

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
CITY COUNCIL AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMISSION
DECEMBER 16, 2019**

The Winnemucca City Council met in a special joint meeting with the Humboldt County Commission on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Humboldt County Courthouse meeting room at 25 West Fifth Street. City Officials-Staff present: Mayor Richard Stone; Council members Mike Owens, Theresa Mavity, Vince Mendiola, Jim Billingsley and Paige Brooks; and, City Manager Alicia Heiser, City Attorney Kent Maher and City Clerk Lorrie Haaglund; County Officials-Staff present: Commission Chairman Jim French; Commissioners Mike Bell, Ron Cerri and Marlene Brissenden; and, County Manager Dave Mendiola, County Clerk Tami Spero and Deputy District Attorney Wendy Maddox. County Officials-Staff absent: Commissioner Ken Tipton. Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority Officials-Staff present: Board Chairman Terry Boyle; Board members Brian Stone and John Arrant; and, Director Kim Petersen, Board Administrator Kendall Swensen and Board Legal Counsel William Macdonald.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Stone called the City Council portion of the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

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 Council member 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.

INSURANCE SELF-FUNDING / INSURANCE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

City Manager Heiser advised that over the last year the City-County Insurance Benefits Committee has been working with A&H Insurance to explore potential insurance options that may reduce insurance costs to the City and County and/or allow employees to insure family members at a lower cost. A&H Insurance secured quotes from CAS and Anthem for potential self-funded plans. The self-funded plans appear to offer some savings, but the City-County will have to assume more risk because the claims will be paid directly. Self-funding works if the claims payments are less than the premiums revenue. Recently, there have been more costs for payment of claims than the revenues received from premiums; this may not be the best time to go self-funded. Most City-County employees are in the 45-64 years age range which is not typical with most self-funded plans; most self-funded plans have younger employees, which means less claims. The best proposal from CAS for an employee only premium with a high deductible plan is \$608.43. Collecting for the maximum rate (POOL) will be \$690.85. The expected claim rate (POOL) will be \$588.34. The POOL quotes will continue to update until renewal, so there is no final number yet. At this point, the committee feels the City-County is not able to make an informed decision. County Comptroller Gina Rackley said if the self-funding proposal is implemented, it is suggested the premiums for the first year be held at the

current level to create a reserve fund. Commissioner Cerri asked if everyone that is currently insured will remain insured. Rackley commented that if there are major medical issues, the insurance company could refuse to cover those individuals and then the claims would have to be paid directly. The City-County could purchase an additional stop loss coverage plan. Rackley said the entities have until March to decide. Heiser said currently there are no savings to go self-funded. Rackley said there could be a benefit if the school district and hospital joined with the City-County for self-funding, especially if the demographic is younger.

EAST HALL RENOVATION-REPLACEMENT REPORT / P3 PARTNERS

Steven Nielsen with P3 Partners gave a presentation on the potential renovation of the Convention Center East Hall. The proposal is to have the governmental entities lease the property to the builder, who then will construct a facility using tax-exempt municipal bonds for financing and lease the property back to the governmental entities for an agreed upon period of time (to recover the builder investment) after which the property ownership is returned to the public entity. The proposed facility will add approximately 15,560 square feet to the existing facility and two sets of men's and women's restrooms on the first floor so that both the existing East Hall and the new facility can use them during events. The estimated cost is \$8M; it is anticipated WCVA will contribute \$2M toward the project and the remainder will have to be financed through a 25-year loan with monthly payments of approximately \$40,133. Council member Owens said he hopes the Chamber of Commerce maintains a presence downtown. County Commission member Brissenden made a motion that Humboldt County consider leasing the East Hall property to a nonprofit entity for design, financing and construction of improvements and/or additions to the East Hall through an operating and management agreement with the WCVA. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stone commented that the City supports downtown and the Main Street project mirroring and working together. There was no action taken by the City.

There was no action taken by WCVA; they adjourned their portion of the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

MORMON CRICKET PROGRAM

Commission Chairman French reported that the County has been working with the USDA and APHIS to formulate a Mormon Cricket abatement program. Private property is not eligible for treatment through APHIS. Accordingly, the County will need permission to treat private property and will have to determine how such treatment is funded. French suggested there should be an all inclusive program, possibly through a cooperative effort between APHIS, the Department of Agriculture, the City and the County. Dick Rowe (retired State of Nevada Department of Agriculture employee) volunteered to coordinate activities to join forces to start the process this year; specifically, to identify private land ownership and get agreements in place before something needs to be done. Mayor Stone said this could be a cost share agreement. French said that is what the County was thinking of.

There was no action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Haaglund
City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED: February 4, 2020

VOTE OF COUNCIL:

AYES: Owens, Mavity, Mendiola, Billingsley, Brooks _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Richard Stone
Mayor

Lorrie Haaglund
City Clerk