MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: David G. Romero
Barbara Casey
Michael L. Montoya *Absent*
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 wished Councilor Casey a Happy Birthday, and asked for a special prayer for Congress, Senators and Representatives that they pass the bill for funding $141 million for our water projects. Mayor Trujillo asked for guidance that they continue to make decisions based on the needs of their people.

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:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Appointment of Ms. Monica Vigil to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Appointment of Mr. Isaiah Ortiz to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Appointment of Ms. Shannon Doss to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Monica Vigil, Mr. Isaiah Ortiz and Ms. Shannon Doss to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. 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		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo asked City Manager Maestas to have Loretta provide which ward the members fall under and to ensure each ward is represented equally.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Casey advised she received several phone calls regarding the ambulance service not providing some services that people need. Councilor Casey thanked

Fire Chief Spann for taking over some of the ambulance services and for all the training at the fire department.

Mayor Trujillo advised the contract is being negotiated and issues are being addressed in the contract.

Councilor Romero asked about work not being done at El Creston Park and asked for City Manager Maestas to send a letter to those constituents about what is going on.

City Manager Maestas advised he will send the constituents a letter regarding the scheduling and will address it.

Mayor Trujillo asked if there was anything else contributing to the delay other than finding a contractor.

City Manager Maestas advised the weather has been an issue.

Councilor Ulibarri thanked all the staff, directors and City Manager for all their hard work and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Maestas gave a report on the following:

- Welcomed new employees to the City of Las Vegas
- Grant awardments for different projects
- City Holiday events
- Speed enforcement trap on Williams Drive
- Video surveillance camera trailered to use in different areas
- ICIP projects entered into the portal
- Ice skating rink set up

Mayor Trujillo thanked City Manager Maestas for all his hard work.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

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

- Field Operations Division (patrol) calls
    - Community Events
        - Battle of the Badges
        - Santa in the Park/Tree lighting & Electric light parade
- Code Enforcement calls
- Animal Care Center stats
- Communications Division calls
- Information Division (records)
- Street Crimes/Narcotics Division
    - Evidence Seized
    - Meetings and trainings
        - District Court
        - Magistrate Court
        - Safe House interviews
        - MDT meetings
        - LEADS meeting
- Training/Travel
- Recruiting/Hiring/Promotions
- Department vacancies (23)

Councilor Ulibarri advised he wants to see how many speeding citations were issued on next month's Police Chiefs Report and asked when the speed trap would go live.

Police Chief Salazar advised they hope to have it go live before New Years.

Councilor Casey asked if the speed traps are calibrated.

Police Chief Salazar advised they are calibrated.

FINANCE REPORT

Interim Finance Director Chavez reported on the month of November, the General fund revenues were at ($5,390,945), expenditures ($5,117,795), with a surplus of $273151, the Enterprise fund revenues were at ($6,410,785), expenditures were at ($6,176,079), with a surplus of $233,906, the Recreation department revenues were at ($220,463), expenditures were at (173,101), with a surplus of $47,327362

and Lodger's Tax revenues were at ($352,268), expenditures were at ($201,022), with a surplus of $151,246.

Mayor Trujillo asked if there was anything in the report that they needed to be aware of.

PRESENTATIONS

Chad Brown gave a presentation on creating a Phoenix to commemorate the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfire. Mr. Brown advised the Phoenix would represent strength and rising back up after the fire. Mr. Brown advised he would like to have it completed by August. Mr. Brown advised it would temporarily be housed at the Plaza Park and then moved to a permanent spot somewhere else.

Discussion took place regarding which parts of the Phoenix would be wood and metal and if it would withstand people touching it or the weather affecting it, the possibility of moving it to the Riverwalk, the Safeway parking lot, or El Creston Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from December 8, 2022, with minor corrections. 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
David Ulibarri	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval of Easement Agreement between the City of Las Vegas and the Estate of Rosalia V. Crespin, real property commonly known as 1022 Tilden Street.

City Manager Maestas advised in September of last year council approved an encroachment agreement on the same property, the agreement was submitted to the title company but it was not sufficient enough for the transaction of the property. City Manager Maestas advised they asked that it be changed to an easement agreement.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the Easement Agreement between the City of Las Vegas and the Estate of Rosalia V. Crespin, real property commonly known as 1022 Tilden Street. 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
David G. Romero	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Request approval to appoint Tasha Rae Martinez as the Finance Director.

City Manager Maestas advised Ms. Martinez has over 11 years of local government Finance experience at the County level and is familiar with the Tyler system.

Councilor Romero asked for City Manager Maestas to go through the hiring process and his recommendation.

City Manager Maestas advised they conducted interviews and the interviewing panel consisted of 3 directors which included Deputy City Manager Gonzales and there was one other applicant but they retracted their application.

Councilor Romero asked if there was anyone from Finance on the interviewing panel.

City Manager Maestas advised there was not anyone on the interview panel from the Finance Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Romero made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing limited personnel matters pertaining to the hiring of Tasha Rae Martinez as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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 and only those matters were discussed and no action was taken. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the appointment of Tasha Rae Martinez as the Finance Director. Councilor Ulibarri and Councilor Romero both seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David Ulibarri	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

3. Discussion/Consideration of the Samaritan House contract.

City Clerk Fresquez read Councilor Montoya's input as follows;

"Hello Mayor and Councilors, if there is a motion to give funding to the Samaritan House, I would ask that you consider making sure that the funding is specifically toward direct services, there also needs to be accountability within the contract that makes sure that the citizens of Las Vegas are safe as well as the clientele that utilize the Samaritan House. This is why we have asked for video cameras in public spaces and visits from Public Safety officers as well as the Fire department to ensure that our homeless population also have safeguards in place to protect them. I also ask that the contract considers a financial report to the City Manager

on a monthly basis. I thank you for your consideration, respectfully, Councilor Michael Montoya".

Mayor Trujillo asked if the contract was reviewed by legal Counsel.

City Manager Maestas advised yes.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the Samaritan House contract. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Councilor Romero asked what the changes were that the attorney made.

City Manager Maestas advised one of the changes the attorney recommended was taking a city official off the Samaritan House board.

Councilor Romero advised during one of the meetings, he asked that their concerns be mentioned in the contract and they weren't added. Councilor Romero voiced his concerns with the language in item D and advised there was no language in the contract that protects his constituents. Councilor Romero advised he suggested other language to be included that were not taken into consideration and he does not support that because his constituents weren't taken into consideration in the contract.

Councilor Casey voiced her opinion as to how she reads item D in the contract, which was the Samaritan House stating via zoom what they are doing to combat addiction and work with the clients at Samaritan House to get the help that they need.

Pastor Saiz advised their attempting to be transparent with the community.

Councilor Romero asked if Police Chief Salazar had looked at the contract since he deals with Public Safety.

Police Chief Salazar stated he was currently looking at the contract but hadn't reviewed it prior to the meeting.

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

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	No		

Councilor Romero advised he did not vote against the item because he doesn't care for the homeless, it's because the concerns from his constituents weren't addressed in the contract and feels that they were disrespected.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

4. Request approval of Resolution 22-59, budget adjustment for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-59. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Resolution 22-59 was presented as follows:

CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO
Resolution No. 22-59

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Las Vegas has developed a budget adjustment request for fiscal year 2022-23; and

WHEREAS, said budget was developed on basis of increases in revenue, expenditure and transfer (in) out through cooperation with all user departments, elected officials and other department supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas is in need of making a budget adjustment in the 2022-23 fiscal year budget to include a revenue/expense increase to Fund 104 Airport Operations in the amount of $300,000, a revenue/expense increase to Fund 214 Street Co-op/Projects in the amount of $66,667, a revenue/expense increase to Fund 287 Abatement Opioid in the amount of $200,659, a revenue/expense increase to Fund 217 Special Legislative Appr. in the amount of $150,000, a revenue/expense increase to Fund 203 State Fire/Grant in the amount of $245,000.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body finds the budget adjustment request should be as it meets the requirements as currently determined for fiscal year 2022-23; 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 budget adjustment request and respectfully requests approval from the Local Governing Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED this day _____ of December 2022.

_____

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

_____

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		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

5. Discussion/Direction on Public Input for City Council Meetings.

Mayor Trujillo advised when the pandemic started and the chambers were closed to the public, people were not attending the meeting so they made an effort to entertain public input by allowing people to submit public input electronically. Mayor Trujillo advised it was strictly as a covid measure and since they have opened the chambers for public meetings, they invite people to come participate in public input.

Councilor Casey voiced her concerns with disenfranchising the citizenry, if people are not able to attend a meeting because of illness or lack of transportation or whatever reason they may have. Councilor Casey advised she didn't think they should hold them to having to be there only in person. Councilor Casey advised that is a disservice to the community and knows there were concerns with the emails they were receiving and not knowing who they were. Councilor Casey advised the emails received should have a full name, address and phone number included to verify that they submitted that email for public input.

Councilor Romero disagreed with Councilor Casey and advised with today's technology he can create a phone number and an email. Councilor Romero advised that the public can email the council and they could bring up their concerns during their councilor's report. Councilor Romero advised people like to hide behind emails and public input should be the way it was prior to covid.

Councilor Casey advised they need to let the public know about the Rules of Decorum, and are not allowed to demean, disparage, embarrass or pin point anyone who works for the City. Councilor Casey advised she would like to be able to accept both public comments in person and via email.

Discussion took place regarding what should and shouldn't be read during public input via email.

City Clerk Fresquez advised in the Rules of Decorum it states that only items on the agenda can be discussed and those are the only ones she reads into the record.

Mayor Trujillo asked that this be sent to legal counsel for direction.

Councilor Romero advised they are running a thin line on restricting what can or cannot be said so it's best to just accept the public input via email like they had been.

Mayor Trujillo advised for now to continue to receive public comments via email and also let the public know which ones will be omitted, along with a name, address and phone number until they hear back from legal counsel.

ADJOURN

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk