

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

MAYOR: David Romero

COUNCILORS: Marvin Martinez
Barbara Casey
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri

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 Casey asked for a moment of silence for the citizens of Las Vegas who have passed away. Councilor Casey asked to keep those individuals in their prayers, as well as their families who are grieving to help receive solace from God to move on and find happiness.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Clerk Fresquez advised there was a recommendation for an amendment to remove the presentation due to the BPA members not being able to make it.

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Proclamation for "Victor Sanchez" and "Virginia Lujan".

Mayor Romero advised he would present the proclamation for Victor Sanchez at a later date. Mayor Romero read the proclamation for Virginia Lujan.

- Recognition Certificates for WLV State Runners-up Athletes and Coaches.

Mayor Romero recognized the WLV State Runners-up Athletes and Coaches.

Mayor Romero thanked Police Chief Caleb Marquez for filling in for City Manager Tim Montgomery while he was on vacation. Mayor Romero also thanked those who participated in the groundbreaking for El Creston Circle. Mayor Romero welcomed City Manager Montgomery back.

COUNCILORS' REPORTS

Councilor Martinez thanked those individuals who participated in the groundbreaking for El Creston Circle and NMDOT for funding for the project. Councilor Martinez thanked City staff for fixing the roads and potholes around the City.

Councilor Casey thanked City staff for all they do and for being dedicated to the City of Las Vegas and making it a better place to live. Councilor Casey advised the Tai Chi classes had begun at the Senior Center. Councilor Casey thanked the

Legislators who helped bring in money during the Legislative session. Councilor Casey advised that she was contacted by the Mexican Consulate in Albuquerque and advised that the new Consul of Mexico was a woman named Patricia Pinzón Sánchez who sent an email requesting to meet with elected officials, representatives from Luna Community College, and individuals working with the Catholic Churches. Councilor Casey advised the meeting would take place on April 24, 2025 in the City Council Chambers. Councilor Casey advised it would be a great opportunity to make a connection with the Mexican Government being that all national issues affect those who live within the community and within the state.

Councilor Ulibarri thanked City staff for repairing the potholes and for improving the roads around the City. Councilor Ulibarri asked City Manager Montgomery if he could check with Code Enforcement to inquire about fences that many individuals around the City are putting up without permits.

Councilor Montoya apologized for not being able to attend the groundbreaking at El Creston Circle and thanked City staff and NMDOT. Councilor Montoya thanked the residents for being patient with the City of Las Vegas while construction took place. Councilor Montoya advised he attended the Airport Committee meeting on April 8, 2025 and mentioned an old hanger that was built in the 1940s was deteriorating and was undergoing an assessment to determine if it's salvageable. Councilor Montoya advised a fence at the Airport was in the process of being built to keep out the wildlife for safety reasons. Councilor Montoya advised 1200 acres was available and suggested the need to discuss and plan how to haul water to the airport and add restroom facilities as well.

Mayor Romero mentioned House Bill 2 and advised that there was a \$3.5 million allocation for the Water Treatment Plant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes from March 11, 2025 Joint Meeting, March 12, 2025 and March 19, 2025. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked if all were in favor. All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Fresquez read the Consent Agenda (1-3) into the record as follows:

1. Request approval of Addendum #1 to Contract #4083-24 Curb Services Company for on call pressure reducing valve & altitude control valve maintenance.
2. Request approval of Addendum #2 to Contract #3967-23 Hay's Plumbing & Heating for on call commercial plumbing services.
3. Request approval of Addendum #3 to Contract #3875-22 with The Master's Touch LLC for monthly mailings and postage for the City of Las Vegas.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (1-3). Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	Marvin Martinez	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request approval of Resolution No. 25-15 to apply for and assuring of matching funds for the Transportation Project Fund (TPF) grant for a total project amount of \$2,182,652.61, including NM gross receipt tax.

Public Works Director Arnold Lopez advised for the Fiscal year 2025-2026 the selected project was Commerce Street. Public Works Director Lopez advised it required a 5% match and they would apply for the match waiver. Public Works Director Lopez advised the City of Las Vegas would contribute \$109,132.63 and the total grant amount was \$2,073,519.98 for the plan, design, construction, reconstruction, drainage improvements, pavement rehabilitation, ADA compliant curbs and ramps, miscellaneous construction, and construction management of Commerce Street from East National Avenue to East Baca Street.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve Resolution 25-15. Councilor Casey seconded the motion.

Resolution 25-15 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.*

Councilor Montoya asked how many blocks the project was.

Public Works Director Lopez advised there weren't blocks in the area, it's based on the length.

Councilor Montoya asked what the length was.

Public Works Director Lopez advised it was from East National Avenue to East Baca Street. Public Works Director Lopez advised the next step would be to phase out the project. Public Works Director Lopez advised if he asked for more funding it more than likely would not get funded.

Councilor Montoya voiced his concern for the people at the end of Commerce Street that were pushing for the project the most but that area was not included in the project.

Public Works Director Lopez asked if he was talking about the southern end where it's not paved.

Councilor Montoya advised yes.

Public Works Director Lopez advised the reason behind the project selection was due to the deterioration and safety concerns in the area caused by a sewer project that had taken place and had settled while there was poor drainage in a certain area. Public Works Director Lopez advised part of the curb and the east side were in decent condition however, the rest was horribly deteriorated.

Councilor Montoya asked how long it would take to continue construction on the south end of Commerce Street.

Public Works Director Lopez advised hopefully next year the project would be selected as the second phase like El Creston Circle.

Councilor Montoya advised that the residents at the southern end of Commerce Street had been without a paved street for over 50 years. Councilor Montoya mentioned for the past 10 years it had been milled and before that it was a dirt road. Councilor Montoya mentioned hopefully another project would be selected down the road that won't take a long amount of time to conduct.

Councilor Ulibarri voiced his concerns regarding BTU trucks going through Railroad and Pecos Street and asked Public Works Director Lopez if he had spoken with BTU about rerouting the trucks on a different street or assisting in allocating money to repair those streets.

Public Works Director Lopez advised that Pecos Street sustains a significant amount of heavy truck traffic and they could thicken the asphalt to sustain heavy traffic along with a geogrid beneath the base course to prolong the street. Public Works Director Lopez advised the side streets that have sustained heavy traffic are in poor condition and hopes to allocate funding to improve all streets that seek attention.

Councilor Montoya asked if there were any sidewalks included in the project.

Public Works Director Lopez advised no, due to no existing sidewalks.

Councilor Montoya asked if there was a need for them.

Public Works Director Lopez advised yes there is a need for sidewalks everywhere. Public Works Director Lopez advised that the sidewalks would be another phase, and they could always be added after the fact. Public Works Director Lopez advised that their main concern was addressing the asphalt.

Councilor Casey advised a couple months prior she had spoken with the owner of BTU and inquired about rerouting the trucks to a different area due to the destruction of the road and the noise as well. Councilor Casey mentioned she received a significant amount of complaints from residents in that area because of it.

Public Works Director Lopez advised that there were not many options due to the interstate and the railroad's impact where the trucks could access through the crossing.

Mayor Romero asked if engineering would be needed for drainage on the south end of Commerce Street and if it would be beneficial to the City to invest money into an engineer to assist with the next phase if the City does apply for a 5% match.

Public Works Director Lopez advised it wouldn't be a significant cost added because they're already surveying a drainage study that pertains to the whole area. Public Works Director Lopez advised it wouldn't be a terrible option to fix the drainage as a whole so when the south end is ready for construction it's already "shovel ready". Public Works Director Lopez also advised it would be beneficial to have the drainage already fixed before applying for the NMDOT funding because when applying for the match during the presentation the most common question is if the project is "shovel ready" and it would be ranked higher if it is.

Mayor Romero advised that the Council would look into getting an engineer for the next phase.

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

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Freesquez advised motion carried.

2. Presentation/Discussion and Update on customer service efficiency and information on Amnesty Day, April 19, 2025.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director David Marquez gave a lengthy presentation on customer service efficiency and also provided information on Amnesty Day.

Mayor Romero thanked Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez and advised he was pleased to see great things happening within the Gas and Solid Waste departments. Mayor Romero advised although the departments are short staffed, the employees are keeping up with the work flow. Mayor Romero advised that the City was trying to get grants for the Solid Waste department and also from the Governor who wants to assist the Solid Waste department with funding.

Councilor Casey asked if the citizens who are contracted with a company who retrieve the trash from their homes and those individuals who take loads of trash everyday would be charged a different rate.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised they would be charged at a higher rate compared to a residential rate.

Discussion took place regarding residents putting out their trash bin for a second time on the opposite side of the street and receiving double service for one payment.

Councilor Casey asked what happens when couches, bookshelves, and large items are left on the curb and if there was assistance for the elderly who have no means of transportation or help.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised that it depends if there is a commercial bin around the area then it falls within the City ordinance. Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised if there isn't a commercial bin in the area then it does not fall within Solid Waste to mandate it. Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised a service technician would be able to provide the assistance and accommodate those who are in need of that service.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez discussed wanting to conduct an audit on the total number of bins there are in the City of Las Vegas, how many times they're being picked up, what they're being charged and if it's placed in a designated area or in a place that needs to be mitigated.

Councilor Ulibarri mentioned residents will contact him three or four times for additional trash pickup.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised that they do additional pickups but for an additional charge.

Councilor Ulibarri asked if they would make the resident aware of the additional charge.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised yes they do.

Councilor Montoya advised that the Solid Waste department has a black trailer that had been requested to be put up for auction but hasn't been. Councilor Montoya suggested placing trash bins around town so residents could utilize them to avoid trash filling up at the transfer station. Councilor Montoya thanked Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez for all his hard work and for all the improvements he's made at the Solid Waste department.

Councilor Casey asked how they identify which bin belongs to each customer.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised that the bins have a number on it which is used to identify which customer it belongs to. Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised in the case where the bin or the lid is damaged they're able to refer back to the old number and replace it with the new number on the new bin.

Councilor Martinez advised there were several residents that were outside City limits that are a part of the County however, they're receiving City services and utilities and would like to be able to throw trash locally. Councilor Martinez advised it would be beneficial to provide those residents bins.

Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised he would look into it however, it would be difficult to do so due to the transfer station being tremendously small. Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised after so many yards of trash they would have no choice but to send customers to the Wagon Mound Landfill which would be an inconvenience for other residents. Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez advised it would be beneficial to expand the transfer station to accept more customers and expand capabilities.

Councilor Martinez thanked Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez and his staff for all they've done.

City Manager Tim Montgomery also thanked Gas Director/SW Interim Director Marquez for all he's done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Montoya made a motion to convene into 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, regarding Discussion on removal of Human Resources Director. Councilor Martinez 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
Marvin Martinez	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya 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, regarding Discussion on removal of Human Resources Director. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. 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	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION ITEMS

1. Request the removal of Darlene Arguello as Human Resources Director.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to request removal of Human Resources Director Darlene Arguello. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion.

Councilor Montoya asked City Manager Tim Montgomery if it was his recommendation since he runs the day-to-day operations.

City Manager Montgomery advised yes, based on the data that had been provided.

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

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	Barbara Casey	No
Marvin Martinez	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised motion carried.

ADJOURN

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

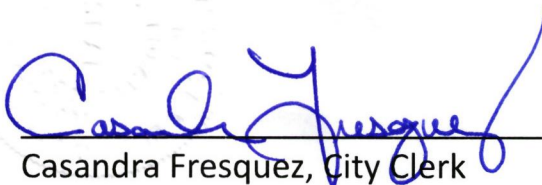
City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.



Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:


Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk