

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 10, 2012**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room. Present: Mayor Di An Putnam, Councilmen Richard Stone, Doug Cain, Joyce Sheen, Jim Billingsley and Paige Brooks. Staff present: City Manager Steve West, City Attorney Kent Maher and City Clerk Eddy Davis.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Putnam called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The December 13, 2011 regular City Council meeting minutes were presented for review and Councilman Cain moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

The warrants were presented for review and Councilman Sheen moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATIONS / EMPLOYEE AWARDS:

There were no proclamations or awards.

PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no public or personal communications or correspondence.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

BUSINESS IMPACT DETERMINATION

City Attorney Maher and the Council reviewed and discussed briefly the agenda items and the effect each item could potentially have on a "business" as the term is defined by statute. The Council agreed that no item on this agenda appears to impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business or appears to directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business. Councilman Sheen moved to make a finding that no item on this agenda appears to impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business or appears to directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business. Motion carried unanimously.

HASKELL-BRIDGE STREET INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS / NDOT

Randy Hesterlee, Assistant District Engineer with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), gave a presentation on the overall benefits of constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Bridge and Haskell Streets. A history of vehicle crashes, pedestrian crossing incidents, and traffic congestion statistics for the intersection were reviewed by NDOT. In 2011, the intersection qualified for the placement of a traffic signal. Hesterlee stated that the Nevada Highway Strategic Safety Plan designates areas that qualify for a roundabout in place of a traffic signal, and all options must be reviewed before committing to a traffic signal for an intersection. Hesterlee said NDOT believes a roundabout is the better long term solution for the Haskell-

Bridge intersection. Several Councilmen expressed concern that large trucks and fire trucks will not be able to move easily through the roundabout. Hesterlee advised that State engineers completed a "swept path analysis" for truck movement and found that trucks are able to safely negotiate the proposed roundabout, and multi-trailer semi trucks can handle the radius of a roundabout better than single-trailer trucks. Hesterlee stated he believes both large trucks and fire trucks can easily navigate a roundabout. Councilman Cain asked how a roundabout in this intersection will compare to the roundabout in Fernley. Hesterlee said a Winnemucca facility will have a smaller diameter. Don Stoker, former City Councilman, expressed concern about traffic congestion in the roundabout when fire or police vehicles need to get through in a hurry. Hesterlee said he believes chances for collisions in the intersection will be far greater with a traffic signal than with a roundabout. Mayor Putnam added that pedestrian safety was also a concern. Councilmen Brooks and Sheen said they are in favor of the roundabout concept. Councilman Cain and City Manager West said their primary concerns with the roundabout option had to do with traffic backing up across the nearby railroad crossing, and with the higher cost. Traffic signals can be interconnected with the railroad crossing signals to prevent traffic backing over the crossing. The cost to construct a roundabout has been estimated by NDOT at approximately \$1.8 million. The City has reserved \$360,000 for the estimated traffic signal cost, and does not have the additional funds available for a roundabout. West noted there may be significant time expended to find the additional funds and to construct a roundabout, and suggested the public may be forced to continue to put up with the traffic flow and safety issues for perhaps another ten years. The traffic signal option will much more quickly resolve the current situation, which is unacceptable to West. Hesterlee added that traffic signals potentially back up traffic, while roundabouts keep traffic flowing. West stressed how well other traffic signals in the City work and that noticeable traffic backups are rare. Stone said he believes the dire financial situation for the State will not allow for roundabout funding assistance. Kevin Lee, NDOT District Engineer, replied the State looks for a reduction in accidents, which a roundabout will accomplish. A reduction in accidents equates to dollar savings in the future, making a roundabout project very feasible to the State. Stoker said he would like to see a comparison on the traffic flows and traffic incidents at the Hanson-Grass Valley Road intersection, which is serviced by a traffic signal. Lee said if the City wanted a roundabout, NDOT will fight to get it accomplished within one year. Hesterlee added that additional property is not needed at the Bridge-Haskell intersection and that the construction of a roundabout will fit within the current space available. It will take approximately three months to complete the project. The Council, by consensus, requested NDOT to move forward with determining whether State funding is available for the construction of a roundabout in a short time period. Lee said he is committed to getting an answer on this, and if the State does not show any commitment to assist with the funding of a roundabout, Lee will approach the traffic section of the department to see what comments and recommendations they have concerning a traffic signal at the location. Earl Cornforth, a local resident, expressed concern about roundabout traffic crossings and pedestrian safety. Hesterlee said pedestrians cross further back at the single lanes of traffic (before reaching the actual roundabout path), and it is actually a safer crossing.

PUBLIC HEARING-ORDINANCE ADOPTION / AMEND WINNEMUCCA MUNICIPAL CODE (WMC) CHAPTER 3.12 / RECREATION FEES INCREASE

Mayor Putnam reviewed the proposed increases to the recreation fees for Chapter 3.12 of the Winnemucca Municipal Code (WMC). Price increases were discussed for the swimming pools, the weight room, and golf course use fees. During the discussion, adjustments were made to the proposed increases. Mayor Putnam called for public comment. Tess Douglas, a local resident and weight room user, asked why a discount for using the weight room was not provided to senior citizens, and expressed concern about access availability to the weight room.

Putnam and the Council agreed a discount fee for senior use of the weight room should be added. Bill Douglas, a local resident, expressed concern with access to the weight room, the hours of operation, and his observation that some people apparently have their own keys to the weight room. Douglas said he feels the weight room should be monitored and should have better controls in place for access. Steve Swecker, Recreation Director, said he doesn't believe access to the weight room is as big of a problem as it is being made out to be. All lifeguards have access to the room, and the police department utilizes the facility on occasion. The weight room is always open during the hours Bode Memorial Pool is open. Putnam suggested a review of the recreation facility policies concerning employee use and key distribution. Earl Cornforth expressed concern with increasing annual golf pass fees for senior citizens. Councilman Stone reviewed the golf fee increases and changes were made to those rates and agreed upon by the Council. The fee for renting the swimming pool was also adjusted due to an increase in lifeguard labor costs. Councilman Cain moved to approve the revised golf course and recreation fees as discussed, and adopt the proposed ordinance. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance Number 778.

GOLF PRO SELECTION PROCESS / WINNEMUCCA MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Mayor Putnam said five resumes-proposals of interest for the golf pro position have been received and the deadline to submit proposals is one week away. Putnam suggested the selection-interview process be agreed upon. Councilmen Sheen and Billingsley felt a committee should be established to review the candidate resumes and conduct interviews. Councilman Cain said the committee should consist of Council members, representatives from both the Mens and Ladies golf clubs, and the Mayor and City Manager. The Mayor appointed a committee, consisting of the Mayor, Councilmen Billingsley and Stone, the City Manager, representatives from both the Mens and Ladies golf clubs, and the High School Golf Team head coaches. Billingsley said that once the candidates were singled down to one individual, that individual should come before the Council for an interview and review and approval of the proposed contract. The Council approved of the procedure by consensus.

STAFF / COUNCIL REPORTS

City Clerk Davis asked if the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney and City Council had received their email regarding the requirement to file the annual financial disclosure statements with the State, which are due by January 17, 2012.

City Manager West reported that staff was working on the annual employee evaluations and the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2013. The City may need to request bids to operate the Sports Complex concession stand, as the Wades are considering whether they wish to renew the contract.

Councilman Stone said that because of the continuing conflict with the Council meeting schedule, another appointment was needed to replace him on the housing consortium committee.

Mayor Putnam said she participated in the meeting with Congressman Amodei. Fire department needs were discussed. Amodei is sending a letter of support for a fire equipment grant application. Two new police officers were sworn in today. Police Officer Holsclaw has filed to seek election as the Justice of the Peace. A meeting will be held next week with architect Angela Hanson to discuss the Melarkey Street-Winnemucca Blvd. intersection

enhancement-improvement project. The VFW will meet tonight. Budget planning will follow the same format as last year.

PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no public or personal communications or correspondence.

Mayor Putnam adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m. until the next meeting on January 24, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy D. Davis
City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED: January 24, 2012

VOTE OF COUNCIL:

AYES:	Councilmen	<u>Stone, Cain, Sheen, Billingsley, Brooks</u>
NAYS:	Councilmen	_____
NOT VOTING:	Councilman	_____
ABSENT:	Councilman	_____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Di An Putnam
Mayor

Eddy D. Davis
City Clerk