bibb and advised he received two Explorers that were donated from Santa Fe.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

7. Resolution #20-16 donating two (2) rocks from the City Museum to NMHU Geology Department.

City Attorney Scott Aaron advised the City Museum has two rocks of geological and educational value and are not in need of them. City Attorney Aaron advised transferring the possession of the two rocks to the Geology Department at NMHU. City Attorney Aaron advised in return the City of Las Vegas and City Museum are released of any type of liability concerns associated with the two rocks.

Discussion took place regarding where the rocks came from and the interest NMHU has for the rocks.

The governing body agreed to place the item as a consent agenda item.

Mayor Trujillo thanked everyone who was present during the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the new street sweeper.

ADJOURN

Councilor Romero made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri Jr., seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for a roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:


Joseph P. Baca	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk