MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 AT 5:30 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 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Trujillo asked for a moment of silence in thanksgiving for all that is happening with the City and moving in the right direction with the water storage issue. Mayor Trujillo thanked the community for helping to conserve water. Mayor Trujillo expressed his condolences for the passing of Rosita Ellis, who was a longtime employee of the City of Las Vegas and a public servant who served the

community in many ways. Mayor Trujillo advised she was the perfect example of a civic minded citizen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

City Clerk Fresquez read the public input received via email into the record.

Mr. Luis Ramos stated that the agenda request form for business item 1 was not reviewed and signed by the City Attorney. Mr. Ramos questioned if any of the 3 out of town attorneys reviewed the resolution prior to tonight and if so which one did review it. Mr. Ramos also asked if there was a conflict of interest regarding Virtue and Najar interviewing for the County position and representing the City at the same time.

Mr. Frank Casey thanked Mayor and Council for appointing members to the Veterans Advisory Committee. Mr. Casey advised there is a high number of veterans who live in Las Vegas and they are a patriotic community. Mr. Casey mentioned a few services the American Legion, VFW and other groups provide to the community's veterans.

Councilor Montoya asked for a copy of Mr. Ramos' letter.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Appointment of members to the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Mayor Trujillo advised Veterans do so much for the community and is glad to bring the committee back. Mayor Trujillo advised he will have a special presentation on Veterans Day. Mayor Trujillo read the following names of the board members that were presented to him by Gary Ludi to be on the Veterans Advisory Committee: Nancy Fernandez Jeffrey, Gary Ludi, Eric Tapia, Genovevo Gonzales, Paul Salas, Eldon Forsee, Manual Romero and Samson Vallejos.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the appointment of the Veterans Advisory Committee as read by Mayor Trujillo. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero suggested they look into setting up a small budget for the Veterans Committee.

Councilor Casey advised the members could not make the meeting tonight due to them having a Veterans meeting tonight at the VFW.

Recognition of Christopher Armijo with the Recreation department was postponed until the next Council meeting on October 19, 2022 due to him not being present.

Mayor Trujillo read a Proclamation for "Ending Hunger Month".

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Casey discussed concerns from business owners by the Plaza regarding the slanted parking and the lack of true ADA compliant crosswalks. Councilor Casey advised they are concerned because there are no indications that the crosswalks are in compliance with ADA requirements for handicap people. Councilor Casey advised the crosswalks are not wide enough, the ramps from the street to the sidewalk are not sufficient, the crosswalks are rounded and a wheelchair can tip over. Councilor Casey advised business owners want those areas redone properly so they meet ADA compliance and be painted blue to be in compliance with ADA requirements. Councilor Casey advised they also would like a handicap space marked in the slanted parking areas. Councilor Casey mentioned business owners were concerned with parking being blocked off during homecoming. Councilor Casey advised she would like to see those with disabilities treated with respect and help them by making sure our streets are in compliance.

Councilor Casey thanked Police Chief Salazar for the Starbucks Coffee with a Cop and she appreciates his fast response to all the calls she makes.

Councilor Montoya advised he received a call regarding a bump on 8th Street in the alleyway where the ambulances drive through and if it could be repaired. Councilor Montoya advised he attended an outdoor tour in Taos, NM that was very informative with many topics. Councilor Montoya advised he went on a ride along with City Police Officers. Councilor Montoya advised they are very busy and short handed. Councilor Montoya advised they attended the Guadalupe Credit Union grand opening and welcomed the Guadalupe Credit Union and Rollin Love businesses. Councilor Montoya advised they are moving forward in the right direction and advised that he along with Mayor Trujillo and City Manager Maestas took the State and Federal delegates on a tour to show them the water situation the City is in and the needs and wants in regards to funding for the next 5-10 years.

Councilor Romero thanked those who helped prepare and work during the Balloon Fiesta and gave an update regarding how it benefited Las Vegas. Councilor Romero advised they spoke to 20-30 tour bus companies that are interested in stopping in Las Vegas. Councilor Romero advised they are discussing having a fall Balloon festival. Councilor Romero advised there was great publicity for those who attended and streamed worldwide. Councilor Romero advised during the last day the broadcasters spoke about Las Vegas for 5 minutes. Councilor Romero advised they gave out a lot of swag during the Balloon Fiesta and the City of Las Vegas pins were a big hit. Councilor Romero advised he would get data regarding how many people stopped at the booth.

Mayor Trujillo thanked Community Development Director Weiser for all her work.

Councilor Romero advised he received a call from Fire employees who didn't receive their raise as per the recent Union contract that was approved.

City Manager Maestas advised the language should reflect all current and incoming employees into the Fire department that are Union employees.

Councilor Romero thanked all employees.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Maestas gave a report on the following:

- Welcomed new employees to the City of Las Vegas
- Update on Storrie Lake/Gallinas Water Diversion clean up and improvement project (State Water Engineer is paying)
- City of Las Vegas Gas increase from $7.83 to $10.99 per MCF (roughly a $20 increase on bill) - can look at a second option where the City would encumber the amount of the Consumer Price Index of $193,000 in costs to the city's budget
- Project updates
    - Moved from Stage 6 water restrictions down to Stage 5
    - Completed Lincoln Park project
    - Will install shade structures at Hanna Park and El Creston Park
    - West National from Plaza to New Mexico Avenue will be paved

Discussion took place regarding the Hot Springs Blvd. project

- The Public Works department and Project Management are looking at design errors in Great Blocks project (no cost to the City)
- Demo at Rodriguez Park

Councilor Romero asked City Manager Maestas to make sure there is adequate drainage before they install the turf at Rodriguez field.

Councilor Montoya asked who would be in charge of overseeing the Rodriguez Park project.

City Manager Maestas advised Public Works Director Lopez.

Councilor Ulibarri voiced his concerns regarding drainage issues on Keen St.

City Manager Maestas discussed the drainage study.

- Six water related projects submitted to FEMA totaling $121 million
- City wide pay scale is being evaluated for financial impacts

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from October 3, 2022 with no corrections. 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 G. Romero	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo thanked City Clerk Fresquez, her staff and Deputy Clerk Sena for their hard work in getting the minutes completed.

PRESENTATIONS

The Executive Director from American Red Cross of NM presented an award of appreciation to the Las Vegas Police Department for their leadership, compassion and dedication to the Red Cross during the fires.

Mayor Trujillo thanked the American Red Cross of NM for all their help.

Councilor Romero thanked Police Chief Salazar and his Officers

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval of Resolution No. 22-55, Fiscal Year 2024 Section 5311 Grant Application Funding Requests.

Community Development Director Weiser advised they apply for this grant every year to help cover operating costs, administrative costs and sometimes capital costs. Community Development Director Weiser advised the Federal fiscal year is different from ours, so the grant would be for October 2023 through September 2024. Community Development Director Weiser advised the total cost from the City would be $162,095.80.

Mayor Trujillo asked if Finance looked at this item.

City Manager Maestas replied yes, it's something they do every year.

Councilor Romero advised due to COVID they didn't need to pay that cost and asked if they budgeted for that amount in this year's budget.

Community Development Director Weiser advised they did for this year.

Transportation Manager Marcelino Roybal discussed the Cares Act reimbursing them at 100% for the past two years. Transportation Manager Roybal advised the City did not have to pick up the cost of about $385,000 for the past 2 ½ years.

Councilor Montoya thanked the NMDOT for their share and asked how many vans the Transportation department had and what condition they were in.

Transportation Manager Roybal advised they have 7 vans; 4 are used everyday, 2 are backup and 1 has a blown engine. Transportation Manager Roybal advised their waiting on 2 Dodge Caravans that were ordered 2 years ago that are covered.

Councilor Montoya asked if he had any concerns regarding the resolution.

Transportation Manager Roybal replied he did not. Transportation Manager Roybal advised the numbers are what they anticipate for the year and are not set in stone.

Councilor Montoya asked if they could change the schedule in the summer to include Saturdays.

Transportation Manager Roybal advised with the manpower they have right now, they could not and stated they can barely cover what they need to now.

Councilor Montoya asked how many vacant positions they had.

Transportation Manager Roybal replied none that are budgeted however in the past they've had an additional Transit Driver and Transit Supervisor.

Councilor Romero mentioned in the past when Transportation was the only one occupying the building the State covered 80/20 of the Utilities and now with other organizations using the building the City pays more than before.

Transportation Manager Roybal advised the Utilities were 50/50, the State covered the electricity and the City covered the gas, water, trash and sewer. Transportation Manager Roybal advised they don't get that funding back from the State because it's not just Transit employees in the building. Transportation Manager Roybal advised since there is more square footage of non-transportation the State decided not to allow them to get reimbursed.

Mayor Trujillo advised that is something they need to further discuss.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve resolution No. 22-55, Fiscal Year 2024 Section 5311 Grant Application Funding Requests. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Resolution 22-55 was presented as follows:

CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO
Resolution No. 22-55

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A PUBLIC RURAL TRANSPORTATION GRANT OFFER FROM THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRANSIT AND RAIL DIVISION

WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas Meadow City Express ("City") has applied to the New Mexico Department of Transportation Transit and Rail Division ("NMDOT") for the FY24 Section 5311 Public Transportation Grant; and

WHEREAS, the City expects the total amount to be $396,407.00; and

WHEREAS, the City would have to contribute 20% ($24,071.00) for administrative expenses, 50% ($138,024.00) for operating expenses, 20% ($0.00) for capital outlay in order to receive the Grant for a total amount of $162,095.80, including New Mexico gross receipts tax; and

WHEREAS, transportation is needed for the residents of the City of Las Vegas;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Las Vegas that the recitals are hereby incorporated herein by reference and the Governing Body hereby agrees to contribute 20% ($24,071.80) for administrative expenses, 50% ($138,024.00) for operating expenses, 20% ($0.00) for capital outlay in order to receive the Grant, and agrees to use the Grant for the operation of the City of Las Vegas Meadow City Express Transit System.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of October, 2022.

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Louie A. Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Reviewed and approved as to legal sufficiency only:

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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

City Attorney

Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for executive session.

ADJOURN

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

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Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk