

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MAYOR:** Tonita Gurule-Giroń

**COUNCILORS:** Barbara A. Casey  
Vincent Howell  
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.  
David L. Romero – Absent

**ALSO PRESENT:** Richard Trujillo – City Manager  
Casandra Fresquez – City Clerk  
H. Chico Gallegos – City Attorney  
Juan Montano – Sergeant At Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Gurule-Giroń called the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Councilor Howell prayed for guidance, for the understanding of the budgets, to be successful in what Council would be voting on and asked our Lord to help the people who have been affected by terrorism, to be close to those families and to guide the nation to the best of our abilities.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń stated for the record, that she was informed by Councilman Romero, that he would not be attending the meeting due to being out of town.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

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

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Bob Wessely spoke briefly on several reasons why he thought that this administration was less transparent than the previous administration. Mr. Wessely added that transparency was an ongoing proactive process of informing Council and the general public of significant City activities and decisions. Mr. Wessely made the suggestion to the Governing Body to issue an open directive to the City Manager and staff, explaining what behaviors constitute transparency.

Mayor Gurule-Giroñ addressed Mr. Wessely and stated that normally responses were not made regarding Public Input although due to the allegations of no transparency she stated that she disagreed with him. Mayor Gurule-Giroñ added that in being a Councilor for the last six years with the previous administration, found less transparency, less open government and lack of communication with Council and felt it was disrespectful of him to accuse this administration of hiding information although thanked Mr. Wessely for his input.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Approval/Disapproval of Resolution #16-24 to adopt the final Budget Adjustment Request for submission to DFA Local Government Division.

Finance Director Ann Marie Gallegos advised that the City of Las Vegas is in need of increasing or decreasing the FY 2016 budgeted revenues and/or expenditures, transfers in or out within various funds.

Finance Director Gallegos publicly apologized to Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. for an error inadvertently made on her part regarding staff updates on the budget and advised that she would have it corrected prior to submission, with permission from Mayor and Council.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that this would be the last B.A.R. submitted to DFA to close out the FY 2016 and added that she was requesting increase of revenues of \$14,940.00, in/out transfers from General Fund to Region IV, and advised that she was requesting \$92,301.00 for expenditures that included the reader board principle, paid with Lodger's Tax.

Councilor Casey asked for clarification of the balance owed on the reader board and what fund it would come out of.

Finance Director Gallegos explained that the amount was around \$11,000.00 and it would continue to come from Lodger's Tax fund.

Councilor Howell asked if the \$11,000.00 owed on the reader board was an annual debt.

Finance Director Gallegos informed that the total amount was \$112,045.00 and that it was an annual debt payment of approximately \$11,174.00. Finance Director Gallegos advised that \$36,037.000 had been paid as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and the balance would be around \$24,000.00 for another 3 years.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń wanted to update Council on being misinformed by the previous Community Development Director and the previous administration about the reader board costing only \$25,000.00 and stated that they later came back with a new proposal of the debt of \$112,000.00 and felt that they were not being as transparent as the current administration is.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Resolution #16-24 to adopt the final Budget Adjustment Request for submission to DFA Local Government Division. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion.

Resolution #16-24 was presented as follows:

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
MUNICIPALITY OF CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
RESOLUTION 16-24  
FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016  
BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST

**WHEREAS**, The Governing Body in and for the Municipality of Las Vegas, State of New Mexico has developed a final budget adjustment request for fiscal year 2015- 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, said budget adjustment request was developed on the basis of need and through cooperation with all user departments, elected officials and other department supervisors, please see attached schedule; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Las Vegas is in need of making final adjustments in the 2015- 2016 fiscal year budget;

**WHEREAS**, it is the majority opinion of this governing body that the final budget adjustment request is approved and meets the requirements as currently determined for fiscal year 2015- 2016;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Municipality of the City of Las Vegas, State of New Mexico hereby approves the budget adjustment request herein above described and respectfully requests approval from the Local Governing Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

RESOLVED: In session this 25th day of July 2016.

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Tonita Gurule-Giron, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

REVIEWED AND APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY ONLY:

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H. Chico Gallegos, City Attorney

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

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

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

2. Approval/Disapproval of Resolution #16-25 to adopt the Final 2015-2016 DFA Financial Report for submission to DFA Local Government Division.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that the City of Las Vegas is required to approve and submit the Final 2015-2016 DFA Financial Report no later than July 31, 2016 and informed that all reconciliations had been completed and that expenditures, accruals and transfers were finalized.

Councilor Casey stated it was very beneficial to have reserves and cash balances instead of being in the negative.

Councilor Howell asked City Manager Trujillo if he felt that the budget that would be submitted, would meet the goals that have been set for this fiscal year and asked if salary increases had been stopped.

City Manager Trujillo advised that he thought the budget would meet the goals set and added that he has asked Directors to monitor their department budgets and to make sure expenditures were greatly needed, due to a tighter budget. City Manager Trujillo explained that several employees needed to be replaced and advised he was monitoring departments in order to make changes if needed to benefit the departments.

Councilor Howell had a concern pertaining to Public Works Department having enough funding to take care of issues in the community.

City Manager Trujillo advised that they were monitoring the budgets in the Public Works Department and that extra funding would be required for drainage projects that were needed although thought the department would maintain with what they had.

Discussion took place on several issues regarding budget cuts, Hold Harmless Tax and several ways of benefiting the Gross Receipts Tax.

Mayor Gurule-Giroñ wanted to recognize City Manager Trujillo and Directors for recognizing certain critical positions at the City which were held by individuals

who did not meet the credentials and could have adversely impacted the health and safety of City employees and the community as well.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Resolution #16-25 to adopt the Final 2015-2016 DFA Financial Report for submission to DFA Local Government Division. Councilor Howell seconded the motion.

Resolution #16-25 was presented as follows:

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
MUNICIPALITY OF CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
RESOLUTION #16-25

**WHEREAS**, The Governing Body in and for the Municipality of Las Vegas, State of New Mexico has developed a budget for fiscal year 2015-2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the final quarterly report has been reviewed and approved to ensure the accuracy of the beginning balances used on the FY 2016-2017 budget; 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 2015-2016.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the governing body of the City of Las Vegas, State of New Mexico hereby approves the final quarterly report for FY 2015-2016 hereinafter described as Attachment and respectfully requests approval from the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

**Resolved:** In the Special Council Meeting this 25th day of July, 2016.

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Tonita Gurule-Giron, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

REVIEWED AND APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY ONLY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
H. Chico Gallegos, City Attorney

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

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

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

3. Approval/Disapproval of Resolution #16-26 to adopt the Final FY 2016-2017 Budget for submission to DFA Local Government Division.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that the City of Las Vegas is required to develop, approve and adopt a Final Budget for submission to DFA Local Government by July 31, 2016.

Finance Director Gallegos gave a brief overview regarding the final budget explaining that staff changes had been updated and discussed ending cash balances which were set aside for loans. Finance Director Gallegos informed that there was a slight increase in Capital Projects Fund preparing for the Recreation Center Rehabilitation Project and added that General Funds carried over Capital Project funds from projects that were not completed last year but hopefully would be completed this year. Finance Director Gallegos advised that they had met DFA reserve requirements and was comfortable submitting the Final 2016-2017 budget.

Discussion took place regarding DFA allowing submitting the listing of cash balances on the budget.

Councilor Casey asked how the 12 million dollars for the Storrie Lake Storage would affect the City's bonding capacity.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that it would not affect the City's bonding capacity due to it being a loan and would be recognized as a bond payment through the water fund.

Councilor Casey had concerns about the City's department vacancies and asked how many would be filled and advised that she felt that positions at the Police Department, City Attorney Paralegal and Public Information Officer were critical and should be filled.

City Manager Trujillo informed that City Attorney's Paralegal was starting that day, also that the Public Information Officer's position closed that day; and Police Department had recently filled three positions with individuals from the Sherriff's Department. City Manager Trujillo advised that he had been working with Utilities Department, Public Works Department and Community Development on getting several positions filled there as well.

Councilor Casey had concerns regarding the City having to pay for the costs of the Pecos Senior Center and felt that the County should be paying for the center because it was not located in Las Vegas.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń advised that the Pecos Senior Center went through the process of operating independently in San Miguel County. Mayor Gurule-Giroń stated that it was authorized through the State Statute for the Pecos Senior Center to be picked up fiscally by the County or by the Municipality and advised that the County was not in support of doing that therefore the City of Las Vegas took over the project.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń asked what the City's bonding capacity level was in regards to the 12 million dollars for the Storrie Lake Storage Project.

Finance Director Gallegos informed that the City's total assessed value was at four (4%) percent and clarified that it would be a loan agreement through New Mexico Finance Authority and that the payment would be \$800,000.00 a year.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń suggested to City Manager Trujillo to give Finance Director Gallegos directive to complete a breakdown of how the loan for the Storrie Lake Project would impact the City.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that she would complete a report of the information requested from Mayor Gurule-Giroń.

Mayor Gurule-Giroń asked for the amount of the 1/12th percent requirement.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that the 1/12th percent requirement was in the amount of \$1,013, 069.00 in the General Fund with the cash balance of \$16,168.00.

Councilor Casey stated that the Waste Water replacement fund had \$199,928.00 for maintenance of the system and \$100,000.00 for waste water expansion and asked if it would be enough funding to get the waste water system to where it would prevent sewage from spilling into the river.

City Manager Trujillo advised that the Utilities Department was working with the sludge operations and did not see that happening and added that during storm events there was infiltration but not to where there would be a concern.

Councilor Howell referred to the loan agreement for the Storrie Lake Project and asked if the bonding capacity was adequate.

City Manager Trujillo advised that before committing to a large loan amount of \$800,000.00 a year, the City needed to look at the rate increase projections and informed that currently they were lower than anticipated and added that it was vital to have the revenue in order to cover the payment.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve Resolution #16-26 to adopt the Final FY 2016-2017 Budget for submission to DFA Local Government Division.  
Councilor Howell seconded the motion.

Resolution #16-26 was presented as follows:

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
MUNICIPALITY OF CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
RESOLUTION NO. #16-26  
2016--2017 FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION**

**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 2016-2017 , and

**WHEREAS**, said budget was developed on the basis of need and through cooperation with all department users, department supervisors, City Administration and elected officials, and

**WHEREAS**, the official meeting for the review of said documents was duly advertised on July 20, 2016 in compliance with the State Open Meetings Act, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the majority opinion of this governing body that the Final Budget meets the requirements as currently determined for fiscal year 2016-2017.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Governing Body of the Municipality of the City of Las Vegas, State of New Mexico hereby adopts the budget hereinabove described and respectfully requests approval from the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

**RESOLVED:** In session this 25th day of July, 2016.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNING BODY  
LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

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TONITA GURULE-GIRON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CASANDRA FRESQUEZ, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

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H. CHICO GALLEGOS, CITY ATTORNEY

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

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

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

Councilor Casey took the opportunity to thank Finance Director Gallegos for all the work put into the budget and also for her patience in answering all of her questions.

City Manager Trujillo also wanted to thank Finance Director Gallegos, her staff and the Human Resources Department for their great efforts in moving the budget forward considering the many employees moving or leaving during that time.

Councilor Howell informed that he had calculated the City's assessed value at approximately 194 million, which 4% of that amount is \$7,760,000.00.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Manager Trujillo advised that there was no need for Executive Session.

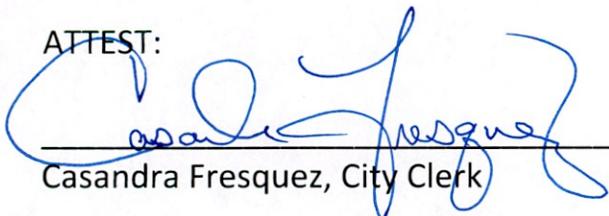
**ADJOURN**

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Giroń asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

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

  
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Mayor Tonita Gurule-Giroń

ATTEST:  
  
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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk