

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 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:** Robert A. Anaya, City Manager  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk  
Caleb Marquez, Sergeant at Arms  
Ambrosio Castellano, Contracted City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Councilor Martinez asked for a moment of silence to pray for those who had passed away and for the future of the City of Las Vegas Government and its staff.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez advised there was an amendment to the agenda for the removal of Water Director Travis Martinez presentation and an amendment made by City Manager Robert A. Anaya to move Consent Agenda Items # 5, 6, and 7 to Business Items for further discussion.

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

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

### **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

- Appointment of Bonny Lopez and Sonia Diaz de Leon to the Library Board.

Councilor Montoya asked if Bonny Lopez and Sonia Diaz de Leon resided within City limits.

Mayor Romero advised one of the individuals resided within City limits and the other did not. Mayor Romero advised it was difficult to seek individuals to join committees and recommended Bonny Lopez and Sonia Diaz de Leon due to their efforts.

Councilor Ulibarri made a motion to appoint Bonny Lopez and Sonia Diaz de Leon to the Library Board. 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 Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

- Appointment of Theresa Diaz, Janice Horton and Tina Clayton to the Lodger's Tax Board.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to appoint Theresa Diaz, Janice Horton and Tina Clayton to the Lodger's Tax Board. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Romero stated he would work with City Clerk Fresquez on posting a notice of possible quorum for upcoming public meetings, which would allow the Governing Body the option to attend.

City Manager Anaya informed the Governing Body of his intention to have City Clerk Fresquez prepare a notice of upcoming State committee meetings, which would also provide the Governing Body an opportunity to attend.

Mayor Romero also recommended a notice be prepared for the Governing Body regarding the City Manager's upcoming meeting with department directors, which they are encouraged to attend.

City Manager Anaya advised a training would be held for all directors on July 29, 2025 and July 30, 2025 at New Mexico Highlands University.

### **COUNCILORS' REPORTS**

Councilor Ulibarri requested prayers for the Texas community following the devastating flood crisis.

Councilor Casey asked for a list of employees by department to familiarize the Governing Body with the staff employed by the City of Las Vegas.

Councilor Martinez stated that a resident had contacted him in regards to the homeless causing issues at Lincoln Park.

Councilor Montoya expressed gratitude to City Manager Anaya for his contributions. Councilor Montoya also noted that he, along with other Governing Body members and City staff, attended a memorial service for veterans and the deceased.

Mayor Romero extended his gratitude to Public Works Director Arnold Lopez, Public Information Officer Amanda Salas, and the Public Works staff for their efforts in delivering donated items from the City of Las Vegas to Ruidoso, New Mexico to help assist those affected by the recent tragic event. Mayor Romero also thanked the citizens of Las Vegas for their generous donations to the residents in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

### **POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Police Chief Caleb Marquez discussed the following in his report:

- Field Operations Division (patrol)
- Communication Division (dispatch)
- Animal Care Center Statistics
- Information Division (records)
- Street Crimes/Investigations/Narcotics/Evidence
- Evidence Seized: Agents/Investigators/Officers
- Travel/Training
- Recruiting
- Community Events
- Vacancies

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Director Morris Madrid advised an exit meeting with the State Auditor took place, those in attendance were the Governing Body, City Manager Anaya, and various members of the City of Las Vegas staff.

Councilor Montoya questioned the absence of the Finance Committee Chairman at the meeting, inquiring if there was a specific reason for not extending an invitation.

Finance Director Madrid stated that it was customary to invite the Chief Elected Official and Chief Executive Officer. Finance Director Madrid mentioned that the Finance department had hired Noel Baca as a Procurement Officer, who was currently attending certification all week.

Finance Director discussed the following in his report:

- General Fund

Councilor Montoya questioned the allocation of the \$161,000 in overtime expenses.

Finance Director Madrid noted that the overtime was a combination of recurring and non-recurring hours, with staff shortages.

Councilor Montoya asked about a possible connection to the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire.

Finance Director Madrid advised yes.

Mayor Romero asked if the overtime hours were accrued within that specific department's budget or if it was budgeted within the General Fund.

Finance Director Madrid advised there were two types of overtime; retirement eligible, and an outside of a normal shift. Finance Director Madrid advised first responders normal range of hours worked per week was 104-106 hours and a regular employee was 80 hours per week. Finance Director Madrid advised it depended on how the schedule was set up.

City Manager Anaya asked Finance Director Madrid what the estimated percentage was associated with the overall overtime pay.

Finance Director Madrid stated that overtime was primarily driven by the Fire and Police department, accounting for 80-85% of all overtime and Utilities overtime was situational and not recurring.

Councilor Montoya asked about preventative measures for future budgets.

City Manager Anaya advised that the significant amount of overtime hours was due to departmental vacancies. City Manager Anaya stated that filling the positions would lead to a reduction in overtime for both departments.

Councilor Montoya asked whether the Fire Department's vacancies could be used to offset overtime costs.

Finance Director Madrid advised there was not sufficient savings and mentioned they would need to increase the budget.

Mayor Romero asked if the City's efforts to eliminate overtime would compromise public safety.

Finance Director Madrid advised no. Finance Director Madrid continued to discuss the following;

- Enterprise Fund
- Recreation Department Expenditure

Councilor Montoya requested the balance of gross receipt tax owed by the City for Phase 2, and clarification on the utilization of remaining funds by the City.

City Manager Anaya stated that he would provide a report to the Mayor and Council at the next meeting.

Finance Director Madrid continued to discuss the following;

- Lodgers Tax Fund
- Cannabis Fund
- Opioid Fund
- FEMA Fund

City Manager Anaya confirmed that the City's expenditures were duly reimbursable and met FEMA requirements for full reimbursement. City Manager Anaya stated his intention was to utilize the loan to backfill the City's resources and cover expenses before drawing from Senate Bill 6.

Councilor Montoya clarified that Senate Bill 6 was a loan designated for municipalities affected by the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, with its use strictly limited to expenditures related to the fire.

City Manager Anaya stated that an application was required to transfer funds to the City. City Manager Anaya stated that the online application had been docusigned, and he was attempting to access it to determine if a specific project was associated with the loan.

Councilor Ulibarri asked City Manager Anaya and Finance Director Madrid about the possibility of securing funding for city road repairs.

City Manager Anaya emphasized the City's focus on maximizing existing revenue streams. City Manager Anaya stated that the City needed to leverage external resources to undertake more capital projects than it had historically.

Councilor Montoya asked if the City had filed a claim against FEMA for road repairs during the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

City Manager Anaya advised \$5 million was accounted for road repairs.

Mayor Romero announced that there was a meeting scheduled for the next day with the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management and FEMA. Mayor Romero stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the reimbursement of \$6.7 million to the City of Las Vegas.

Councilor Martinez asked whether the City was required to pay for damages from the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire to receive FEMA reimbursement.

City Manager Anaya stated that the \$18 million was directly tied to the flood's impact, specifically addressing the water treatment facility, water hauling, dam repairs, and water distribution.

Finance Director Madrid advised it was associated with anything related to the restoration and delivery of water to the citizens.

Councilor Ulibarri mentioned residents' frustration regarding the lack of prioritized budgeting for road repairs.

Councilor Montoya requested that City Manager Anaya verify the interest rate of the \$98 million during his meeting with DHSEM and FEMA. Councilor Montoya recommended informing them of the City's readiness to involve their attorneys if necessary to secure reimbursement.

City Manager Anaya stated that city resources could not fund projects if loans were tied to specific uses.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Ulibarri made a motion to approve the minutes from June 25, 2025 with spelling corrections. 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
David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

City Clerk Fresquez read Consent Agenda items (1-4) into the record as follows:

1. Request approval of a continued Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Las Vegas and the Village of Pecos for FY26.
2. Request approval of a North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) Non-Metro AAA Title III Federal and State Program Sub-Award for \$929,111.79.
3. Request approval of a North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) Non-Metro AAA Senior Employment Program Host Agency Sub-Award for \$25,564.
4. Request approval of a North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) Non-Metro AAA Nutrition Service Incentive Program (NSIP) Sub-Award for \$43,822.



Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (1-4) as presented. Councilor Montoya seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Request approval of addendum #2 to Contract #3991-23 with Bohannon Huston for water treatment plant facility planning, design and construction.

Mayor Romero asked whether the information provided a historical overview of the previous contract's activities.

Project Manager Adrian Allemand advised yes, that the City had completed a project with Bohannon Huston, which included the Trac Vac and SCADA systems.

Councilor Martinez asked if their presence was required on an as-needed basis.

Project Manager Allemand advised yes.

Councilor Montoya asked whether Bohannon Huston was actively engaged in the planning and design phases of the City's water treatment plant.

Project Manager Allemand advised no, they were not and that they were assisting the City with the current issues within the water treatment plant.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve addendum #2 to Contract #3991-23 with Bohannon Huston for water treatment plant facility planning,

design and construction. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

2. Request approval of Addendum #2 to Contract #4003-23 with HDR Engineering Inc., for water treatment planning, design and construction phase engineering services.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve Addendum #2 to Contract #4003-23 with HDR Engineering Inc., for water treatment planning, design and construction phase engineering services. 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
David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael Montoya	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

3. Request approval of Addendum #2 to Contract #4004-23 with Molzen Corbin & Associates for water treatment planning, design and construction phase engineering services.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve Addendum #2 to Contract #4004-23 with Molzen Corbin & Associates for water treatment planning, design and construction phase engineering services. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

4. Request approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Las Vegas and San Miguel-Mora County Fair Association.

Community Development Director Lucas Marquez stated that the contract with the San Miguel-Mora County Fair Association for the upcoming event lacked specific language. Community Development Director Marquez advised Contracted City Attorney Ambrosio Castellano and himself incorporated additional information to the contract and presented it to City Manager Anaya to assure the contract was in compliance with the MOU.

Councilor Montoya asked what attorney reviewed the contract.

Community Development Director Marquez advised Contracted City Attorney Ambrosio Castellano.

Councilor Montoya suggested that the upcoming year's contract incorporate specific elements. Councilor Montoya recommended that City Manager Anaya leverage Lodger's Tax funding to facilitate property revitalization and stimulate economic growth.

Mayor Romero clarified that it was for the County Fair.

Community Development Director Marquez confirmed it was the San Miguel-Mora County Fair Association. Community Development Director Marquez stated he and Contracted City Attorney Castellano would draft a contract for the following year, incorporating the suggested language.

Mayor Romero asked Contracted City Attorney Castellano if he recommended the changes upon approval.

Contracted City Attorney Castellano found the presented contract acceptable and recommended its approval with the said changes. Contracted City Attorney Castellano suggested incorporating the proposed language as an additional "Whereas" paragraph in next year's contract.

Councilor Martinez asked Community Development Director Marquez to give a summary on the safety measures for the upcoming event.

Community Development Director Marquez confirmed that the grounds had been cleared, allowing fire trucks to be parked there permanently for immediate access.

Councilor Montoya inquired about the readily available million-dollar liability insurance.

Community Development Director Marquez advised they had it on hand if needed.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Las Vegas and San Miguel-Mora County Fair Association. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

5. Request approval to award RFP #2025-28 to Stagg Liuzza for professional legal service for special polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) litigation Council and enter into contract.

Project Manager Adrian Allemand stated that funding would not be available until the litigation battle was resolved. Project Manager Allemand stated that the City could potentially receive between \$200,000 and \$4 million if the case was won.

Councilor Montoya asked what percentage the City would receive.

Project Manager Allemand advised 33% of the litigation settlement.

Councilor Montoya asked who was going to oversee the RFP.

City Manager Anaya advised he would be overseeing the RFP.

Councilor Montoya asked about the possibility of filing a claim with FEMA for reimbursement.

City Manager Anaya stated that it was a separate litigation and therefore not reimbursable by FEMA.

Contracted City Attorney Castellano stated that FEMA would not reimburse the City due to the chemicals being present prior to the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve to award RFP #2025-28 to Stagg Liuzza for professional legal service for special polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) litigation Council and enter into contract. Councilor Martinez seconded the motion. Mayor Romero asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried

6. Request approval of Resolution No. 25-26, to apply for and accept a grant offer in the amount of \$1,116,526.00 by the Federal Administration (FAA) and the New Mexico Department of Transportation Aviation Division.

Councilor Martinez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-26, to apply for and accept a grant offer in the amount of \$1,116,526.00 by the Federal Administration (FAA) and the New Mexico Department of Transportation Aviation Division. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion.

Resolution No. 25-26 was presented as follows: *Due to the length of the document, a 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:

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

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

7. Request approval to award RFB 2025-31, High Game Fencing at the City of Las Vegas Municipal Airport in the amount of \$1,113,950.41 to include NMGR, to Apache Construction Co. Inc. Valley Fence dba Valley Fence Co.

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve RFB 2025-31, High Game Fencing at the City of Las Vegas Municipal Airport in the amount of \$1,113,950.41 to include NMGR, to Apache Construction Co. Inc. Valley Fence dba Valley Fence Co. Councilor Martinez 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 Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

8. Update on the After Action review/investigation of the February water incident.

Stevie Nichols with Ortiz & Zamora, Attorneys at Law, LLC, stated that the water incident led to a loss of water pressure in the city's distribution system, resulting in water loss for the City of Las Vegas residents. Ms. Nichols stated there was no evidence of wrongdoing or intentional negligence by City of Las Vegas employees or contractors. Ms. Nichols advised the final report, which will include further feedback and recommendations for moving forward from the crisis, was scheduled for presentation at the August 13, 2025 City Council meeting.

Councilor Casey voiced her concerns regarding the investigation's timeframe, which she felt pressured City employees accused of wrongdoing.

Councilor Montoya asked whether employees reported feeling targeted during the interviews.

Ms. Nichols stated it was unrelated to the investigation and she solely aimed to uncover the root cause of the water crisis.


**ADJOURN**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

  
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Mayor David Romero

ATTEST:

  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk