

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**MAYOR:** Louie A. Trujillo

**COUNCILORS:** David G. Romero  
Barbara Casey  
Michael L. Montoya  
David Ulibarri

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Trujillo asked for a moment of thanksgiving for all the hard work City employees do. Mayor Trujillo stated he appreciates everyone and also appreciates all the work Council, the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager and all Directors do. Mayor Trujillo further stated he prays they are guided in the best direction possible.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Romero asked if the Sunny 505 reps were going to be there.

City Manager Maestas advised no they were not attending the meeting.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes for May 4, 2023. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo thanked the City Clerk's staff for doing a great job on the minutes.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Request approval of the Professional Services Agreement between the City of Las Vegas and Sunny 505.

City Manager Maestas met with Sunny 505 to discuss what they wanted. City Manager Maestas advised Council requested that it be brought back for their

approval to use Lodgers Tax monies. City Manager Maestas discussed the five items that went out for the RFP which were branding of the City of Las Vegas in the amount of \$15,000, the Visitors Guide (print and digital) in the amount of \$17,000, Story writing about the City of Las Vegas and its tourism in the amount of \$18,000, redoing the Welcome to Las Vegas webpage in the amount of \$30,000 (NMTrue giving \$15,000) and any other duties they wanted them to design on behalf of the City. City Manager Maestas discussed social media management in the amount of 18,000, television advertising in the amount of \$30,000, redesign of the Visitors Guide in the amount of \$50,000 and account management. City Manager Maestas advised the total amount they're asking for would be \$189,000 not including GRT.

Councilor Montoya advised it would be a great opportunity for Las Vegas and with that type of advertisement, it would increase lodgers tax.

Councilor Romero mentioned some items being vague.

City Manager Maestas advised he believed there was another document with more detail but will make sure they get their money's worth.

Discussion took place regarding the production of advertisements, how many times commercials would run on television through the year and who would be keeping track of those commercials.

Mayor Trujillo advised he would like a meeting with Sunny 505 once they start that is open to the public and would like a couple of Councilors as part of the Marketing team.

Discussion took place regarding the Visitors Guide if they need more printed copies than digital for the Balloon Fiesta or Spanish Market.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement between the City of Las Vegas and Sunny 505. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey

Yes

David Ulibarri

Yes

Michael L. Montoya

Yes

David G. Romero

Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/DIRECTION**

Presentation by City Manager and Finance Director on Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget.

Mayor Trujillo thanked Finance Director Tasha Martinez, Deputy Finance Director Dominic Chavez and their department for all they do.

Finance Director Martinez advised her goal was to allow the Mayor and Council to meet with departments to discuss the budget.

Mayor Trujillo stated that there was a significant difference from last year's budget to this year's budget. Mayor Trujillo asked what those major changes were and the reasoning for decreases or increases.

Finance Director Martinez discussed primary increases being one million dollars for the contract for AMR, an increase to bring anyone under \$14 up to \$14 for minimum wage and Corrections increased from \$55,000 to \$90,000 for the San Miguel County Detention Center contract.

Councilor Casey advised they had requested \$5,000 be budgeted for the Veterans Committee and if it was in the budget.

Deputy Finance Director Chavez advised they did budget \$4,200.

Councilor Casey discussed huge discrepancies in salaries of Mayor appointees and advised they should be equitable. Councilor Casey discussed discrepancies between the City Manager and Deputy City Manager's salaries, the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk's salaries, a police Lieutenant making more than the Police Chief and the Fire Chief having a low salary. Councilor Casey advised that was something they really needed to look at.



Councilor Romero asked if they were going to take into consideration those employees who are already at \$14 and if they were going to bump them up, since minimum wage was going up to \$14.

Finance Director Martinez advised they wanted to ensure the budget could support the \$14 increase and anticipated a slight increase for everyone else to compensate for that discrepancy, with a 1% increase to offset that difference.

Discussion took place regarding not following pay scales, the City of Las Vegas being unique because of the Unions, the amount of vacancies, discussions of two versions of an old pay plan, and a salary study done.

Mayor Trujillo advised he wanted to bring back the contracts for Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Finance Director Martinez advised she would like to incorporate as many changes as she could. Finance Director Martinez advised the only change from the preliminary budget to the final should be the reconciliation of cash, there shouldn't be major changes within the budget. Finance Director Martinez advised she would be hesitant to make major changes, they have until June 1st. Finance Director Martinez advised the requirements of municipalities is that they have a reserve of one month out of the year in reserves, which the City maintains three months of reserve.

Councilor Romero asked about the revenues from last year to this year on the taxes and if they expect them to go down.

Finance Director Martinez discussed the recap not having an accurate reflection.

Councilor Romero asked why there was a drastic decrease in the Community Development department of \$300,000.

City Manager Maestas advised the salaries from Code Enforcement were moved from Community Development to the Police Department.

Councilor Montoya thanked Finance Director Martinez and Deputy Finance Director Chavez for bringing the preliminary budget to them on time for review. Councilor Montoya asked about the General Fund for the Police department having \$200,000 added to the budget.

Finance Director Martinez advised that would be the increase due to the FOP contract.

Councilor Montoya advised they shouldn't be using salary savings from vacant positions to offset overtime. Councilor Montoya advised they have given direction to the City Manager to use Lodger's Tax funding for overtime during events. Councilor Montoya advised the salary savings should stay within the department and if they don't use it within that year then they just adjust it. Councilor Montoya asked why there was \$400,000 added to the Fire department's budget.

Finance Director Martinez advised there was a requirement for positions that needed to be added.

Fire Chief Spann discussed their ISO evaluation and were advised to add two more personnel per team to meet the ISO requirements.

Councilor Montoya asked how many vacancies they had.

Fire Chief Spann advised they had three vacancies.

Councilor Montoya asked if they need to contribute to the elections this year.

City Clerk Fresquez advised no, she verified with the Secretary of State and we no longer need to contribute from here on out.

Councilor Montoya advised we would be saving \$28,000.

City Clerk Fresquez advised yes.

Councilor Montoya asked what the attorney fees in the amount of \$35,000 and other professional services in the amount of \$35,000 were for in the Human Resource departments budget.

Finance Director Martinez advised it was for Verifirst (White Sands) for employment drug screenings and for Attorney Dina Holcomb for personnel matters.

Councilor Montoya asked about other professional services in the amount of \$59,000 in Community Development.

Finance Director Martinez advised it was for consultant Robert Archuleta.

Councilor Montoya asked about the \$10,000 in subscriptions and dues in the Community Development department.

City Manager Maestas advised it's for a company called Page Freezer, anything posted on the City's social media or webpage has to be archived in case of IPRA's.

Councilor Montoya asked about the \$10,000 for publications and advertisements and what it was for.

City Manager Maestas advised it is used when they post a legal in the Optic for lot splits or subdivisions.

Councilor Montoya asked if those publications come out of the City Clerks budget.

City Manager Maestas advised no .

Councilor Montoya asked if there was funding for abatements.

City Manager Maestas advised there was \$60,000 under building structures and land and \$50,000 in other professional services.

Councilor Montoya asked about funding for the Tree committee.

City Manager Maestas advised there was \$10,000.

Finance Director Martinez advised it was within the 5400 General Fund budget along with \$70,000 for the Golf Course.

Councilor Montoya asked where funding for the suppression system for City Hall was at.



Finance Director Martinez advised it was in the current budget under buildings.

City Manager Maestas advised the requisition and PO have already gone through the process.

Discussion took place regarding debt services for the Recreation Center, AMR services increasing significantly and other items increasing, a smart approach to increase the minimum wage amount slowly, numerous reasons to conserve the budget and investments with Southwest Bank.

Councilor Montoya thanked the Finance department for doing a great job and advised we did stay within the budget and spent less with the exception of the month of April 2023 going over by two million dollars.

Councilor Ulibarri thanked the Finance department for all they've done.

City Manager Maestas advised Mayor and Council to write down any requests or concerns so they could incorporate it into the document that needs to be submitted by June 1st. City Manager Maestas advised July is when it needs to be approved by resolution for the final budget.

Councilor Casey advised that the agenda stated presentation/discussion and direction, and advised they want the Police Chief and Fire Chief to be paid \$100,000 a year.

Councilor Romero advised they would need to bring the contract for approval.

Councilor Casey advised she wanted the money included in the budget so they could take action on the contract.

Discussion took place regarding vehicles for animal control and code enforcement and RBC Capital.

Councilor Romero thanked Finance Director Martinez and Deputy Finance Director Chavez and advised all employees are deserving and it's hard to pick and choose who gets a raise and who doesn't.



Discussion took place regarding the contracts for Souder Miller, money needed to abate properties, back taxes on vacant properties that the City can't pay, what the City could do to help abate vacant properties and where business license fees go.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

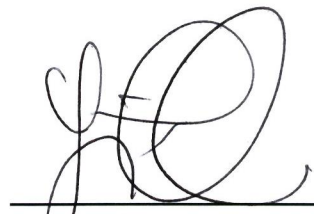
There was no need for executive session.

**ADJOURN**

Councilor Montoya made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.



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Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk