

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 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  
Danielle Sena, Deputy City Clerk  
Caleb Marquez, 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 thanked all City employees for their hard work and was impressed with the beauty around town, all the lights and the Christmas trees looked beautiful. Mayor Trujillo advised the parade was wonderful and asked to take a moment to ask for blessings upon everyone who is working so hard to make this holiday season special.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input

Councilor Romero advised the meeting was not streaming on YouTube and asked if it was being recorded.

City Manager Maestas advised the audio was being recorded and would try to upload the video at a later time.

Mayor Trujillo asked if it was recording.

IT Manager Roybal advised yes, it was recording.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **1. Discussion/Direction on the following items:**

#### **a. 2023 Capital Outlay Request - Application is due on January 12, 2023**

Consultant Robert Archuleta discussed the new process for submitting projects to the Legislature. Mr. Archuleta advised he would have to contact DFA if there are new projects that need to be added to the ICIP.

Councilor Casey voiced her concerns regarding individual community members in the past making legislative requests without letting the City know and asked how they could ensure that doesn't happen.

Mr. Archuleta recommended conveying that information to the legislators and passing an ordinance that states all Capital Outlay requests go through the governing body prior to being submitted.

Mayor Trujillo voiced his concerns regarding some projects listed on the ICIP being secondary to him compared to the major issues they are facing with the water and water projects. Mayor Trujillo voiced his concerns regarding certain projects be put aside until they have funding plans for some of the water projects.

Councilor Romero advised they need to pick some items from the ICIP list to seek funding for them. Councilor Romero advised legislators told him not to leave out projects that we may need just because of the water infrastructure.

Councilor Casey advised a priority for the City is to build it back up, the City Museum and Courthouse are public buildings that people see, the Carnegie Library is the last Carnegie Library in the state and it must be preserved and is in need of an elevator, and the Old City Hall is one of the first things people see when coming into town.

Mayor Trujillo asked what type of action they needed from council regarding this item.

Councilor Montoya advised he had received an email from staff advising they had until January 12, 2023 to submit a priority list of requests they may have for this year's legislative session. Councilor Montoya advised last year Mayor and Council prioritized what projects they would submit. Councilor Montoya advised they picked the top 4 projects that required a lot of funding and they didn't get any funding. Councilor Montoya discussed some projects that have been funded.

Mayor Trujillo advised last year legislators were interested in funding projects that were close to completion and that's why the dollar amounts were big.

Discussion took place regarding separating what is a need for the City from what is a want for the City, such as the water and wastewater infrastructure, an elevator at the library and street improvements that are drastically needed, how the



language should be written when submitting requests for funding and what projects to prioritize to submit for funding.

City Manager Maestas asked Mr. Archuleta if they could go into the ICIP portal and update projects until they are general enough to encompass different types of projects.

Mr. Archuleta advised yes, as long as they request from DFA that that's what they want to do.

Councilor Montoya discussed his concerns with the Old City Hall and the need to secure the building.

Mayor Trujillo asked what the council's recommendations were.

City Manager Maestas recommended that they come up with 5 general topics.

Discussion took place regarding how much money has been used towards the Old City Hall building and how much it would cost to renovate that building.

Councilor Casey advised as a former Legislator, requests for Capital Outlay projects should not be vague as to what the monies will be used for, or else they won't receive any funding. Councilor Casey advised they need to be specific on requests for Capital Outlay projects. Councilor Casey advised the State would be receiving more revenue than they have in the past, if they are judicious in how they select what they need and items dealing with water could be used with ARPA funds.

Councilor Ulibarri voiced his concerns regarding the roads in his ward on west Valencia St., and Douglas Avenue and also his concerns regarding the Carnegie Library, the Museum and the Courthouse.

Public Works Director Lopez discussed the process when applying for funding through the NMDOT Transportation Project Fund for road improvements/projects.



Councilor Romero advised that Secretary Keyes stated that the Film Museum and Film Studio needed to be on the ICIP for the possibility of funding coming through economic development.

Mr. Archuleta advised the Film Production Studio was added to the ICIP and the Museum could be added.

Councilor Casey advised the language provided by either Legislative Council Services or DFA, #13 on pg. 6 states, Brief project description (legislative language), Please provide a brief description that broadly describes the intent of your capital project, for example, "to renovate a gymnasium in the Holiday community center in Taos in Taos county", in other words you can't just say to renovate a gym in Taos county, you have to say where it's going to be located "to design and construct a fire station in Albuquerque in Bernalillo county" or "to purchase and equip vehicles for the sheriff's department in Luna county"so you can't say to purchase vehicles for public safety or law enforcement, it has to more specific than that. Councilor Casey advised the language states, your project description should end with the project location, so if you're requesting money for streets you can't just say for streets in Las Vegas, at least state the specific area in town. Councilor Casey advised they need to be careful on how they ask for money and they need to follow the instructions they were given.

Discussion took place regarding projects that should remain on the ICIP that may need additional funding for additional needs in the future until fully completed.

Mayor Trujillo advised for the sake of time if they could move on to the next items on the agenda and then come back to the item on Capital Outlay requests.

b. Allocation of Opioid funding in the amount of \$37,166.57

Mayor Trujillo voiced his recommendation for the allocation of opioid funding in the amount of \$37,166.57 going towards the inpatient treatment facility. Mayor Trujillo advised the allocation of Municipal Court fees is already designated in the ordinance.

Councilor Casey agreed with Mayor Trujillo and advised item e. was already an ordinance and did not require any action, the opioid funding in the amount of \$37,166.57 isn't a lot of money and could go towards the renovations of the building as well as the cannabis funding right now.

Mayor Trujillo advised the allocation of cannabis funding would always be revolving and the future monies from cannabis would be decided later on.

City Manager Maestas advised item 1b., by the middle of December there will be about \$200,000 in the opioid account and after speaking with Mr. Mackmath from the Attorney General's Office the City will continue to receive around \$35,000 a year for the next 17 years, there is another settlement in the works.

Mayor Trujillo advised the current amounts today that were listed on the agenda is what they will decide on today and bring these items back to discuss the future funding.

Councilor Montoya advised with the amount of \$200,000, he hoped to set aside \$20,000-\$30,000 for the Police department to bring awareness and drug prevention, Public Safety and education to the youth in the community. Councilor Montoya advised he supports the treatment facility but they need to catch the problem before it starts. Councilor Montoya advised this could help supply the Police department to have funding for materials to teach the youth. Councilor Montoya advised the cannabis funding coming in could be used on various things such as an increase or a bonus for new Police officers.

Discussion took place regarding the Municipal Court fees.

Mayor Trujillo advised the amounts listed on the agenda is what needed to be decided on and any future monies will be brought back to council to decide what to use it on.

Discussion took place regarding the opioid funding amount that's been received.

Mayor Trujillo agreed with Councilor Montoya regarding funding going towards training, community outreach and possibly even drug enforcement.



Councilor Romero asked Fire Chief Spann if they respond to overdose calls as well.

Fire Chief Spann advised yes they do.

Councilor Romero advised the Fire department should also be involved in the funding since they respond to overdose calls.

City Manager Maestas discussed the list of things the opioid funding could be used on.

Mayor Trujillo asked if there was a consensus for the amounts of \$37,166.57 and \$44,772 going towards the treatment facility.

Councilor Montoya advised he was going to stick to his request and invest in the community.

Councilor Casey voiced her opinion with the opioid funding in the amount of \$37,166.57 going towards the treatment facility now since there would be \$200,000 by the middle of December in the opioid funding and \$170,000 can go towards the Police and Fire departments. Councilor Casey advised they could show their support of the treatment facility by using \$37,166.57 towards it.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to use the opioid funding in the amount of \$37,166.57 towards the Police and Fire departments to be utilized for drug awareness programs, drug prevention, public safety, and judicial education for the youth. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Councilor Casey voiced her concerns regarding \$37,166.57 not being enough to purchase materials used for training.

Councilor Romero advised it could be a joint campaign between both departments.

Councilor Romero asked Mayor Trujillo to call for the question.

Mayor Trujillo advised there was a motion and a second. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:



David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	No
David G. Romero	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

c. Allocation of Cannabis funding in the amount of \$44,772 (as of November 2022)

Councilor Casey made a motion to allocate the cannabis funding in the amount of \$44,772 towards the Police and Fire departments to also be utilized for drug awareness programs, drug prevention, public safety, and judicial education for the youth. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo advised there was a motion and a second. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo asked that items 1b and 1c return in January to talk about the direction of future funding.

d. Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the amount of \$1,595,027.

Councilor Casey made a motion to allocate the total amount of \$1,595,027 to improve infrastructure for water and sewer. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Councilor Romero asked who would make the determination on what needs to be done.

Councilor Casey advised the Utilities department, and advised there are water leaks all over town and pipes that break in the winter.

Utilities Director Gilvarry advised between water and wastewater they have 7 priority projects and with \$1.5 million she could at least do 3 water lines and 3 sewer lines. Utilities Director Gilvarry asked if any of the money could be used for PERs (Preliminary Engineering Reports) that are required prior to doing large projects like the Water Treatment Plant replacement.

Discussion took place regarding legislative funding for PERs, the use of the \$1.5 on 3 projects for water and 3 projects for wastewater lines and generators at WasteWater Treatment Plant.

Councilor Casey advised if it can't be used then she rescinded her motion.

Councilor Montoya asked for Mayor and Council to bear with him and stated, “#1. We have 225 city employees (directors included) and we presently have 56 vacant positions, someone is carrying that load. Our employees have gone way beyond the call of duty these last couple of years and it hasn't gone unnoticed. These past years have been very stressful and challenging for our employees as well as their families. We had some employees or their families that were in or around the mix of the fire, 99% of employees stuck it out with us and really faced the challenges before them. As we all have seen and experienced this last year, it takes good leadership, and a team effort to get things done. In confronting the challenges before us, Covid, curfew, working from home in some cases, water restrictions, the fires and water situations, I strongly believe that as per the direction of this Mayor and Council, our Staff and employees and other partnerships throughout the state and the City made the right decisions at the right time in saving Las Vegas and its future. Not to say that we're not going to have other challenges ahead of us, believe it or not we are survivors. Now, I sit here time and again and I hear that we have great leadership and great employees and now this is our second opportunity to reward them with yet another one time \$1,000 premium pay for all full time city employees, probationary employees to receive \$500 now and \$500 at the completion of their temporary period whether it's (6 mo.) or Fire (1 yr. ), we would also include \$500 premium pay for any part time employees (8), those employed after today would not benefit from this. #2. As we all know our staff has asked for millions of dollars in reimbursements from FEMA and the State.



One request was for reimbursement of overtime that took an impact to our budget, with that said, our essential employees like our City Manager, Utilities Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief and the Public Works Director did not qualify for that overtime, knowing that these individuals worked long and endless hours as part of their titles that they hold, making tough decisions during critical moments, and continuing to do so. These individuals have saved the city thousands of dollars if not millions. Therefore, I recommend they receive a one time premium pay in gratitude for their dedication and sacrifices during these challenging times, when we hired them we never knew we would be faced with these challenges and that wasn't part of their compensation either, for that I am requesting that the City Manager receive a \$4,000 premium pay, Utilities Director \$4,000 premium pay, Police Chief \$2,000 premium pay, Fire Chief \$2,000 premium pay and Public Facilities Director \$2,000 premium pay. We are getting 1,595,027 from ARPA, last year we were able to assist employees with \$232,000 around this time. This time I'm asking that we assist our employees because this isn't going to come next year or the years after. The amount would be \$229,000 minus another \$14,000 for staff and that still leaves \$1,352,027 for infrastructural projects. I understand where you're coming from Mrs. Casey on the infrastructure badly in need but that is something that will never end and there are other sources of funding for that. In closing this is my recommendation and mine only, I will take whatever heat I have to from anyone. I just strongly believe that we have to take care of our employees and ought to reward them. Lastly I would say that this request excludes any elected official positions from receiving any of this funding and I stand for any questions Mr. Mayor".

Mayor Trujillo asked if that was a motion.

Councilor Montoya advised there was previously a motion and a second on the floor so they would need to rescind their previous motion.

Councilor Casey advised she had already rescinded her previous motion.



Councilor Montoya advised if there was no discussion he would make that recommendation and would like that verbatim for the minutes. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Discussion took place regarding what the motion was about due to Councilor Romero stepping out.

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

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

Councilor Casey made a motion for the remainder of the \$1,595,027 after all employees mentioned to receive the premium pay be used for water and wastewater projects at the discretion of City Manager Maestas and Utilities Director Gilvarry. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo thanked Councilor Montoya for working on his request and wished a Merry Christmas to all the hard working employees of the City of Las Vegas who deserve everything and more.

Councilor Montoya thanked the Mayor and Council for their leadership during the challenging times.

- e. Allocation of Municipal Court fees in the General Fund in the amount of \$42,191 as per Ordinance 21-10

Discussion took place regarding the ordinance stating the \$20 fee going to the General Fund, the \$15 fee going to Public Safety and the \$5 fee going to the

Municipal Court Building and the need to create separate line items for purchase order purposes.

a. 2023 Capital Outlay Request - Application is due on January 12, 2023

Councilor Montoya asked if it would be simpler for Mayor and Council to submit a list of 4 big projects and 4 small projects to City Manager Maestas.

Mayor Trujillo advised the PERs should be on the ICIP.

Utilities Director Gilvarry discussed not having enough in her budget for the PERs but is seeking funding through Clean Water SRF, Hazard Mitigation and other routes to get funding.

Mayor Trujillo advised Council to get their lists to Mr. Archuleta by Friday.

Councilor Romero advised his priorities would be roads and road equipment.

City Manager Maestas suggested their lists consisting of 1 large project and 2 small projects.

Mayor Trujillo recommended for next year these items be discussed in October and November. Mayor Trujillo asked to update the council at the next meeting during the Mayors portion of the agenda.

Councilor Romero made a motion for Council to submit 1 large project and 4 smaller projects to Mr. Archuleta and City Manager Maestas . 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
David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

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

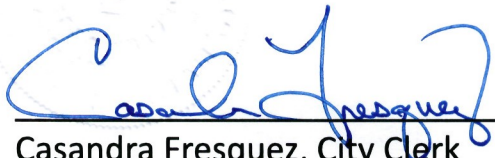
Deputy City Clerk Sena advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Louie A. Trujillo', written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Casandra Fresquez', written over a horizontal line.

Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk