

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL WORK
SESSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M. IN
THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor: Tonita Gurulé-Girón

Councilors: Vincent Howell
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.
David L. Romero
Barbara A. Casey

Also present: Ann Marie Gallegos, Interim City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
David Silva, Acting City Attorney
Christopher Lopez, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. asked for good health for everyone and for help for the Governing Body in making good decisions.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Councilor Romero and Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Vincent Howell	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Rosalie Lopez spoke of several studies that she was a part of with the Mission Peacemaking Committee such as homeless shelters and soup kitchens that would benefit citizens. Ms. Lopez stated that she was in support of the Refugee resolution and felt that the United States had the resources to help refugees in need with resources, educating children and freedom. She asked the Governing body's support to other areas in the state which were able to welcome refugees.

John Geffroy stated that he was in favor of Resolution 18-04, supporting the refugee resettlement in the U.S. and in New Mexico (Santa Fe & Albuquerque) and that refugee resettlement was not anticipated in Las Vegas due to many reasons and also the lack of resources. Mr. Geffroy advised it was important to demonstrate our support of refugee welfare due to the national political climate which he felt was antagonistic towards migrants and refugees. Mr. Geffroy spoke of several non-profit agencies that were made up of trained professionals that played an important role in resettling refugees in New Mexico and added that people in Salvador were experiencing increases in crime and violence making their lives more insecure . He stated it was critical that we do all we can to support refugees, even though they cannot be brought to Las Vegas.

Susie Tsyitee stated that she respected the people fighting for safety, education and protection for refugees and thought it was vitally important to care about them

although had a personal concern with resettling refugees in New Mexico because of being on the bottom of the list economically and educationally. Ms. Tsyitee stated that many issues in the state such as opioid crisis, homelessness and Veterans needed our attention and that it was a question of priorities in our City.

Rey Herrera informed that he was a Vietnam Veteran and a 9/11 survivor, and expressed that disrespect for our country was displayed at the time of the Pledge of Allegiance by people not putting their hands over their hearts. Mr. Herrera stated that he respected the concerns of the needs for refugees although felt that addressing the needs of our state should be priority due to the New Mexico rating last in economic growth and asked where the funding would come from. Mr. Herrera stated that our society needed the help first.

Jonathan Zhang, a student at United World College informed of the history of his parents being asylum seekers from China and spoke in support of the refugee resolution. Mr. Zhang spoke several issues of current refugee crisis that were taking place in the United States and thought it was important to focus on helping people and inspire other cities to pass the exact resolution.

John Sheedy advised that he was a faculty member of UWC, which had given him the opportunity to work with International students and stated that he appreciated his country and its history in which immigrants and refugees have contributed to in the past. Mr. Sheedy stated that he had learned the importance of breaking down walls and finding solutions through community building and overcoming our fears. Mr. Sheedy read a letter on behalf of UWC President, Victoria Mora in support of the Refugee resolution.

Abdulrahman Al-Rayyis advised that he was from Iraq and thought that the decision regarding the Refugee resolution was up to the citizens of Las Vegas. Mr. Al-Rayyis shared his experience of a similar situation in his City, having a barbaric group called Isis, who attacked and took over large territories in Syria and informed that his city welcomed refugees even though they had limited resources. Mr. Al-Rayyis spoke of the importance of listening to their stories which would

attach you to this topic in a whole new level and felt that the most important thing was keeping refugees protected in a safe place.

Carol Pearson spoke regarding the refugee resolution and gave a detailed scenario of what refugees experience when they have to flee their country and all the struggles and hardships that come with it in order to cross borders for safety. Mrs. Pearson stated that hopes become crushed when people learn that the United States has halted admittance of refugees and yet countries of the world have agreed in the past to resettle refugees and asked what had happened to the solemn promises made from these countries. Mrs. Pearson advised that Albuquerque and Santa Fe were the sort of people who gave us hope and stated that this resolution was of thanks and support for the representatives of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Federal representatives and added that the City of Las Vegas needed to recognize the need of the nation taking their fair share of resettling refugees.

Bob Pearson spoke as a member of Amnesty International and the Mission in Peacemaking committee and advised that he had been working for a year on the refugee resolution. Mr. Pearson spoke of several arguments against the resolution which included the idea of refugees being a danger to the community and stated that criminal records of refugees were less than that of native-born Americans. He advised that the vetting process of refugees was very careful and thorough. Mr. Pearson added that another argument was possible economic burden and explained that at the time of approved entry, refugees promise to pay back airfare within 6 months and that in the long term, refugees made a positive contribution to the economic situation of the country and the community in which they live. He informed that refugees return more money to Federal and State Government taxes than they receive in benefits. Mr. Pearson advised there was also arguments that refugees do not integrate into society and stated that there was no evidence of that and informed of research of Muslim Americans were highly integrated in to American society and felt that they would be the best among us. He asked if we would do what we had to do to meet this crisis with generosity and welcome and reminded Council of the previous results of the penny poll taken at the People's Fair where 85% of participants agreed that refugees should be resettled in

American cities and that there had already been 14 cities, with many more doing so in the future. Mr. Pearson asked that we support those cities who were able and willing to accept refugees and that this resolution be passed.

Pat Leahan spoke briefly regarding a published article written in the Washington Post and hoped that it would influence Council to do the right thing and pass the refugee resolution.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Resolution 17-46 confirming DFA adjustment of \$666.00 which will increase the cash reserves to the 1/12 cash requirement.

Senior General Accountant Darlene Martinez advised that DFA increased the 1/12 cash reserve requirements by \$666.00. The revenue increase of \$666.00 was adjusted in the miscellaneous revenue. This will make the City of Las Vegas compliant with the 1/12 cash requirement in the general fund.

Councilor Casey stated that the copy provided to Council showed the increase, handwritten in, to include in the resolution they had passed last month in December and asked if they were confirming the hand-written section or were they going to amend the resolution to include the \$666.00, she asked for clarification.

Interim City Manager Gallegos stated that it was handwritten by Paul Ludi, DFA Analyst and that he is requesting the City to increase revenues by \$666.00 to meet the 1/12 cash requirement.

Councilor Casey stated that she understood what Mr. Ludi did, although was asking if they were going to amend this resolution or were they going to send this back to Paul and saying it was approved by the Council.

Interim City Manager Gallegos advised that it would be sent back to Mr. Ludi , once confirmed next week and would be sent back with the meeting minutes confirming the change on Resolution 17-46.

Councilor Casey stated that in her opinion she felt that the update was displayed in a sloppy manner by DFA and felt it should have been handled more professionally.

Councilor Howell asked for clarification on the increases indicated on the third paragraph on Resolution 17-46.

Interim City Manager Gallegos explained that the increase of \$8,000.00 was the US Marshall Grant funding in the General Fund on behalf of the Police Department, the \$7,599.00 was the Library Special Fund bonds (application submitted by the Library), the decrease of \$21,500 in the E911 system that was brought to Mayor and Council in December (decrease in grant), the decrease of \$406.00 in the Bullet Proof Vest Account (awarded \$406.00 less), a requested increase in the Airport fund of \$9,978 and an increase of \$1,895,000 of SRF Funding in the Water Project Fund.

Discussion took place regarding suggestions to attach transfers in/transfers out report to the resolution.

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

2. Resolution No. 18-04 in support of the Refugee Resettlement in the United States and in New Mexico and creating an advisory board.

Acting City Attorney David Silva advised that he reviewed the Refugee Resolution 18-04 and he believed that it was legally sufficient to be approved and adopted. Acting City Attorney Silva advised that the governing body declares its support for those cities in New Mexico which are able to resettle refugees, and calls for a greater national effort to provide a safe and secure future for refugees. Acting City Attorney Silva asked Fatima Gutierrez to read Refugee Resolution 18-04.

Fatima Gutierrez read Resolution No. 18-04, Las Vegas, NM Resolution in support of refugee resettlement in the United States and New Mexico.

Councilor Howell stated that this resolution was dear to his heart, and advised that he made a big mistake the last time the resolution had been presented to Council. He advised that his family had taken in an international student which informed them of the harsh experiences her grandparents from North Korea went through as refugees although became successful and agreed that refugees would help the economy and help our social aspect. Councilor Howell strongly felt that Las Vegas did not have the resources to help although was concerned of the wording “declaring support”, and if it meant they would provide resources.

Acting City Attorney Silva stated that he paid close attention to that paragraph and advised that he did not interpret it that way.

Councilor Howell advised that he had flourished here as an immigrant and mentioned friends of his who were immigrants and had flourished as well. He spoke of cities who take in refugees need to focus on taking care of their “own” as well and added the importance of having a major discussion between the Governing body and the community of taking care of the many needs of our citizens and at the same time give our support to other cities who are taking in refugees.

Councilor Casey stated that she should have voted in supporting the Refugee resolution from the beginning and informed that she felt that the first resolution was stronger than the present one. She advised there was a lot of homelessness in this City and people were living in substandard homes throughout Las Vegas, school aged children living in empty houses, people going to community kitchens to get something to eat and believed those were issues that needed our full attention. Councilor Casey mentioned that she was very distressed by the decision made by President Trump regarding sending back Salvadorans and the terror these people were experiencing. Councilor Casey stated there were many things to consider, and that the resolution was welcoming and supporting of refugees and

felt we needed to do both, caring about refugees and taking care of our own, who have many needs. Councilor Casey informed that people released from the Behavioral Health Institute that have no family members to care for them here, were loaded on a bus to Albuquerque and dropped off at the bus depot to fend for themselves and stated that that was unacceptable. She advised that we needed to be more responsible, more human and needed to make sure we take care of people here, as well as people that need help and support from other places.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón commended Acting City Attorney David Silva for his review of the resolution and added that with regards to the economic issues in the City, informed that the City had just passed and approved by the governing body, 800 acre feet of storage for future water growth for the community. She stated that issues of homelessness continued to be addressed by working with the Samaritan House and was hopeful of other shelters coming in, She advised she was working on a grant for battered women's shelter and enforcement of dilapidated areas in the community and mentioned of a previous ordinance presented to Council which she felt was too strong and it might negatively impact individuals who did not have money to repair their homes. She stated that the City did not have funding for relocations or displacements although the City would continue to move a lot of issues forward and to improve the services to the citizens of this community and advised that it touched her heart and soul to hear of the many people in need with so little resources. Mayor Gurulé-Girón thanked everyone for their input and their involvement with the Refugee resolution and hoped it would be a positive resolution.

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

Mayor Gurulé-Girón stated that placing the refugee resolution on consent agenda did not mean that the resolution could not be taken out of the consent agenda if questions would arise.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón thanked Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. for providing food for the needy, for helping the Senior Citizens, and for his continued contributions and commitment to the community.

3. Open Meetings Resolution 18-01.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez advised that the Resolution 18-01 establishes reasonable notice of Council meetings in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Approval of the resolution is required annually. City Clerk Fresquez advised that an email was sent out to all Directors regarding any changes on meetings, boards or committees that needed to be made. She advised that the only changes made were for the Police Advisory Commission that meets every 3rd Thursday of the month, changing the meeting time to 3:00 p.m. and advised that she was notified by the Charter Commission that morning with changes. She advised that they met every 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. and was changed to meet the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Councilor Howell stated that he had received calls regarding Council meetings not being broadcast and advised that Sean Weaver advised him that all he needed was notification from the City to broadcast meetings. Councilor Howell asked for clarification of the contract with Highlands University.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that it was a yearly contract with Highlands University which stated that two meetings (Regular Mtg./Work Session) would be broadcast. She informed that she had just found out that if it was requested early enough and if they were be available at the time of Special meetings that they can make arrangements.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked what the cost would be for the additional broadcasting.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that there would be no cost for the additional broadcasting.

Discussion took place regarding the broadcasting contract and the broadcasting of meetings.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that if there was a need for a “last minute” meeting, they would follow the Resolution which requires a 72 hour notice and stated that the notice is posted on the City’s website, signs posted on the front door and PSAs are sent to all radio stations. She informed that Emergency meeting require a 24 hour notice.

Discussion took place regarding broadcasting all Council meetings was the wish of the Governing body.

Interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallegos advised that City Clerk would look into amending the MOU with Highlands University regarding the broadcasting of all council meetings.

Councilor Howell requested that all Council members receive a copy of the amended contract.

Interim City Manager Gallegos advised that the City’s I.T. staff was working towards bringing the broadcasting in-house, eliminating costs of having to contract with Highlands University.

Councilor Howell asked when the 3-minute speaking time during Public Input could be discussed.

City Clerk Fresquez advised that if that was the wishes of the Council, discussion would take place during the Organization Meeting.

Councilor Casey added that the Open Meetings Act did not address Public Input and stated that it would be nice to have more time for people to speak although in general, different governing bodies in the State allow Public Input and that it was not required but that it was the right thing to do.

Brief discussion took place regarding different issues of speaking during Public Input.

Councilor Romero questioned Police Department and Gas Department vehicles being parked on Lincoln Avenue near the old Optic building on Monday evening.

Interim Chief of Police Chris Lopez advised that the company “Strike Out” who was repairing city vehicles for hail damage was stationed at that location.

Councilor Romero asked if the repairs to City vehicles could have been repaired through the City.

Interim City Manager Gallegos informed that it was through the New Mexico Self Insurers Fund, and stated that they had taken inventory of all the vehicles needing repair and had contracted with 2 or 3 companies in town. She advised that the City was not the payee, and that they were taking care of the repair costs through the Self Insurers Fund, as well as the roofing projects and informed that they have been working nights and weekends.

Councilor Romero advised that Council should have been notified of the repairs that would take place.

Mayor-Gurulé-Girón stated that during Executive Session everyone was given notice on how the New Mexico Self Insurers Fund would handle that.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised that it was Senior Day at the Legislature and wanted to thank our Senators and Representatives for their continued support of Senior Citizens Services and informed that Senior Citizen Services had been cut dramatically in the state for our seniors. She advised that we needed to come together as a community to see how to provide services to help our seniors and encouraged everyone to go to their Senior Citizens Centers and have a meal and coffee, which would be helpful to them.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón thanked Senior Center Manager Wanda Salazar for an outstanding job and also thanked Directors for their hard work and commitment and the City was fortunate to have them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

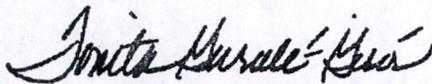
Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised that there was no need for Executive Session at this time.

ADJOURN

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

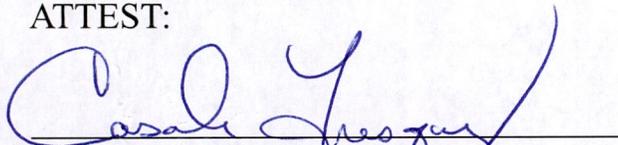
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes

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



Mayor Tonita Gurulé-Girón

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk