

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023 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
Danielle Sena, Deputy 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 to recognize those who do wonderful work for the City which includes the non-profit organizations, those who serve on committees and volunteer their time and efforts to make Las Vegas better. Mayor Trujillo also thanked all the City employees for all the work they do.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. 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

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

AnaMaria Armijo-Glenn spoke about the development of the MainStreet project through the corridor in the South Pacific area and looking at possible solutions to problems that may come up in that area. Ms. Armijo-Glenn advised she was curious about the future development through that corridor to revitalize the old Pecos Trail (Santa Fe Trail).

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Appointment of Teresa Salazar to the Library Board.

Sally Witters gave a brief introduction about Teresa Salazar.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the appointment of Teresa Salazar to the Library Board. Councilor Romero 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
Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

Police Chief Salazar recognized Beatrice Salazar, retiring after 24 years of service with the City of Las Vegas Police Department.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Romero asked City Manager Maestas what a City ordinance meant to him.

City Manager Maestas advised it's a law that needs to be abided by and enforced.

Councilor Romero advised it seems to him that people are picking and choosing what ordinances they should follow. Councilor Romero advised they have ordinances for a reason and they need to follow them. Councilor Romero discussed his concerns with the use of CES being overused, specifically to two vendors.

Councilor Casey advised she agreed with Councilor Romero with the use of CES because they charge too much. Councilor Casey voiced her concerns regarding the negative views towards the governing body and the City's administration due to the community not knowing what is going on. Councilor Casey advised they need to get a PIO hired so they could let the public know about what is going on in the City. Councilor Casey thanked Utilities Director Gilvarry for providing the list of projects on the utility bill. Councilor Casey advised providing information on social media could dispel a lot of misunderstanding and negativity.

Councilor Montoya discussed constituents calling regarding getting citations because they parked on the sidewalk. Councilor Montoya advised that's the law and that's why they have ordinances in place. Councilor Montoya asked for an update regarding the Independence Project.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they were waiting for the transition into the new fiscal year to create a new requisition and a new PO. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised there were three residents that needed to be tied into that main, and they cannot finish the paving until those residents are tied in.

Councilor Montoya asked when they anticipated it to be done.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised once they have the PO they will give the contractor a notice to proceed. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they would need to excavate along the curb to find them and relocate them.

Councilor Montoya requested for someone to analyze the intersection of Independence and South Pacific to see what could be done to improve the area for safety purposes to include lighting, crosswalks, sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Councilor Montoya asked where they were with the Project Manager position.

City Manager Maestas advised they were waiting for the new fiscal year budget, they started to advertise in June but he didn't know if they had any applicants at the moment.

Councilor Montoya asked who the Project Manager was for the Legion Drive project.

City Manager Maestas advised it was currently their staff, engineering service and an on-site observer.

Councilor Montoya voiced his concerns regarding an application that was submitted regarding the street closure on 8th Street and University up to 10th Street for an event. Councilor Montoya advised the permit was issued.

City Manager Maestas advised yes, he had looked at it and advised there were concerns regarding public safety through that corridor. City Manager Maestas advised AMR would still have access down Douglas to 12th Street and the street closure would be for a few hours for new students attending the University. City Manager Maestas advised he thought it would be a good collaboration between the City and New Mexico Highlands University. City Manager Maestas advised they would be placing jersey barriers so people can't drive through there. City Manager Maestas advised he made sure in the permit that they don't close University on the one-way so traffic could still flow through.

Councilor Montoya asked if there were other options to use University Avenue instead of using National.

City Manager Maestas advised that was the request of the University.

Councilor Montoya advised they also have Melody Park for such uses. Councilor Montoya advised it bothered him because they have policies, procedures, ordinances and laws and the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and AMR denied it. Councilor Montoya advised he didn't know who was above the law and his concerns are the safety of the public. Councilor Montoya advised he didn't think City Manager Maestas had the authority to overrule safety.

Councilor Ulibarri asked about the pumps at Rodriguez Park because the fields aren't being watered. Councilor Ulibarri asked if the contractors finished South Pacific Park.

City Manager Maestas advised the pumps had frozen and weren't usable, they went out for quotes but the fiscal year ended. City Manager Maestas advised they processed the requisition and two pumps have been ordered. City Manager Maestas advised there was a requisition for a swing set at South Pacific Park and they would be removing the old horseshoe pits.

Mayor Trujillo asked what the timeline was on the pumps and when they could expect them to be installed and working.

City Manager Maestas advised they would have to communicate with the vendor.

Mayor Trujillo asked for City Manager Maestas to put a rush on it and to get back with him after communicating with the vendor or to give him the number and he would call.

Councilor Romero asked if other parks are included in the pumps.

City Manager Maestas advised no, they had issues with the effluent water line.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they had a block on their main line that put the system down for a while and once they got it back online they had an issue with their search tank.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Salazar gave a detailed presentation regarding the statistics for the Month of June on the following:

- Field Operations Division (patrol) calls
- Street Crimes/Narcotics/Evidence
 - Search warrants conducted
- Evidence Seized/Investigations
- Training/Recruiting/Events
- Department vacancies (27)
- Code Compliance Overview

Councilor Romero asked Police Chief Salazar if he's received a call from any of them and given direction to bypass the compliance/enforcement process.

Police Chief Salazar advised no, and discussed the process they follow.

Discussion took place regarding the weeds at Sav-O-Mat and if it had been taken care of.

City Manager Maestas advised the weeds were cut and advised the City had gone through abatements on the property for a couple of years and there was a lien on the property and once it went to the courts the property owners paid the lien to suffice until the next season.

Councilor Montoya advised traffic has yet to slow down with construction on Legion and asked for Police to patrol the area.

Mayor Trujillo asked for Police to patrol Harris Pond due to activity in the area.

Police Chief Salazar advised they are scheduled to have a Community planning meeting to spend Cannabis funds.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Martinez reported on the month of June, the General fund revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$973,946), the Enterprise fund revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$219,072), the Recreation department revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$32,835), Lodger's Tax revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$329,638) and Cannabis revenues exceeded the expenditures resulting in a surplus of (\$98,960).

Mayor Trujillo asked if there was anything they needed to be made aware of.

Finance Director Martinez advised no, there was not.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. MainStreet de Las Vegas' FY 2022-23 Fourth Quarter Report.

MainStreet de Las Vegas President Tasha Martinez gave a lengthy discussion regarding an overview of what was done the past year such as the Great Blocks project in the Railroad District, Economic Development report, Community

Clean-Ups, City-wide mural project for districts 2 and 4, assisted with City-wide holiday events and Service Requests (beautification).

Councilor Casey asked if all the locations were picked for the murals and where the mural would be for district 4.

Ms. Martinez advised it would be behind the caboose on South Grand.

Cindy Collins gave a lengthy discussion regarding an overview of their participation in Small Business Saturday, Co-sponsored first Fridays and two community forums were conducted.

Councilor Romero discussed his concerns regarding the Ludi's building where a community forum was held and it not having an occupancy certificate. Councilor Romero asked about the MainStreet boundaries on South Pacific.

Ms. Collins advised if approved the boundaries would be from the Plaza Park to Ludi's because they are already too long of a MainStreet district.

Councilor Romero asked if he could meet with them to see about extending the boundaries because there are businesses there.

Ms. Collins continued her presentation regarding Wayfinding signage installed, Governor Lujan Grisham awarding an additional \$1.2 million to finish the Great Blocks project, Recovery month event, Community Garden events and Hosting a Housing Summit.

Mayor Trujillo asked if the bigger entities would be invited to the Housing Summit such as NMHU, NMBHI and those struggling to keep professionals in town.

Ms. Martinez and Ms. Collins advised yes.

Mayor Trujillo thanked MainStreet de Las Vegas for all the work they do for the community.

Councilor Romero discussed feeling like his suggestions for the mural in his district were ignored and moving forward he would like better communication between them.

Councilor Montoya advised he was pleased with the openness they've had the last three months when he discussed not liking the location at Alta Vista Hospital and the previous design of the mural being unacceptable. Councilor Montoya asked where they were with the Great Blocks project.

City Manager Maestas advised they got the award a month and a half ago, and the task order was given to the engineer. City Manager Maestas advised there were some preliminary drawings done for the RailRoad phase and once stamped they could go out for RFB.

Councilor Montoya advised he would like for the Mayor and Council to see the plans at 40% to see what's involved and to make sure they stay within budget. Councilor Montoya asked that MainStreet try to address the drainage issue on 12th Street.

Councilor Romero advised he had been working with Public Works Director Lopez to address that issue on 12th Street.

Mayor Trujillo advised he would like to see hundreds of murals in the town and thanked Susie Tsyitee for her help with getting a grant.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve MainStreet de Las Vegas Fourth Quarter Report. Councilor Ulibarri 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
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

2. Request approval of Request for Proposal (RFP) #2023-24 for the Water Treatment Plant System Planning, Design, and Construction Phase

Engineering Services to HDR, Bohannon Huston, & Molzen-Corbin & Associates.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Request for Proposal (RFP) #2023-24 for the Water Treatment Plant System Planning, Design, and Construction Phase Engineering Services to HDR, Bohannon Huston, & Molzen-Corbin & Associates. Councilor Montoya 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

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

3. Discussion/Direction regarding Questions to be placed on the Ballot for the upcoming Regular Local Election.

Mayor Trujillo advised he had an amendment to the Charter to ask the public for the office of the Mayor to be a paid full time position.

Councilor Romero discussed Section 5.01 (C), pertaining to the City Manager being certified by the International City Managers Association and advised it is difficult to find City Managers with their ICMA. Councilor Romero advised the public should decide if they would want to remove it or not. Councilor Romero advised there were about three committees that pertain to residency in the City and each ward but they've had issues where they can't find someone willing to participate in those committees. Councilor Romero advised he would like to have the public decide if it should be within San Miguel County. Councilor Romero advised the language for the City Attorney states residency in San Miguel County. Councilor Romero advised should they go out for an RFP, should the firm also need to be a resident of San Miguel County.

Councilor Montoya stated he would be in support of all the recommendations but not for allowing San Miguel County Citizens to be on committees. Councilor

Montoya stated they would leave it up to the voters. Councilor Montoya advised his recommendation would be Section 6.07 (A)(B) Campaign and Ethics Board to be removed. Councilor Montoya advised there hasn't been a governing body that has used it and felt it wasn't necessary to be in the Charter.

Mayor Trujillo asked for the recommendations to be given to City Clerk Fresquez and then brought back for approval at another meeting.

Councilor Montoya advised he asked City Manager Maestas to check with the attorneys regarding his item to see if they would be in compliance if they removed it.

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the questions would be placed in a resolution, an attorney would review it, the resolution would be brought back to Council for approval and then the resolution would be sent to the County Clerk.

Councilor Romero advised the question for a full time Mayor could be vague and for the election in 2025 a question regarding the salary could be placed once they find out if the public would want a full time Mayor.

Discussion took place regarding if there needed to be a Charter Commission, Councilor Romero advised after the last election the Governing Body shall be responsible for modifying the City Charter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

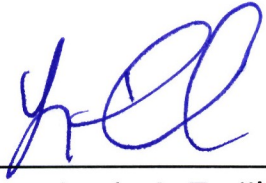
There was no need for an executive session.

ADJOURN

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

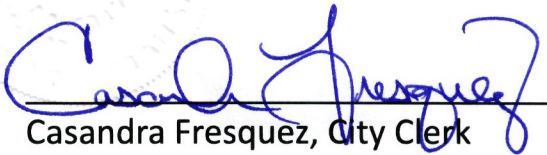
Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk