

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

MAYOR: David Romero

COUNCILORS: Marvin Martinez
Barbara Casey *Via Zoom*
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri *Excused Absence*

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Montgomery, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Caleb Marquez, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Romero called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilor Martinez thanked those who were involved in the joint City Council/San Miguel County Commission meeting.

Councilor Montoya asked to keep those in California in their prayers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked if all were in favor. All were in favor.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

None

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

None

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Caleb Marquez gave a detailed presentation regarding the statistics for the Month of December on the following:

- Field Operations Division (patrol) calls
- Communication Division (dispatch) calls
- Animal Care Center-updates/events/
 - Animal intake stats
 - Two healthy dogs were euthanized due to behavior problems
- Information Division/Records/Evidence Tech
- Street Crimes Division updates
- Travel/Trainings/Traffic Operation programs
- Recruitment/Hiring Events/Community Events
- End of year stats
- Department vacancies (24)

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Morris Madrid discussed the following;

- Property Tax Collection
 - Reflects 3 months of uncollected property tax (behind 1 month)
- Gross Receipt Tax
 - All categories are strong with upper trend
- Expenditures
 - Increased compensation on 3 Union contracts
 - Filling vacancies
- General Services
 - Increase in insurance premiums
 - Increase in transfers (new roof at recreation center)
- Enterprise fund
 - Normal activity, increase in natural gas (seasonal)
- Recreation fund
 - Low revenue numbers
 - More program activities/program revenue
 - Reduces expenditures
- Lodgers Tax
 - Revenue collection is strong
 - Increase in expenditures (events in the city)
- Cannabis fund
 - Continues to grow
 - Minimal expenditures
- Opioid fund
 - Continues to grow
 - Looking into investing cash
- FEMA
 - Some activity
- Cash/Investment Report
 - Investments since Sept. 2024 have earned over \$1.4 million

- Identified other funding over \$10 million to be invested from General and Enterprise funds

City Manager Montgomery advised that he supported the numbers and advised that the Finance department had been meeting with departments on mid-year budget reviews.

Mayor Romero mentioned that the City's been moving forward with filling vacancies with departments.

City Manager Montgomery advised that the budget for FY 2025/2026 would be done differently, instead of rolling the previous budget over.

Councilor Montoya advised that the Finance Committee approved the finance report.

PRESENTATIONS/POSSIBLE DIRECTION

Jan Beurskens with Little Las Vegas Media Marketing advised that their mission was to educate and inform the public about the cultural, historical, architectural and recreational opportunities in and around Las Vegas. Ms. Beurskens advised that the group raised \$6,000 from private donations to engage Geiger and Associates who are known for destination marketing. Ms. Beurskens advised that they also brought in Mary Ann Anderson who is a nationally known syndicated journalist to highlight the beauty, history and culture of Las Vegas. Ms. Beurskens also discussed their accomplishments for 2024.

Human Resource Director Darlene Arguello provided a lengthy overview of the human resource functions, top challenges, implementations to alleviate challenges and the hiring process. Ms. Arguello thanked her HR team for all they do. Ms. Arguello discussed Leadership Management training that would be taking place in February.

Mayor Romero advised that department presentations help the community see what each department is doing.

City Manager Montgomery advised that Ms. Arguello does her job well and communicates with all departments. City Manager Montgomery thanked Ms. Arguello for her presentation and advised that the HR department is a complex department.

CONSENT ITEMS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1. Conduct a Public Hearing and request approval of a variance on 919 Tecolote Street for Roger Benavidez.

Councilor Casey made a motion to enter into a Public Hearing for Business Item 1. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

City Clerk Fresquez swore in Community Development Director Lucas Marquez and Roger Benavidez.

Community Development Director Lucas Marquez advised that Mr. Benavidez was building a 30x30 shed on his property and all setbacks were met. Community Development Director Marquez advised that Mr. Benavidez was cited for building without a permit. Community Development Director Marquez further advised that Mr. Benavidez applied for the variance and all setbacks were met.

Councilor Montoya asked if there was access for a fire truck.

Roger Benavidez advised yes, there is an entrance on Kavanaugh Street and Tecolote Street.

Councilor Martinez asked what the requirements were for setbacks.

Community Development Director Marquez advised that the side has to be 7 feet to the sky between the fence line and the building as per the ordinance.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to exit the Public Hearing and reconvene into regular session. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve a variance on 919 Tecolote Street. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

1. Request approval of Resolution No. 25-01 renewal of the Biennial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NM MainStreet Program (NMMS), City of Las Vegas and MainStreet de Las Vegas.

Community Development Director Lucas Marquez advised that the Biennial contract is required by MainStreet, which is a two year contract along with a cost of \$35,000. Community Development Director Marquez advised the contract is

late due to MainStreet not having a Director, once Makahla Harapat started she got the annual contract done and now the Biennial contract.

Mayor Romero advised that the \$35,000 funding provided in the annual contract is also the funding for the Biennial contract.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve No. 25-01 renewal of the Biennial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NM MainStreet Program (NMMS), City of Las Vegas and MainStreet de Las Vegas. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Councilor Montoya asked City Manager Montgomery if he's met with MainStreet.

City Manager Montgomery advised he met with MainStreet Director Makahla Harapat when she first started but he has not been a part of monthly or quarterly meetings.

MainStreet Director Makahla Harapat advised that Scott Zunker attends their meetings as a representative from the City.

Mayor Romero clarified that the annual contract with MainStreet funds the \$35,000 and the Biennial contract is needed for the partnership for Las Vegas to be part of MainStreet.

Resolution 25-01 was presented as follows: *Due to the length of the document, a complete copy may be obtained from the City of Las Vegas, City Clerk's Office.*

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

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) is requesting approval to extend the existing municipal water system or

establish a new meter at Storrie Lake State Park to accommodate a new building adjacent to the current Forestry Division, Las Vegas District Office which will be a permanent facility for the state wildland Pecos River fire crew.

Shannon Atencio, District Forester for NM State Forestry advised after the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, the Legislative Session in 2023 funded the creation of two elite fire crews and one of them would be located in Las Vegas. Ms. Atencio advised that it was a direct response to the catastrophe and they were honored and privileged to have one located in Las Vegas. Ms. Atencio advised they received funding to expand their facilities to house the crew and are going through the design and engineering process. Ms. Atencio advised that they are on city water and are requesting approval to extend their water system.

City Manager Tim Montgomery advised they have the moratorium on water meters and the County required approval from the City for the additional meter or extension of the waterlines. City Manager Montgomery advised the moratorium doesn't specifically call out that a governmental entity or public safety entity would be exempt from the moratorium. City Manager Montgomery advised that it is a safety measure for public safety and felt that it would not be a residential function.

Councilor Martinez asked what the water would be used for.

Ms. Atencio advised it's to support the structure and they aren't building any kind of tank filling capacity to fill up fire trucks. Ms. Atencio advised that the building would have an engine bay, classrooms and a training facility.

Councilor Casey made a motion to extend the existing municipal water system or establish a new meter at Storrie Lake State Park to accommodate a new building adjacent to the current Forestry Division, Las Vegas District Office which will be a permanent facility for the state wildland Pecos River fire crew. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Councilor Montoya thanked Governor Lujan Grisham and the State of NM Legislature for choosing Las Vegas as one of the locations. Councilor Montoya advised that it would follow the process as if a fire station was being built outside

City limits for emergency and safety reasons. Councilor Montoya advised that it would not affect the moratorium.

Mayor Romero advised that it would add to the resources and need for the community.

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

Barbara Casey	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

3. Request approval to award and enter into contract with Shelter Planners of America, a Division of FMD Architects for RFP #2025-16, Plan, Design & Construction Phase Services for a new Animal Care Shelter.

Police Chief Caleb Marquez advised that they only received one RFP from Shelter Planners of America and they specialize in building Animal Care Centers.

Mayor Romero asked what the next steps would be.

Police Chief Marquez advised they want to get ideas of how other Animal Care Centers are structured so they know how to move forward with one that would fit the needs of the community. Police Chief Marquez advised they also want public input, along with joint groups coming together.

Councilor Martinez advised that he wants to make sure the facility meets the criteria for those who work in the facility.

Councilor Montoya advised to take into consideration during the plan & design that the roof is metal with a pitch and that they have adequate space for the

demand in the community. Councilor Montoya advised that they need to have public input.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve to award and enter into contract with Shelter Planners of America, a Division of FMD Architects for RFP #2025-16, Plan, Design & Construction Phase Services for a new Animal Care Shelter. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

4. Request approval to award and enter into contract with ADVISE Law Firm for RFP #2025-15 Additional City Attorney Services.

City Manager Tim Montgomery advised that an RFP was put out last spring for General Attorney Services because the City doesn't have an in-house attorney and they had decided to split the services among three different law firms in the amount of \$20,000. City Manager Montgomery advised they reached that \$20,000 threshold, so they put an RFP out to acquire legal services for the City Charter and General Legal Services. City Manager Montgomery advised that they received one response and contracted with that law firm. City Manager Montgomery advised that they felt like an additional law firm was needed to be available to help keep business moving. City Manager Montgomery advised that they put out another RFP for General Attorney Services and received one proposal from Advise Law Firm. City Manager Montgomery advised if they enter into a contract it would take them through the end of the fiscal year.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve to award and enter into contract with ADVISE Law Firm for RFP #2025-15 Additional City Attorney Services. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

5. Request approval of agreement between the City of Las Vegas and TextMyGov for subscription of service.

Water Director Travis Martinez advised that the subscription would allow communication between the City of Las Vegas and citizens through smart texting technology. Water Director Martinez advised that the cost of the subscription package for the first year would be \$9,600 and \$6,400 the second year. Water Director Martinez advised that they were no longer utilizing 311.

Councilor Montoya asked how long the subscription was for.

Water Director Martinez advised it was a two year subscription.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Las Vegas and TextMyGov for subscription of service. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

ADJOURN


Councilor Montoya made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.



Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk