

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSION  
AUGUST 7, 2017**

The Winnemucca City Council met in a special joint meeting with the Humboldt County Commission on Monday, August 7, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the Humboldt County Courthouse meeting room at 25 West Fifth Street. City Officials present: Mayor Di An Putnam, Councilmen Mike Owens, Theresa Mavity, Vince Mendiola, Jim Billingsley, and Paige Brooks. City Staff present: City Manager Steve West, City Attorney Kent Maher, Police Chief Eric Silva and City Clerk Lorrie Haaglund. County Officials present: Commission Chairman Mike Bell, Commissioners Marlene Brissenden, Ron Cerri, Jim French, and Ken Tipton. County Staff present: County Administrator Dave Mendiola, Humboldt County Sheriff Mike Allen, County Clerk Tami Spero, Deputy Clerk Elisha Formby and Assistant District Attorney Gabrielle Carr.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Putnam called the City Council portion of the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**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 and Councilman Owens 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.

**COMMUNITY CAT PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

Joe Ratliff, representative of the Community Cat Program, presented a proposal to begin a trap, neuter, and release (TNR) program in the City of Winnemucca and Humboldt County. Ratliff said this program in being successfully used in Reno, Carson City and Las Vegas. The purpose of the program is to reduce feral, abandoned, lost and injured cats. Ratliff said they are a non-profit organization but they need more revenue in order to be self sufficient and they need start up funds. Christina Kenison, representative of the Community Cat Program, said they are currently working with the County to find an adoption facility in order to be able to take in strays and run a TNR program. Mayor Putnam asked if it will be a volunteer program, noting it takes a number of persons to keep a building and have a trapping program. The current City animal control building is not set up for cats. Chief Silva said the Animal Control building is specifically designed for dogs. Silva believes the program can work but they don't have the manpower or the means to control cats. Sheriff Allen said he is in support of the idea but is concerned about the management of the program. Kenison said they are currently looking at a couple of County buildings. County Administrator Mendiola said the quonset building at Sage Heights may work. Putnam said she is concerned about the charges or costs involved to make a building useable and with the future costs for utilities. Putnam said the City and County budgets are stressed and asked if it is known what the start-up costs will be. Kenison said they are asking for \$15,000

from the City and \$15,000 from the County. They are looking into grants to cover the cost of remodeling a facility and also looking at outside sources to help defer costs. Putnam commented feral cats have been an issue for a number of years. In order for the City or County to properly address the issues it will require hiring more people and figuring out how to cover the cost of supplies. Silva said to hire another animal control officer with salary and benefits it will cost \$60,000. Silva said at a minimum they will need two more personnel plus a facility, which will have an estimated cost of 1M dollars. Commissioner French said he is in favor of the control program, but releasing cats back into the wild creates a tremendous negative impact on the bird and wildlife populations. Ratliff explained by placing the sterile cats back in their habitat (colony) it reduces the amount of the community population and reduces the transfer of infectious disease, which is a serious health issue. Councilman Owens commented that he is not sure if the amount they are requesting from the City-County will be enough to get a facility up to health standards. Ratliff reiterated they will be looking at other sources for additional funds. Putnam said these boards will have to see how the money is spent. Commissioner Cerri said organizations have tried to do this same thing with wild horses and it was unsuccessful. Commissioner Tipton said he feels they are putting the cart before the horse; the program will benefit all, but if the program implodes, the County and City don't have the resources to take on the program. Allen agreed with Tipton. Putnam said we have to start somewhere and suggested Ratliff and Kenison come back with actual numbers and results for additional funds. Putnam said if the County and City do agree in the future to provide funding it could be done on a year to year basis. Assistant District Attorney Carr said funding could be done with a contract for services.

Commissioner French moved to direct staff to move forward with exploration of availability of a building meeting the minimum requirements for a facility of this type, and to have legal counsel consider the language for a contract to be presented for approval at a later time. Motion carried unanimously. City Councilman Owens made the same motion for the City. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **NORTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NNRDA) REVISED CONTRACT**

County Administrator Mendiola commented that City Attorney Maher and Assistant District Attorney Carr have been modifying the NNRDA contract in order for it to mirror the former HDA contract. Mendiola said the changes suggested by counsel will work for the City and the County. There is no added money involved with the NNRDA contract. City Attorney Maher said it is his recommendation to leave in the provision dealing with the NNRDA audit. Maher said even though Elko County handles the auditing function of NNRDA it is prudent the County and City get the audit information for this program.

Councilman Owens moved to accept the new NNRDA agreement adding back in the annual audit provision with other changes provided by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Brissenden made the same motion for the County. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PEOPLE (AARP)**

Mayor Putnam commented this agenda item is to encourage Humboldt County and the City of Winnemucca governing boards to actively work towards making this community a great place for all ages. Gini Cunningham has been working towards getting Winnemucca and Humboldt

County age friendly for a number of years. Putnam said she is a member of the Age Friendly committee and they have been working on a number of things to make Winnemucca age friendly. Putnam has written letters of support, the City has installed handicap parking on Bridge Street, and is currently installing Age Friendly benches in the City parks for the elderly to sit on. This designation is to show not only our citizens but other communities that Winnemucca recognizes their adult senior citizens residents. This is only a commitment on our part; there is no funding involved. Winnemucca is the first rural city to be age friendly in the State of Nevada and it is important to support their initiative.

Councilman Owens moved to acknowledge the "Age Friendly Community" designation. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Brissenden made the same motion for the County. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Haaglund  
City Clerk

**PASSED AND ADOPTED:** October 24, 2017

**VOTE OF COUNCIL:**

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Di An Putnam  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorrie Haaglund  
City Clerk