

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: Barbara Casey
David Romero
Michael Montoya
David Ulibarri

ALSO PRESENT: Leo Maestas, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Scott Aaron, City Attorney
Antonio Salazar, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Trujillo asked to remember all those who have been suffering from the terrible and horrific fire and added that generations of homes and ranches had been devastated, that it had been very heavy on people’s souls and now with the impending flood. Mayor Trujillo asked that everyone keep their faith, help one another, be good neighbors to each other and help anyone you can through these times that we are facing.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked if everyone was in favor. All were in favor.

PUBLIC INPUT

City Clerk Fresquez advised there was no public input at this time.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to notify the public about the peril of flooding that would eventually affect the community, he informed that the city was working very hard in minimizing possible damages the floods could cause in our city. He also wanted to advise residents if they lived in flood prone areas to do anything they could to protect their property, to start using sand bags and moving unused vehicles or equipment of value to higher ground. Mayor Trujillo again reminded everyone that the city was working around the clock to ensure the city was well taken care of during a flood event.

Mayor Trujillo informed the city was preparing with Fire Department Rescue Training and creating a sandbag distribution center for the public, that they would be utilizing the Fire Department, Police Department and Code Enforcement to knock on doors of residents in flood zone areas, handing out resource flyers that consist of flood emergency information. He reminded everyone to pay attention to the sky for storms, to emergency alerts, weather information and to be prepared for the worst and pray for the best.

COUNCILOR'S REPORTS

Councilor Casey thanked City Manager Maestas and Public Works Director Lopez for addressing an issue of a pothole at Keyes Park that resulted in an injury and car damage and advised of facebook comments in regards to disrepair in the city's parks and she would like to see that addressed in time for families to enjoy the parks this summer. She advised there was a marketing committee made up of

business people in the community and would be meeting with them on Friday and she invited the new community development director to attend, it would give her the opportunity to meet with people she would be working with.

Councilor Casey stated that Lodgers Tax Board had not been functioning due to not having enough members for a quorum, so she requested a Lodgers Tax expenditure for Lamar Billboards to be placed on the agenda for next week and informed it was an Advisory Board, so the Council did not need a recommendation from them. She informed she received a request from an independent constituent in regards to people being able to give public input on the issue with the Animal Shelter. Councilor Casey advised she had asked City Manager Maestas or Chief Salazar to give a brief presentation on what would take place with the shelter in order to give people the opportunity to discuss their concerns.

Councilor Casey advised she received a text from someone asking why the City did not have a Public Information Officer and praised Mayor Trujillo for an admirable job of trying to let people know what was going on in the community. She felt it would be beneficial to the City and hoped it would be considered. Councilor Casey offered her congratulations to Councilor Montoya for his daughter Laura winning the primary election for State Treasurer.

Councilor Montoya thanked Councilor Casey, also the 31 out of 33 counties who supported her and was proud of her accomplishments.

Councilor Montoya informed that City Manager Maestas and City Attorney Aaron were working on an ordinance for parking in city parks due to having issues with RVs and other vehicles parking overnight and long-term. He thanked Las Vegas citizens for their patience with the city and the county and for assisting everyone affected by the fires. He advised there had been a great deal of assistance from different cities and states, he was thankful for all their donations and was happy to be part of that.

Councilor Romero gave kudos to the Utilities and Public Works departments in being proactive and going above and beyond in cleaning under Mills Avenue and Bridge Street bridges in preparation of the flooding. He thanked Public Works

Director Lopez for starting on the milling overlay on some streets and despite what some people thought, the city was moving forward.

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to recognize a former City Council member Gene Romero who was present.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Maestas presented a brief report regarding the following on going projects:

- **Mitigation efforts of NMDOT, Utilities and Public Works: Upstream/Downstream sides of all bridges.**
- **Information Campaign for Flood Plain Residents**
- **Management of Flood Water with CLV, Acequias and Storrie Lake Users Association**
- **Reassessments to be discussed after storms have passed**
- **Water Diversion-Storrie Lake**

Utilities Director Maria Gilvary reported that they were working with the Army Corps. on their expedited path, also with prequalified contractors regarding different concepts such as gabions, fencing, different structures added to the rivers and erosion protection of inlets and piping. She estimated that they would receive the Notice to Proceed by a week or two and there were multiple projects and explained (Contour Fouling), the taking down of strategic trees in the burn areas, embedding them into the ground to aid in slowing down erosion, potentially collecting debris from coming down the hillside which could be a potential hazard.

Brief discussion and questions took place regarding the potential diversion risks at Storrie Lake, available sandbags for residents of flood prone areas and jersey barriers.

City Manager Maestas reported that they were working on a collaboration effort with the county to run the Animal Shelter and he would have additional information next week.

Councilor Romero took the opportunity to make a public comment regarding the

AWC not submitting a proposal. He added that the city did not chase them away or fire them, the RFP was put out as it is every four years and the AWC had put in for it in 2012 and 2016 and they were familiar with the process. He felt in his opinion perhaps there was some language that was misinterpreted and maybe the contract would have put a bit of a burden on the AWC to give a plan to the city in regards to finding homes for the animals. Councilor Romero advised that his main comment was that the AWC decided not to put in for the RFP and now they needed to find an alternative, he added that the city has never been anti-animal or anti pet-friendly, he believed that there was some accountability issues and now all they could do was proceed in taking care of the animals and Animal Control.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 18, 2022)

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the minutes for May 18, 2022. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Conduct a Public Hearing for Business Items 1 and 2

1. Approval to adopt Ordinance No. 22-04, An Ordinance amending the City of Las Vegas Official zoning map from an R-1 (single family residential zone) to a C-1 (neighborhood commercial zone) for property located East of 1822-7th Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701 as requested by Eugene Romero on behalf of Northgate Self Storage, LLC.

City Clerk Fresquez stated for the record, she did not receive any public input for Business Items 1 and 2.

Councilor Casey made a motion to go into Public Hearing for Business Items 1 and 2. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

City Attorney Scott Aaron asked those who wished to speak in regards to Business Items 1 and 2 to stand and be sworn in. Casandra Fresquez, Maria Perea and Gene Romero were all sworn in.

Councilor Romero took the opportunity to disclose that Eugene Romero was his cousin and in this item there was no financial interest or anything in his order.

Planning & Zoning Coordinator Maria Perea advised that an application was submitted by Eugene Romero on behalf of Northgate Self Storage, LLC. The purpose of the zone change is to allow owner to construct additional storage units on the property which is not allowed in the R-1 zone. The Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 and recommended that this project be submitted to the City Council for approval.

Eugene Romero advised the reason he was requesting the zone change from an R-1 to a C-1 on the property was so he could expand his storage facility that he purchased years ago that was zoned residential. He stated he wanted to bring in 36 units, the property had been leveled, drainage had been addressed and the units would be shipping containers that were designed for storage.

Councilor Montoya asked if the property was part of the business property he already owned and if the property was behind Big O Tire, where the entrance was and if it was an easement. He asked Ms. Perea if there were any complaints or issues regarding compliance with the zone change.

Eugene Romero stated that the property was located behind the La Fiesta Restaurant, Big O Tire and also the Smoke Shop. He informed the entrance was through the Smoke Shop and it was not an easement, that he owned the land.

Mr. Romero advised it would be attached to the current property, access would be through the same entrance for security purposes and there was plenty of drive and parking area.

Ms. Perea informed them that Mr. Romero was in compliance with the C-1 and there were no complaints regarding the zone change.

2. Approval to adopt Ordinance No. 22-03, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Las Vegas by adding a new Chapter 15, entitled "Elections". This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to Sections 2.02 of the City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter, and is an exercise of the City of Las Vegas home rule powers.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez advised this ordinance pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 1-22-3.1 (2018) to Opt in for the election of the Municipal Officers of the City of Las Vegas in the next Regular Local election. The ordinance shall also determine if the terms of office for current office holders will be extended or reduced to correspond with the new election date. Opting in to the Regular Local election will increase voter turnout as well as reduce the cost of the election. City Council approved the publication of Ordinance 22-03 on May 11, 2022 choosing Option 2, extending the terms of the current municipal elected officials. Publication requirements have been met.

Councilor Romero asked City Fresquez to clarify for the record the cost savings that the City would see for every election that was held by opting in.

City Clerk Fresquez informed that state law was that the City paid the county 250 per million of General Fund expenditures, depending on the year which would roughly be about \$13,000.

Brief discussion and questions took place regarding the cost saving by opting in, potential increase voter turnout, school boards that had already opted in and the extending of terms that would take place.

City Clerk Fresquez stated for the record that she spoke to the County Clerk and that she was hopeful of this passing so she could get the City on board with their election.

Councilor Romero wanted to clarify to everyone that this was something other municipalities and school boards had already done, opting in and increasing terms, this was something that would help voter turnout as well and all the City was doing was falling in line.

Councilor Montoya asked for clarification pertaining to who would be paid the assessment of 250 and how many millions do we spend out of the General Fund.

City Clerk Fresquez clarified that the payment went to the Secretary of State and advised the amount that the City currently pays for municipal elections is about \$30,000.

Councilor Romero made a motion to return to Regular Session. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve Business Item 1, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-04, an Ordinance amending the City of Las Vegas Official zoning map from an R-1 (single family residential zone) to a C-3 (neighborhood commercial zone) for property located East of 1822-7th Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701 as requested by Eugene Romero on behalf of Northgate Self Storage, LLC. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Romero	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Business Item #2, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-03, an Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Las Vegas by adding a new Chapter 15, entitled "Elections". This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to

Sections 2.02 of the City of Las Vegas Municipal Charter, and is an exercise of the City of las Vegas home rule powers. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Davod Romero	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Casey stated that the election would also save a lot of hours in preparing for it, including early voting and she felt that should be the job of the County Clerk and was thankful for that.

3. Request approval of Resolution 22-27 authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 821 12th Street property for the City.

City Manager Leo Maestas advised this resolution authorizes the city manager to enter into a purchase agreement regarding 821 12th Street property and to move forward with the purchase of said property at his discretion. He informed that he had been given direction to seek out the price on this property as a potential location for additional parking to the Utilities Department on 12th Street and the property cost came in at \$136,000. City Manager Maestas explained they would not keep the property in its current state, they would demolish the building, remove the debris, pave it and put a fence around it. He stated they had been communicating with the realtor and now wanted to see where the Governing Body would like to go from here.

Mayor Trujillo asked what the cost would be to the City to purchase the property and also to complete all the improvements, how many parking spaces there would be and if there was money in our budget to do so.

City Manager Maestas stated it would probably be between \$75,000-\$100,000 to improve the property and with the purchase, it would be between \$225,000-\$250,000.

Councilor Montoya advised that in regards to some individuals indicating that parking was needed downtown, he saw the property on 12th Street as being in a high traffic location where it would benefit parking for the riverwalk, Valencia river park, downtown activities, Utilities Department and also some businesses. He advised that he thought it was vital property to utilize and that there was funding in economic development and he supported the purchase of the property.

Brief discussion took place regarding parking, utilizing funding in other areas that needed improvement and the cost of the purchase and improvement of the said property.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve Resolution 22-27 authorizing and directing the city manager to purchase 821 12th Street property for the City.

Mayor Trujillo called for a second motion.

There was no second motion, therefore the motion died.

4. Request approval to renew the Chief of Police Professional Service Contract.

Mayor Louie Trujillo advised this contract shall begin on June 8, 2022, replacing the existing contract with employee and shall continue until January 1, 2024, or until terminated pursuant to the contract, whichever comes first.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Romero made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters (Chief of Police Contract), as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	David Romero	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero made a motion to reconvene into Regular Session, only discussion took place regarding personnel matters. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

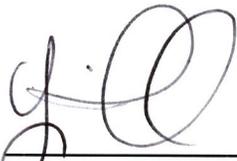
Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the renewal of the Chief of Police Professional Service Contract. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael Montoya	Yes	David Romero	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked if all were in favor. All were in favor.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk