

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 14, 2010**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 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 November 23, 2010 regular City Council meeting minutes were presented for review and Councilman Cain moved for approval as submitted. Councilman Sheen abstained as she was not present at the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

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

PROCLAMATIONS / EMPLOYEE AWARDS:

Mayor Putnam presented Police Officer Jeff Murdock with a 5-Year Employee Service Award.

PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:

Pinyon Pine Journal reporter Dee Holzel said she wanted to address what she defined as a disturbing email correspondence she received from City Manager West regarding an article she had been working on for her website concerning the City sewer discharge permit reporting requirement. Holzel felt the content of the email was undiplomatic and unjustified. Councilman Sheen responded she read the email and didn't have the same conclusion as Holzel. Holzel said she had done research about the issue and left out some derogatory information about the City in the article. Mayor Putnam said she understood Holzel's opinion, but interpreting the emotion is difficult at best. City Manager West said he had received information indicating that Holzel was planning to write a negative article on the subject without full knowledge of the applicable facts. West felt there was an immediate need to share the facts with Holzel, hopefully before the article was written. Holzel said she had a problem with the tone of West's email. Councilman Sheen said it was difficult to clarify correctly the intent of anything in writing to a recipient. West said Holzel indicated that she wrote the article after receiving the email, but she still chose not to include certain important facts in the article, leaving the City open for criticism. Holzel replied that letters written in this fashion do not enhance but hinder communication and she was only bringing this up in order to place the spotlight on the need for positive communication. Mayor Putnam noted that Holzel's comments indicate that all of us can do a better job at communicating with each other. The City Manager's intent was in the right place because it is his job to protect the City. The Mayor thanked Holzel for her comments.

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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.

2011 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PARTY FUNDING REQUEST

Councilmen Brooks and Billingsley advised they will be abstaining from voting on this request as they are both associated with the Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Committee. Mayor Putnam reviewed the function of the committee and the drug and alcohol free party benefit to graduates, parents, and the police department. Tiffany Laird, Committee treasurer, thanked the Council for always supporting this effort. Approximately \$4,000 in grant funding will not be available this year. The party has a budget of \$20,000. Committee member Paige Brooks said this is the eighteenth year the party will be held and not a single problem has been reported over the years. The cost of games and prizes has increased. Over 96% of the shopping for those games and prizes is done locally. Local businesses, parents, the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority and Humboldt County have also been asked for funding assistance. Humboldt County increased their donation from \$2,500 to \$3,500. The committee is asking the City to increase their donation as well. In 2011, 233 graduates are expected, up from 180 in 2010. Councilman Cain said all of his children participated in the parties over the years and he fully supports it. Mayor Putnam said that last year the City gave \$1,500 to the committee. The City police fully support the event. Councilman Cain moved to contribute \$2,000 toward the 2011 Drug and Alcohol Free High School Graduation party. Motion carried unanimously, with Councilmen Brooks and Billingsley abstaining.

USE OF CITY-OWNED POKE 'N' PEEK BUILDING / HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Mayor Putnam said the City recognizes the services provided to the hospital by the Hospital Auxiliary. The all-volunteer agency started in a basement in 1968, and in 1971 they expanded to the present Poke 'N' Peek building. After reviewing the City records, it appeared the only mention of the Auxiliary use of the City building was recorded in the City meeting minutes; there is no formal document between the two entities. The proposed resolution will document the terms for use of the building. The resolution should include the actual address of the Poke 'N' Peek building, which is 3200 Bengochea Circle (located in the Sage Heights area). Hospital Auxiliary member Dorothy Brinkoetter presented a map showing the location and address of the building. Hospital Auxiliary member Marie Thompson said the Auxiliary board wholeheartedly approved the resolution and thanked the City for its support of the facility. Councilman Sheen said that relationships typically are not formalized with volunteer organizations because they often don't last, but the Hospital Auxiliary has become an institution with the substantial

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contributions to the hospital and the community. Sheen thanked the Auxiliary for the thousands of volunteer hours they provide. City Manager West added a thank you to the Hospital Auxiliary for their participation in sharing the costs for the new roof and furnace in the building. Councilman Brooks moved to accept the terms and conditions for the Humboldt General Hospital Auxiliary use of the City-owned Poke 'N' Peek building and premises at Sage Heights to provide charitable services and to adopt the proposed resolution and include the street address at 3200 Bengochea Circle. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution Number 2010-33.

PRESENTATION / HYCROFT RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

Warren Woods (Vice President and General Manager-Hycroft Mine) and Deborah Lassiter (Director of Corporate Environmental Affairs-Allied Nevada Gold) gave a slide presentation on future expansion plans for the Hycroft Mine located on Jungo Road. The mine was operating under a different name when it closed in 1998. In 2008, Allied Nevada Corporation was formed and re-opened the Hycroft mine site. The mine now has a life of approximately 25 years. Highlights of the presentation included properties that are operating throughout Nevada, planned increases in production of gold and silver, expansion of facilities, additional equipment purchases, the possible construction of a railroad spur near the Humboldt County property, and the expansion of sulfide production. Mayor Putnam pointed out that the large equipment purchases are taxed at the point of delivery which benefits Humboldt County and Winnemucca. Woods reiterated his excitement to be participating in the community's future growth. Lassiter said with the increased activity at the mine, they are able to close out some old properties and do some reclamation. The increased drilling for gold and silver has confirmed the possible availability of geothermal resources which they are actively pursuing. There appears to be an opportunity for a future geothermal plant which could provide energy savings to Hycroft and possibly feed energy into the power grid. An Environmental Impact Statement, which is required for the oxide expansion, is in the works. Mayor Putnam said she looks for their growth to have a positive effect on Winnemucca.

CONFIRMATION OF WINNEMUCCA AIRPORT RULES AND REGULATIONS

This item was postponed until the second meeting in January 2011.

2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

Mayor Putnam referred to next year's proposed meeting schedule presented by staff. The schedule is close to the same as it has been for the last four years. The council meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of months with four Tuesdays, and the council meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of months with five Tuesdays. The annual budget meeting is scheduled by law to be held on the third Tuesday of May (May 17, 2011) and a single meeting is usually scheduled in December. Though the schedule is approved today, adjustments to meeting dates can be made throughout the year. Councilman Cain moved to approve the 2011 City Council meeting schedule as presented by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

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PUBLIC HEARING / LIGHTING OPTIONS / STREET LIGHT RETROFIT PROJECT

Mayor Putnam stated the street lighting project is to be paid for primarily with federal stimulus energy funds and is planned to provide substantial energy savings to the City. There are four options; one option includes retrofitting of the Carriage-type street light fixtures that are currently in place and the other three options consist of various Acorn-type light fixtures with light pole height reductions. Councilman Cain said he was in favor of keeping the Carriage-type light fixtures if they can be upgraded by securing the poles and arms and changing out the light to a 250-watt bulb. The current lights and poles in place offer a better product than what is manufactured today. Councilman Stone agreed, but prefers the lighting put out by the LED type bulbs. Mayor Putnam opened up the discussion for public comment. Don Stoker, local business owner and WCVA board member, agreed with Councilmen Cain and Stone in that the Carriage lights are very visible because of the arm extension, which is very important to the lighting of the (Winnemucca) Boulevard. Local business owners Louie Hernandez, Ray Olsen, Lowell Chichester and Steve Patterson expressed their preference for the Carriage lights. Stoker said he approached every motel on Winnemucca Boulevard with the lighting options and 100% were in favor of retrofitting the Carriage lights. Of the 55 businesses that Stoker visited, only one had a negative comment about the current lights. Councilmen Billingsley, Stone, and Cain all expressed their opinion in favor of retrofitting the Carriage lights. Councilman Stone moved to accept Option A which would retrofit the Carriage lights. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Putnam said a decision needed to be made concerning what type of lighting apparatus should be used within the light fixture, choosing between LED blue lighting or 250-watt high pressure sodium ballast/bulbs. Councilmen Cain and Brooks agreed that additional lighting options should be researched before a decision is made. City Manager West said staff will now proceed with a more detailed research of available retrofit options. Liquid crystal lighting is also a possible option. Retrofitting of the Carriage lights should include adding bracing between the arms and poles, as well as replacing the glass panels and factory painting. Putnam directed staff to follow-up with available retrofit options for the lights. Stoker said he was satisfied with the outcome of today's action.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION / PROPOSED REVISIONS TO MANUFACTURED HOME SITING STANDARDS TO ADD REQUIREMENTS FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PLACED IN MOBILE HOME PARK (MHP) DISTRICT AND MANUFACTURED HOME COMBINING DISTRICT (MHCD)

City Attorney Maher reported that staff believes that recreational vehicle (RV) standards should be set out in a separate section of the code, rather than making revisions to the Manufactured Home Siting Standards by including requirements for RVs. There is inconsistency between the current code sections; there should be criteria for RVs that defines which zoning districts allow or exclude RVs. City Manager West expressed concern that attempting to straighten out the entire ordinance may result in the process being dropped, as in the past. Maher added the Building Inspector is in agreement that further review should be considered. There was discussion on RV permitting and ordinance compliance issues. Mayor Putnam directed staff to research options available for the RV siting standards and present it for further discussion at a future meeting.

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STAFF / COUNCIL REPORTS

City Manager West outlined the additional costs associated with the PERS rate increases effective July 1, 2011. West said he was anticipating the increase for the next budget cycle. PERS rates are taken into account when negotiating employment contracts. The new rates will cost the City an estimated \$66,000 in additional PERS benefits for its employees.

Councilman Cain reported he has recently attended a series of Airport board meetings discussing the proposed rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are expected to be finalized by the Airport board next month.

Councilman Sheen said she will attend the WCVA meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Councilman Billingsley said he will be attending a Futures project committee meeting tonight.

Councilman Brooks reported an NNRC meeting is not scheduled in December. The District Attorney's office dismissed the citations given to the students that were in attendance at the party which has been under much scrutiny recently. Brooks stated that the policies and procedures that the police department follow are not only there to protect the public, but are also in place for the department's own safety and protection. Brooks was asked why snow is shoveled into the gutter area rather than to the middle of the street. City Manager West said the policy developed several years ago states that snow is removed to the gutters unless the quantity is large and, if so, it is moved to the middle of the street and hauled off. The Public Works crew makes that decision.

Mayor Putnam said a joint City/County meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18. Putnam said concern has been voiced about her relationship with Bob Davidson, Sr. Putnam stated she is not involved with Davidson in property ownership, or in any other working or financial relationship. There should be no speculation that there was, or is, any bias on Putnam's part concerning Police Chief Davidson (son of Bob Davidson, Sr.) After a telephone conversation with Jack Ryan (POOL-PACT expert on police matters and constitutional law), it was determined the Police Department should continue to follow their standard procedures, and management training should be offered to all new supervisors. A meeting was recently held with City patrolmen, the Mayor and Councilman Cain. The Mayor said every attempt is being made to address community concerns and controversies by turning them into something positive. A report will be sent out to update the situation in the future. The POOL-PACT police expert stated that investigative information should not be shared with the School District for their use in enforcing the NIAA student contracts. Councilman Billingsley said it was good to know that the WPD acted correctly overall concerning the student party, but the morale issue within the WPD needed to be addressed. Cain replied a good discussion took place in the meeting with the Mayor which he believes will turn out to have a positive affect within the department. West added there was a need for cross-generational training among the officers. The age gap between the officers is believed to be part of the problem. Putnam said a third party was reviewing the City personnel policies, but policy updates do not happen overnight, and it is a work in progress that is moving forward. A meeting was held with the Winnemucca Arts

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Council. Background information on a proposed community/cultural center was provided so the group could move forward with researching the availability of community theatre grants.

Mayor Putnam adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m. until the next scheduled regular meeting on January 4, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy D. Davis
City Clerk

PASSED AND ADOPTED: January 4, 2011

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