

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

3:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 26, 2009

City Council Chambers, Legislative Building, 745 Fourth Street, Sparks, Nevada

1. *Call to Order (Time: 3:01:37 p.m.)

The regular meeting of the Sparks City Council was called to order by Mayor Geno Martini at 3:00 p.m.

2. *Roll Call (Time: 3:01:41 p.m.)

Mayor Pro tempore Ron Schmitt, City Clerk Linda Patterson, Council Members Julia Ratti, Phillip Salerno, Ron Smith, Mike Carrigan, Ron Schmitt, Acting City Manager Steve Driscoll, City Attorney Chet Adams, PRESENT. Mayor Geno Martini, City Manager Shaun Carey, ABSENT.

Invocation Speaker: (Time: 3:02:07 p.m.)

The invocation was given by Dr. Tom Butler from the Sparks United Methodist Church.

Pledge of Allegiance (Time: 3:03:05 p.m.)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Phillip Salerno.

***Comments from the Public** (Time: 3:03:28 p.m.)

Mr. Ronald McGee thanked city staff for their fast response to his request for cross walks to be striped in the Marina area; the Police Department for working with him on his police report; and Mr. Tarburton for keeping the Washoe County Senior Center in Sparks open.

Approval of the Agenda (Time: 3:05:27 p.m.)

Consideration of taking items out of sequence, deleting items and adding items which require action upon a finding that an emergency exists.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Salerno, to approve the agenda as amended. Council Members Ratti, Salerno, Smith, Carrigan, Schmitt, YES. Motion carried.

3. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of:

3.1 Regular Meeting of May 11, 2009 (Time: 3:05:56 p.m.)

Mayor Pro tem Schmitt noted that the minutes to be approved are for April 27, 2009, not for May 11, 2009, as listed on the agenda. The City Attorney has ruled that since the staff report and minutes in the agenda packet were for the 27th, the minutes can be approved.

A motion was made by Council Member Ratti, seconded by Council Member Smith, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2009. Council Members Ratti, Salerno, Smith, Carrigan, Schmitt, YES. Motion carried.

4. Announcements, Presentations, Recognition Items and Items of Special Interest:

4.1 Presentation – An overview of the property assessment process (Time: 3:06:35 p.m.)

Mr. Josh Wilson, the Washoe County Assessor, provided a review of the assessment process, including: how often property is assessed; how property value is determined; and how the current housing market is affecting the property values.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Wilson explained the abatement process: 2004 is the base year for the property tax cap legislation and until such time as property tax assessments are reverted back to 2004 values, a homeowner may not see a decrease in his tax bill. Having said that, a majority of Wingfield Springs and Spanish Springs homes were put on the tax roll after 2004, so those properties will see a reduction in their tax bill next year. The older properties will have a higher abatement than the newer properties. As the market corrects itself, abatements become less and less of a factor because we are getting back to where the assessed value times the tax rate is less than 3% greater than last year's tax bill. He discussed a market based value system versus resetting depreciation and the appeal process with regard to property taxes.

5. Consent Items: (Time: 3:29:35 p.m.)

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Salerno, to approve Consent Items 5.1 through 5.7. Council Members Ratti, Salerno, Smith, Carrigan, Schmitt, YES. Motion carried.

5.1 Report of Claims and Bills approved for payment and appropriation transfers for the period April 23, 2009, through May 6, 2009

An agenda item from Finance Director Tom Minton recommending approval of the Report of Claims and Bills as outlined.

5.2 Consideration and possible award of the Informal Quote, for the 2008/2009 Police Department Access Improvement Project, CIP 9037 to Northern Nevada Concrete, in the amount of \$69,323.80

An agenda item Capital Projects Manager Chris Cobb recommending the City Council award a quote for the Police Department Access Improvement Project to Northern Nevada Concrete. This project will replace the deteriorated stairs and railing used to access the building from the Prater Way/RTC bus stop with an accessible ramp. Six informal quotes were received, with Northern Nevada Concrete being the lowest quote. Funds are available for this project.

5.3 Consideration and possible acceptance of the donation of two vehicles and electronic tracking equipment to the Sparks Police Department from the National Insurance Crime Bureau

An agenda item Police Chief Steve Asher recommending the City Council accept a donation from the National Insurance Crime Bureau as part of their BAIT program designed to reduce insurance costs related to stolen vehicles. While the City has possession of the vehicles and equipment, they will be titled to the City and covered under the City's self-insurance program. The vehicles will be returned to the insurance company in 2012. There is no financial impact for this donation.

5.4 Consideration and possible approval of a contract for seasonal maintenance of the Sparks Marina channel and lake with Aquatic Environments, Inc. in the amount of not to exceed \$39,989

An agenda item Civil Engineer John Martini recommending the City Council approve a contract for seasonal maintenance of the Sparks Marina channel and shallow shoreline areas of the lake. Aquatic Environments Inc. (AEI) has been providing these services since 2005 (paid by the developer David Dahl) and has created a program that is specific to the Sparks Marina. The program includes weekly maintenance and monitoring of the channel; algae control; and aquatic plant control from May through December of 2009. Funds have been budgeted for this yearly expense.

5.5 Consideration and possible approval of the 2009 Alley Rehabilitation Program to Black Rock Construction Inc., in the amount of \$34,580

An agenda item Transportation Manager Jon Erickson recommending the City Council award the 2009 Alley Rehabilitation contract Black Rock Construction Inc. The program includes the removal and replacement of deteriorated asphalt pavements at the selected sites. Four quotes were received for this project, with Black Rock Construction being the lowest. Funds are budgeted for this project.

5.6 Consideration and possible approval of the repair and purchase of the upgrade hydraulic systems on Vehicles 512C and 514C from Certified Power, Inc. Companies in the amount of \$30,942.90

An agenda item Equipment Superintendent Ron Korman recommending the City Council approve the hydraulic system repairs/upgrades as outlined in the staff report. The Certified Power system will extend the life of these plow trucks and facilitate the removal of snow. Funds are available for this purchase.

5.7 Consideration and possible approval of an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County for the reimbursement to the RTC in the amount not to exceed \$350,000 for an additional 3.4 million square feet of slurry seal on their contract for the 2009 Preventive Maintenance, Slurry Seal Program

An agenda item Transportation Manager Jon Erickson recommending the City Council approve an interlocal agreement for the 2009 Slurry Seal Program. By bidding with RTC for the application of this maintenance treatment, the City is able to cover additional streets, due to favorable bids. Fund are budgeted for this expense.

6. General Business:

6.1 Applicant interviews for Civil Service Commission, Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority Board of Trustees, Sparks Park & Recreation Commission (Time: 3:30:04 p.m.)

Mayor Pro tem Schmitt noted that Mayor Martini was not present for the interviews because he was being inducted into the Sparks High School Hall of Fame in a ceremony being held at Sparks High School this afternoon. The following applicants were present and were interviewed by the Council for the board or commission for which they applied:

Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority Board of Trustees:

- William Eck
- Don Mackey

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- Mike Curdock
- Roy Pete Vossler
- Ken Pender

Civil Service Commission:

- Steve Burlie
- Nicole Contreras
- Lou Dauria
- Gary Hipple
- Ron Oldham

Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Richard "Scott" Allen
- Tom Cornell
- Angela Fuss
- Daniel Kovach
- Roy O'Connell
- Deborah Wells

Mayor Pro tem Schmitt announced that the decision for who would be appointed would be announced at the June 8, 2009, City Council Meeting. Council also encouraged the applicants to consider becoming a part of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

6.2 Consideration and possible acceptance of a grant from E. L. Cord Foundation, in the amount of \$15,000.00, for the purchase of Coplogic Desk Officer Online Reporting Software (Time: 4:23:05 p.m.)

Police Chief Steve Asher stated this is an on-line reporting system that is web based. He said they have made several applications for grants in an effort to keep up with technology and the E.L. Cord Foundation has contributed \$15,000 towards this project. They are waiting to hear from other foundations for additional funds for this project.

A motion was made by Council Member Carrigan, seconded by Council Member Smith, to accept a grant from E. L. Cord Foundation, in the amount of \$15,000.00. Council Members Ratti, Salerno, Smith, Carrigan, Schmitt, YES. Motion carried.

6.3 Consideration and Possible Approval of donations for Partners in Parks and Recreation from the Nevada Amateur Softball Association (\$1,000.00) and the Sertoma Club of Sparks (\$1,000.00) (Time: 4:24:27 p.m.)

Parks and Recreation Director Stan Sherer noted that the Partners in Parks and Recreation was established in 2008 with the goal of soliciting input and support from the community to try and bridge the gap between the demand for services and the existing resources. Today we have two organizations which have partnered with us to keep the Junior Giants program viable. This was one of the programs that received budget cuts this past year.

A motion was made by Council Member Salerno, seconded by Council Member Ratti, to approve the donations as outlined. Council Members Ratti, Salerno, Smith, Carrigan, Schmitt, YES. Motion carried.

6.4 Presentation, discussion and possible direction or approval of Federal, State, Nevada League of Cities and Local Legislative Affairs issues (Time: 4:25:52 p.m.)

Government Affairs Analyst Kathy Clewett noted that the Legislature should end by next Monday. They are scheduling conference committees—this is what happens when a bill passes one side and is passed to the other house, where it is amended. The amended bill then has to go back to the first house to a conference committee.

AB80 – the sewer lateral bill. This was sent to the Governor for signature on May 22nd. The bill will give all the cities two years to figure out a fee structure to collect for marking sewer laterals.

AB119 – the comprehensive regional plan and sustainability of water resources bill. The governor vetoed the bill on the 25th. However, to make sure that part of the language made it into law, the language has now been attached to SB175—the flood control bill. SB175 is going through a conference committee.

AB147 – bidding preferences for local companies. This was sent to the Governor on May 23rd. The City will now be required to have local preferences for bids. The general estimate from our Purchasing Department is that it is going to cost the City 5% to 7% more for some items. The definition of local in this bill was Nevada, so someone from Truckee would not be considered local.

AB422 – the STAR Bonds bill. This will be heard tomorrow at 1:30 in Senate Government Affairs.

AB458 – Redevelopment funding bill. This was sent to the Governor, but we have not heard whether he is going to veto or sign it.

AB494 – this is one of the studies that the Legislature is still contemplating.

AB543 – taking 4 cents from every hundred dollars of property valuation from Washoe and Clark counties. This was sent to the Governor on May 22nd.

AB552 – raising the administrative collection fee from local governments from .75% to 1.75%. This was sent to the Governor on May 22nd.

SB175 – the flood control bill. This is sitting in the Senate and it has not been assigned to a committee. This bill has the same language as AB119.

SB201 – the Washoe County RTC 5 bill. The Governor vetoed this on May 21st and it is has not been sent back to the Legislature.

SB213 – Sparks' Charter bill. This was sailing along fine—it had been passed out of the Assembly Government Affairs Committee and it was on the floor. The bill was amended on the 23rd to add language from the ward election bill. Sparks had been amended out of the ward election bill, but now that language has been put into the Sparks Charter bill. The bill has passed out of the Assembly side and it has gone over to the Senate side. It has to go through conference

committee, but that committee has not been posted yet, so we don't know who is going to be assigned to that committee to discuss this change in our Charter bill.

SB264 – another local government authority interim study. This is still sitting in the Senate and the plan is to file all the studies together.

SB294 – another interim study that is just sitting.

SB311 – the fluoridation of water in Washoe County. This will be heard tomorrow at 1:30 in the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee.

SB433 – the bill that will provide the State with the opportunity to allow their workers to go on furloughs. This bill was heard, vetoed, discussed and voted out on the same day. There is some confusion in the language regarding whether local governments were included in this and the part that is included is that PERS and health benefits still accrue while the person is on furlough. The LCB has said that the intent was that it would apply to local governments. The bill has gone to the Governor and we are just looking for clarification on whether it applies to us and how much it is going to cost the City.

Council asked for clarification on the sewer laterals bill. Ms. Clewett stated the Legislature wanted to start enforcing the fact that cities had to start marking the sewer laterals and that we were going to have to pay for it. We said that was great onerous on the cities. Ms. Clewett said that Sr. Assistant City Attorney Shirle Eiting was involved in the discussions on this, but it was her understanding that it was amended because the original intent was to make it effective July 1st, but there was no way the cities could implement this in such a short time frame. The amendment gives us two years to figure out what this is going to cost us and what we can charge the rate payers for this service.

Council Member Carrigan expressed his frustration with the Legislature in general and with the Sparks Charter bill in particular.

6.5 Presentation, discussion and possible direction or approval of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program (Time: 4:44:26 p.m.)

City Engineer Pete Etchart noted that staff is getting our application ready for the EECBG program. At the request of the City Manager, he reviewed several proposed items in the grant application and noted that at the next Council Meeting he would be asking for final approval of the grant application.

Mr. Etchart noted that we expect to receive a direct allocation of \$840,000. There is also \$400 million available in national EECBG competitive grant applications and Sparks will also be applying for those funds. This program will be administered in a similar fashion to the current CDBG program.

Mr. Etchart explained that an energy efficiency and conservation strategy is required by all agencies that are receiving a direct allocation of funds. The strategy has to have measurable goals and objectives (basically energy savings and emissions reductions); requires a schedule for

major milestones; requires an implementation plan (which includes coordination with State and other local agencies); the benefits of the implementation plan and transparency requirements. Mr. Etchart then outlined the time frame for the application and discussed the focus of our energy saving efforts.

6.6 Consideration and Possible Approval of the FY 2008-2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan Amendment to incorporate the CDBG American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding (Time: 4:57:00 p.m.)

City Planner Armando Ornelas noted that this amendment addresses \$166,633 in additional funding allocated to Sparks through the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) of 2009. The proposed use of the additional funding is for a pedestrian improvement project within a low-income neighborhood—removing and replacing concrete curb, gutter and sidewalks and installing ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant accessibility ramps, driveway approaches and catch basins on Zephyr Way between 16th and 18th Streets.

A motion was made by Council Member Ratti, seconded by Council Member Salerno, to approve an amendment to the FY 2008-2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan. Council Members Ratti, Salerno, Smith, Carrigan, Schmitt, YES. Motion carried.

6.7 Consideration and possible direction on FY 2009-10 expenditures for community events, sponsorships, and memberships (Time: 4:58:56 p.m.)

Assistant City Manager Steve Driscoll noted this staff report outlines the budget consequences of events that have taken place and we now need to discuss funding for next fiscal year. He noted that a spread sheet had been provided in the staff report for Council's consideration.

Council Member Carrigan asked for clarification on the Alliance for Innovation. Mr. Driscoll noted this used to be called the Innovations Group. They are a think tank that works with Arizona State University and the International City Manager's Association. They produce best practices; they hold conferences; and provide documents on a regular basis that demonstrate best practices. The City has participated and been recognized for several practices in the past. This gives us an opportunity to see what other communities are doing and saves us from having to go to conferences to get the same information.

Council Member Carrigan asked if the recommended funding for the Nevada League of Cities (\$2,300) included a 20% reduction membership cost from previous years. Mr. Schmitt stated that he did not believe it did; however the League voted to reduce their membership costs by 20%, so this \$2,300 should be lower by 20%. Mr. Schmitt said he asked for a 50% reduction, but the board voted only 20%. He stated his intent was to apply the savings toward travel for the Council to attend the National League of Cities conference.

Council Member Salerno suggested that we cancel our membership in the National League of Cities until the economy is better because we can't afford to send representatives to the conferences. Mr. Schmitt said he asked for a 50% reduction in membership fees from the Nevada League of Cities, but the board voted only 20%. He stated his intent was to apply the savings toward travel for the Council to attend the National League of Cities conference.

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Council Member Ratti asked about the funding for the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful non-profit organization—did this support our participation in the free dump day? Mr. Driscoll stated that this is the sponsorship money to hold park clean up days and free dump day and also provides seed money to get the community out to clean up events.

Council Member Schmitt noted that we just approved funding for EDawn. He asked if that approval was for 08/09 funding or for 09/10 funding. Mr. Driscoll stated the approval was for the next budget cycle (09/10), to make sure funds were budgeted.

Council Member Schmitt said for the most part these memberships are a small amount of money and he is in favor of maintaining membership; however, he was not in favor of the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful because he was not sure what benefits we were getting and because this was a non-profit organization and they need to go through the procedures set up for non-profits to request funding from the City. Mr. Schmitt also requested that the funding for EDawn, if it is for next year, come back to the Council. He asked that the payment for the Nevada League of Cities and the National League of Cities be placed on the agenda for approval when it is due, instead of approving it now.

Council Member Salerno noted we are paying almost \$1,800 for the Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce and we are paying \$825 for Sparks Chamber of Commerce and he asked what benefits we receive by being a member of the Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Ratti clarified that she is not against Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, but she felt uninformed regarding what work they are doing in the community.

Council Member Salerno suggested that each organization be requested to provide a presentation on what they are doing that benefits the City.

Mayor Pro tem Schmitt said this is not taking funding off the list, but an opportunity for organizations to provide information at the time the money is requested and also allows time for us to see how the City is doing financially.

A motion was made by Council Member Carrigan, seconded by Council Member Smith, to approve funding for the Alliance for Innovation; employee awards luncheon; ICMA Comparative Performance Measurement and bring the other memberships back when the membership payments are due. Council Members Ratti, Salerno, Smith, Carrigan, Schmitt, YES. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro tem Schmitt said it has come to his attention that funds for some organizations are going through department budgets. He asked staff to tabulate what is going through the various departments for non-profits, stating the Tourism and Marketing Board is trying to get a handle on where all the different funds are coming from for tourism and marketing related items.

7. **Public Hearings and Action Items Unrelated to Planning and Zoning:** (Time: 5:15:50 p.m.)

None.

8. Planning and Zoning Public Hearings and Action Items: (Time: 5:15:56 p.m.)
None.

9. Comments:

9.1 *From the Council and City Manager (Time: 5:16:01 p.m.)
Council Member Ratti congratulated Mayor Martini and form Council Member John Mayer for their induction into the Sparks High School Hall of Fame.

10. Adjournment (Time: 5:16:24 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk

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