

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall meeting room. Present: Mayor Di An Putnam, Councilmen Mike Owens, Theresa Mavity, Ken Tipton, Jim Billingsley, and Paige Brooks. Staff present: City Manager Steve West, City Attorney Kent Maher and City Clerk Lorrie Haaglund.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 6, 2015 regular City Council meeting were reviewed and Councilman Brooks moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

The warrants were reviewed and Councilman Billingsley moved for approval as submitted. Councilman Billingsley abstained from voting on warrants for Jim Dandy Productions as he is the owner of the business. Motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATIONS / EMPLOYEE AWARDS:

There were no proclamations or employee awards.

PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:

Humboldt County Administrator Bill Diest, who is retiring from Humboldt County, thanked Mayor Putnam, City Manager West, the City of Winnemucca, and the various City Councils he has worked with over the last fifteen years, and noted it has been a privilege to work with the City. The relationship between the City and the County is unique in the State of Nevada, and it is something to be extremely proud of. Diest commented that although the two entities may not always agree on issues, they always move forward for the betterment of the City and the County. Mayor Putnam acknowledged the cooperation between the City and the County, which is attributed in part to Diest and West working well together. Putnam expressed appreciation for Diest's work which has resulted in the improvement of the entire community.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ON ITEMS OF BUSINESS & OTHER REPORTS:

BUSINESS IMPACT DETERMINATION

After review and consideration of 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 Owens moved to make a finding that no item on the 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.

SPORTS COMPLEX USE REQUEST / WINNEMUCCA BALLOON FESTIVAL 2015

Jeremy Crosby, Winnemucca 2015 Balloon Festival representative, requested to use the Sports Complex beginning Friday April 24 through Sunday April 26, 2015 for the 4th annual Winnemucca Balloon Festival. Crosby said last year's event was cancelled due to inclement weather. Mayor Putnam said this is a good event that has grown every year. Councilman Billingsley moved to approve the request to use the Sports Complex for the 2015 Winnemucca Balloon Festival hot air balloon launch site from Friday April 24 through Sunday April 26, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITIES USE-FEE WAIVER REQUEST / GIRLS FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT / LININGER

Chris Lininger requested a waiver of the fees for the Winnemucca Girls Softball Association sponsored fast pitch tournament to be held June 27 and 28, 2015 and permission to utilize City staff to prep the fields. Lininger said this tournament last year was the biggest fast pitch tournament held in the state with 31 teams in attendance. They had to use the overflow fields and again anticipate a big turnout for this tournament. Councilman Billingsley moved to approve the request from the Winnemucca Girls Softball Association to hold their annual fast pitch tournament June 27 and June 28, 2015 at the Sports Complex and to waive the fees. Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITIES USE-FEE WAIVER REQUEST / SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT / LININGER

Chris Lininger requested use of the Sports Complex and a fee waiver for the second annual Loopy Leprechaun softball tournament to be held March 14 and March 15, 2015. Last year's proceeds were distributed to the Relay for Life program. This year the proceeds will be split between Relay for Life and the Winnemucca Girls Fast Pitch Association. Last year there were twelve teams that participated and this year they are anticipating more. The cost is \$200 per 12 player team. A home run contest was held during the tournament which made \$1,700. Proceeds from this contest as well as the sale of beverages resulted in approximately \$5,000 being raised. Councilman Owens moved to approve the request to use the Sports Complex and waive the associated fees for the Loopy Leprechaun softball tournament to be held March 14 and 15, 2015 at the Sports Complex. Motion carried unanimously.

SPORTS COMPLEX CONCESSION SERVICES AGREEMENT / WRIGHT

City Manager West explained the City solicited proposals to provide food and beverage concession services at the Sports Complex for the next two years. Brenda Wright submitted the only proposal, which is identical to the previous concessionaire's terms and conditions. Wright said her only concern with a two year contract would be the possibility of some soccer events moving to the new fields when they are completed. West stated he doesn't anticipate the events moving in the near future, but said there would not be a problem with re-negotiating the annual fee should the number of events decrease. Wright said she had based all her figures on the number of events held at the Sports Complex last year. City Attorney Maher explained the contract will have a re-negotiation clause if the circumstances of the number of events changes.

Councilman Mavity moved to approve the two year contract with Brenda Wright to provide food and beverage concession services at the Sports Complex as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS REPORT / FIRE STATION-ANIMAL SHELTER

Don Smit, Aloiau Architects representative, reported they are in the process of closing out the fire station project. There were fifteen change orders which totaled \$71,008.55, some of which included the west end pavement and curbs, the installation of a fire hydrant, extra electrical work and some extra floor coverings. Materials purchased totaled \$334,327.33 on which the City saved \$22,901.42 in sales tax using their non-taxable status, thus reducing the total additional cost impact to the City to around \$50,000. Councilman Billingsley asked about an emblem that was included in the contract design amount but missing at the open house. Mayor Putnam stated the emblem had an incorrect date, so another emblem was ordered. Don Stoker commented on the need for a remote control on the engine bay overhead doors, instead of the three minute automatic timer. Putnam said the matter is being researched and will be addressed. Smit said the animal control center project is coming along well. To date, there have only been two change orders totaling \$6,500 issued. Smit doesn't perceive any other change orders. So far the materials for the project total approximately \$130,000, with a sales tax savings of \$8,900. Putnam asked if the project was on schedule. Smit stated it is a little behind because of paving that needs to be completed; the paving date has been moved to late March. No action was taken.

SEWER FEE AMENDMENTS / ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Putnam stated this is a public hearing for the ordinance which will amend the rates on the sewer fees. The draft ordinance, the sewer rate calculation sheet and the sewer fee comparison table were reviewed. Putnam said that the proposed rates are only slightly higher than the average of the fees charged by the other rural entities. Staff is recommending a fee increase beginning March 2015 from \$21/month to \$30/month and a second increase in January 2016 to \$39.70/month. The fee increases are substantial, but are unavoidable if the planned sewage treatment plant and effluent disposal project are to be financed. The planned construction will cost about 24 million dollars. The Sewer Fund currently has an \$8 million balance, but the existing rate structure will not pay for the anticipated loan. Raising the fees now will help to offset some of the funding that will be borrowed. Putnam noted the City is not in the business of making a profit; the monies collected are proprietary funds and can only be spent on the sewer system, which will make a better community and prepare for future growth. The Mayor called for public comment. Bill Douglas asked if the City had looked into applying for any government grants. City Manager West said the City has done extensive research and there appears to be no grant funding from any agency for this project. West stated the State of Nevada offers a low interest loan for sewer projects and the City sewer project is the top priority of the state. Douglas asked if the state is requiring the City to put in a new sewer plant, why they aren't providing the funding. West said that the project is a result of mandates by the EPA and the Clean Water Act, and the State only has low interest loans available. City Attorney Maher remarked that Winnemucca typically does not qualify for grant funding because the median income in the community is too high. Putnam stated the City is out of time; the wastewater discharge permit will not be extended any more. Don Stoker said these regulations by the federal government will bankrupt a lot of cities in the United States and will eventually do the

same thing to a lot of small businesses. Councilman Billingsley stated he is a small business owner, and sometimes the increased costs are passed on through the services or products provided. Stoker stated there was a sewer rate fee increase in 2008 from \$11 to \$21; now with this increase, the rates will have increased by 360%, and businesses, particularly motels (Stoker is a motel owner), cannot survive the increase. Stoker said going from a lagoon treatment system to a mechanical plant will also increase the operating and mechanical costs four to five times. Councilman Tipton commented the proposed sewer rate increase comes out to be about \$1.30 per day. Douglas and Stoker both stated the public and businesses, particularly the motels, didn't know about the rate increase and said it would be best to put it off a little longer in order to let the community know about it and get more feedback. Council Owens said it has been on the Silver Pinyon, the City Council meetings are open meetings and it has been talked about meetings for the past two years, and the Humboldt Sun has written articles about it over the last year. It is not the fault of the City if the owners of the businesses don't know about the project. Owens said the City needs to move on with this. Putnam stated the increase has to occur; postponing it won't make a difference. Councilman Billingsley said there is no choice, and asked West if the increases will be enough to pay off what the City will need to borrow without having to come back and ask for additional increases. West said that the proposed rates are set at a level necessary to pay off the anticipated loan, and are based on the best project cost numbers available at this time. Councilman Owens moved to approve Ordinance 807 amending the sewer use fees and the connection fees for the City of Winnemucca. Motion carried unanimously.

SEWER PLANT / SOLAR BEE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Mayor Putnam explained this contract is for the maintenance of the solar operated mixers at the sewer lagoon system. The City has three options: Option #1 is for a standard annual cost of \$12,644 per year and this amount could vary any year; Option #2 locks in a three year term billed annually for \$13,150 for a total of \$39,450; and, Option #3 is a onetime payment for the three year period in the amount of \$36,035. Putnam reminded the Council that it will take over three years to complete the new sewer plant. Councilmen Billingsley and Tipton said they believe option three will be the best since it would save the City \$3,000 in the long run. The other Council members agreed. City Manager West said Council had budgeted for annual payments but it could be modified if the Council decides on option three. After some discussion, the Council felt the savings of \$3,000 with option three is the best. Councilman Owens moved to approve option three in the amount of \$36,035 for the Solar Bee maintenance agreement for the three year period of 2015 through 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

WELL REHABILITATION PROJECT / CONTRACT AWARD

Mayor Putnam stated this is the second water well budgeted for major maintenance. City Manager West said only one proposal was received in response to the advertisement for bids, and commented the main reason for the well rehab projects is because the lubricating vegetable oil used in the older wells eventually clogs up the grates and screens on the well casings. In order to clean them, the entire pump assembly has to be removed to allow the well to be chemically scrubbed. A newer water cooled engine is then installed, preventing any oil build-up in the future. West said doing so also increases the quantity of water coming out of the well. Councilman Owens asked about the performance of the well that was rehabbed last year. West

stated it is excellent. Councilman Brooks moved to accept the bid from Hydro Resources in the amount of \$62,933 for Well No. 6 rehabilitation project. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL BOARD/COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Putnam made Board/Committee assignments as follows: Airport Board – Councilman Owens; WCVA – Councilman Billingsley; HDA – Councilman Tipton; RTC – Councilman Owens; Landfill Committee – Councilman Brooks and Councilman Mavity (Note: Mavity may have a scheduling conflict which prohibits her participation on the landfill committee); LEPC – Councilman Owens; Debt management Commission – Mayor Putnam; NV League of Cities – Mayor Putnam, and all Councilmen; Local Youth Awards Committee – Councilman Mavity and Councilman Brooks; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority – Councilman Tipton; Community Center Committee – Mayor Putnam, Councilman Brooks and Councilman Mavity; Community Garden Committee – Councilman Mavity; Insurance Pool Board of Directors and Executive Board – City Manager; Winnemucca Futures – Mayor Putnam, all Councilmen and City Manager; School District Liaison – Councilman Brooks; and, Employee Negotiations Committee – Mayor Putnam, Councilman Owens and Councilman Tipton. Councilman Tipton moved to consent to the board and the committee assignments as made. Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF-COUNCIL REPORTS

City Manager West said the East Winnemucca Boulevard project storm drain design has been completed. West has a follow up meeting with the East Winnemucca Boulevard property owners next week as well as a meeting with the engineers on the sewage treatment plant. West will be meeting with the BLM in the near future on the R&PP lease for the sewage treatment plant. West stated he has been approached by several citizens regarding the panhandlers by Wal-Mart and he has explained there is nothing the City can do. West said a member of the public suggested the City should make a request of the citizens to not encourage the panhandlers and to not give them any money.

Councilman Tipton attended a Paradise Valley Sonoma Conservation District meeting.

Councilman Billingsley will attend the WCVA meeting tomorrow.

Councilman Brooks reported the Landfill Committee Meeting has been rescheduled.

Mayor Putnam reported the open house for the new fire station was a huge success. The recreation complex is planning an October soccer tournament to showcase the new soccer fields for the public.

PUBLIC-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:

There were no public or personal communications or correspondence.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

/////////
/////////

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Haaglund
City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED: February 3, 2015

VOTE OF COUNCIL:

AYES:	Councilmen	<u>Owens, Mavity, Tipton, Billingsley, Brooks</u>
NAYS:	Councilmen	_____
NOT VOTING:	Councilman	_____
ABSENT:	Councilman	_____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Di An Putnam
Mayor

Lorrie Haaglund
City Clerk