

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 27, 2023 AT 11:00 A.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 11:00 AM

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Trujillo thanked all the City employees for all the work they do and is much appreciated. Mayor Trujillo acknowledged General Accountant Darlene Martinez on her retirement. Mayor Trujillo thanked the Finance department for all their hard work with the budget and stated this was the first time they got the budget with enough time to review it. Mayor Trujillo thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to the City.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Romero 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
David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS**

Appointments to the Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning Commission:

1. Kerry Rodriguez – Ward 4
2. Andrew Salazar – Ward 4
3. Oliver Lesperance – Ward 3

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve all three appointments to the Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning Commission. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero asked where they were at with the total number of members.

City Clerk Fresquez advised there were a total of five members.

Mayor Trujillo advised he had two more individuals that were interested.

Councilor Montoya asked how many members were from ward 2.

City Clerk Fresquez advised she did not have that information in front of her but would send it to them.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from July 12, 2023, with one minor correction. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Request approval of Resolution No. 23-21, the final quarter report for 2022-2023 for submission to Department of Finance & Administration, Local Government Division.

Councilor Montoya asked if they could create a position to hire a Recruiting Officer for at least six months to help fill the 52 vacancies.

Finance Director Martinez and Deputy Finance Director Chavez advised they are on the fourth quarter report and they could further discuss that during business item 2.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve resolution No. 23-21, the final quarter report for 2022-2023 for submission to the Department of Finance & Administration, Local Government Division. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Resolution 23-21 was presented as follows:

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO**  
**Resolution No. 23-21**

**A RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE FINAL FY 2022-2023 DFA REPORT**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body in and for the Municipality of the City of Las Vegas, State of New Mexico has developed the Final Quarter Report for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the final quarterly report has been reviewed and approved to ensure the accuracy of the beginning balances used on the fiscal year 2023-2024; and

**WHEREAS**, it is hereby certified that the contents in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and that this report depicts all funds for fiscal year 2022-2023; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the majority opinion of this governing body the Final Budget meet the requirements as currently determined of Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Las Vegas, that the recitals and any exhibits are incorporated herein by reference and the Governing Body hereby approves the aforementioned final quarterly report request and respectfully requests approval from the Local Governing Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED this day \_\_\_\_\_ of July 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

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

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Request approval of Resolution No. 23-22 to adopt the Final Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for submission to DFA Local Government Division.

Councilor Montoya asked to put aside money in their budget to hire a Recruiting Officer for at least a six month period.

Mayor Trujillo advised they could use the \$50,000 from the Mayor’s Liaison position.

Councilor Romero advised they could look into a contract with a recruitment company.

Councilor Montoya asked if City Manager Maestas could make that happen.

City Manager Maestas advised yes, they were currently working with a company that is advertising for top five critical positions. City Manager Maestas advised they could ask the current vendor if they could advertise for more positions.

Councilor Montoya asked how long he's been working with that company.

City Manager Maestas advised it's been about four or five months since they've been advertising and have received some applications from the east coast.

Councilor Romero advised it's not just about advertising, they should have someone physically going out and recruiting.

Councilor Romero asked for a brief update on the changes from the preliminary budget. Councilor Romero advised he had asked for \$5,000 to put towards the Youth Commission.

Finance Director Martinez advised based on discussion, she thinks it was in the budget.

Councilor Romero advised the other Councilors had requested things as well and asked if it was reflected in the final budget.

Finance Director Martinez advised yes, it was included. Finance Director Martinez advised the main adjustments from the preliminary budget was a reconciliation of cash, so their ending cash was now their beginning cash. Finance Director Martinez advised they did include \$150,000 for two appropriations that were not included within the preliminary budget for the Carnegie Library and the Riverwalk.

Councilor Romero asked if the \$14 an hour would take effect once the budget is approved.

Finance Director Martinez advised yes, if that was the wish of Council.

Councilor Romero asked about the Unions still being in negotiations and nothing changing until they're done with negotiations.

Finance Director Martinez advised they're currently working with AFSCME and it's best to bring adjustments if any and do a budget adjustment if required.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve resolution No. 23-22, to adopt the Final Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for submission to DFA Local Government Division. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Resolution 23-22 was presented as follows:

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO  
Resolution No. 23-22**

**A RESOLUTION FOR THE FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body in and for the Municipality of the City of Las Vegas, State of New Mexico has developed a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and

**WHEREAS**, said budget was developed on basis of need through cooperation with all user departments, elected officials and other department supervisors, City Administration and elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, the official meeting for the review of said documents was posted publicly on July 24, 2023 in compliance with State Open Meetings Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the majority opinion of this governing body the Final Budget meet the requirements as currently determined of Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Las Vegas, that the recitals and any exhibits are incorporated herein by reference and the Governing Body hereby approves the aforementioned final budget request and respectfully requests approval from the Local Governing Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED this day \_\_\_\_\_ of July 2023.

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Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

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

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo thanked Finance Director Martinez for jumping in, Deputy Finance Director Chavez for all his help and recognized General Accountant Darlene Martinez for her dedication and years of service.

Councilor Romero also thanked General Accountant Martinez, Deputy Finance Director Chavez and everyone in the Finance department for stepping up. Councilor Romero mentioned Finance Director Martinez was leaving soon and thanked her for her ethics and all she has done.

Councilor Montoya thanked the Finance Committee for keeping them accountable. Councilor Montoya also thanked Finance Director Martinez, Deputy Finance Director Chavez, General Accountant Martinez and all the finance department staff for their team effort and leadership. Councilor Montoya thanked them for including them in the decisions of the budget.

Councilor Casey advised she received numerous calls about Darlene Martinez leaving and wished her the best on her retirement. Councilor Casey mentioned Finance Director Martinez having the personal strength and character to straighten out what needed to be done immediately. Councilor Casey thanked Finance Director Martinez and Deputy Finance Director Chavez. Councilor Casey wished Finance Director Martinez the best in her future endeavors.

Councilor Ulibarri thanked the Finance department for all they do for the citizens of Las Vegas and for the Mayor and Council.

3. Request rejection of bid received for RFB# 2023-23 for Street and Drainage Improvements for Hot Springs Boulevard from Mills Avenue to Bernalillo Street.

Public Works Director Arnold Lopez discussed receiving one bidder which was Desert Fox. Public Works Director Lopez advised the bid was almost \$1.2 million which came in way over budget. Public Works Director Lopez advised they plan to go out to DFA for additional budget monies and hopefully receive the additional funding needed. Public Works Director Lopez advised if they don't get additional funding then they would have the engineer re-scope the project and reduce the quantity of work to bring it into budget.

Mayor Trujillo asked if there were other contractors and if they were having trouble finding a company to do business with Las Vegas.

Public Works Director Lopez advised no, the project is a CDBG project and it has a lot of federal requirements which may be discouraging to contractors.

Public Works Director Lopez advised he reached out to other contractors to let them know they would re-bid the project.

Discussion took place regarding CDBG being a two year cycle and the possibility of a two month delay.

Councilor Montoya asked how much over budget the bid was.

Public Works Director Lopez advised it was double the amount of what was budgeted.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the rejection of bid received for RFB# 2023-23 for Street and Drainage Improvements for Hot Springs Boulevard from Mills Avenue to Bernalillo Street. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Romero made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, regarding Discussion/Direction and Possible Action on City Manager Position and to appoint a Community Development Director. Councilor Casey 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
David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero made a motion to exit executive session and reconvene into regular session after being in executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters, as permitted by section 10-15-1(H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978, regarding Discussion/Direction and Possible Action on City Manager Position and to appoint a Community Development Director, and no action was taken. Councilor Casey 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.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION ITEM**

1. Discussion/Direction and Possible Action on City Manager Position.

Councilor Casey advised there was no need for any further discussion or action.

Councilor Romero advised there's improvements that need to be done at the City and there's concerns throughout the community. Councilor Romero advised although they cannot go into details those items were discussed and the City Manager agreed that those items need to be addressed and he's willing to do that.

2. Approval to appoint Lucas Marquez as the Community Development Director.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the appointment of Lucas Marquez as the Community Development Director. Councilor Romero thanked Mr. Marquez for stepping up and advised he knows he has the experience to lead that department. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. 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.

Councilor Montoya advised the annual salary of \$70,000 is broken down per month.

Mayor Trujillo congratulated and thanked Mr. Marquez.

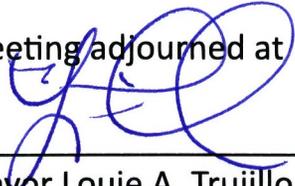
Councilor Montoya gave direction to City Manager Maestas to open the Solid Waste Manager position as soon as possible to fill the position quickly.

**ADJOURN**

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

  
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Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

  
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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk