

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 7, 2012**

The Winnemucca City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 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 January 24, 2012 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 Cain moved for approval as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROCLAMATIONS / EMPLOYEE AWARDS:**

Mayor Putnam read a proclamation announcing February 2012 as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month" in Winnemucca.

**PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:**

Jen Hatler and Ann Latham, representatives for the local American Cancer Society Relay for Life group, invited the Mayor, City Council and City Staff to a kickoff celebration scheduled for Saturday, February 18, at 11:00 a.m. in the Comstock Room of the East Hall Convention Center. Hatler said Relay for Life has been in Winnemucca for five years and earned over \$60,000 in donations last year. It is hoped the kickoff event will heighten community interest in support of earning funds to fight cancer in the community.

Bill Sims, Director of the Humboldt Development Authority (HDA) and Small Business Development Center (SBDC), introduced Megan Bowers as the new Vista volunteer to assist with HDA and SBDC services. The Future's Forum invited Steve Hill, Executive Director of the State Economic Development Office, to speak at the February 22 meeting. The 13-week class for business entrepreneurs entitled "NxLevel for Entrepreneurs" is scheduled for March 13 through June 5, 2012. The class will cost \$95 to participants and will be held in the Humboldt General Hospital main conference room. Once the course is completed and participants have a complete business plan in place, the \$95 fee is refunded.

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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 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.

**VARIANCE REQUEST / REDUCE FRONT YARD SETBACK / SHEPPARD**

Betty Lawrence, Humboldt County Planning Department, said the property owner is requesting the variance for a proposed development on the property located on East Second Street between Reinhart and East Winnemucca Blvd. John Milton, Desert Mountain Surveying, agent for the property owner, explained that the variance is needed because there is a City drainage easement across the property which restricts the use of the property. The variance is necessary to effectively utilize the property for a proposed housing project and not interfere with the easement. Staff recommends approval. Councilman Cain moved to approve, based upon staff findings and recommendation, variance VW-12-02 to reduce the front yard setback from 20 feet to 10 feet in an M-1 (Industrial) zoning district on property located on East Second Street between Reinhart and East Winnemucca Blvd., APNs 015-225-015 and 015-225-16, for property owners T.G. and Elaine Sheppard. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution Number 2012-05.

**GOLF PRO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Mayor Putnam introduced Rick Longhurst, who was offered the golf professional contract to oversee the Winnemucca Municipal Golf Course operations, and explained the proposed one year professional services agreement effective January 1, 2012 which was included in the meeting packet. Authorization to sign the agreement is requested. Longhurst thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and said he looks forward to getting started this season. Councilman Billingsley asked Longhurst how the transition was going. Longhurst replied the facility (clubhouse) was great and he loves the golf course, having played it many times, and he is looking forward to the challenge. Councilman Stone moved to approve the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Golf Professional Services with Rick Longhurst, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Putnam formally welcomed Longhurst to Winnemucca.

**REQUEST FOR DIAGONAL STREET PARKING**

Tom Klein, Tekee Enterprises, requested diagonal street parking along his property on Hanson Street located between West Winnemucca Blvd. and West Second Street. Klein said he wants to sell the property and would like to add an additional three (3) diagonal parking spaces at the lower end of the block for the new owners. The additional parking will allow for the prospective business to better accommodate customers. City Manager West said he believes this request is not warranted because only two additional parking spaces will be created, and both are at the

other end of the block. There are several existing driveways on both sides of the block which make it difficult to benefit from diagonal parking. The diagonal striping will also greatly narrow the width of the travel lanes. The addition of only two spaces is not enough to warrant the annual striping work or cost. Staff recommended denial and suggested that Klein work with the adjacent motel and movie theatre to create additional parking behind those businesses, because the additional parking is only needed during daytime business hours, not when the motel and theatre need parking mainly during the evening hours. Councilman Brooks, Stone and Cain said they do not believe the additional parking spaces will add that much to the mix. The street will become narrower for traffic, especially for the trucks. Cain said the best scenario is to utilize the parking behind the motel. Mayor Putnam said it is obvious the Council is not in favor of the request for additional diagonal parking. No action was taken.

### **REQUEST FOR FUNDING / SONOMA INDUSTRIES**

Dawn Marie West, Director, and Doreen Casalez of Sonoma Industries requested a donation from the City because the Sonoma Industries store is not doing well financially and is dependent upon State funding (which is limited). Revenue from sales typically makes up the difference at the store, but there has been a decline in shoppers and sales over the past year. The store employs an average of 12-14 persons with disabilities. For each day a person works, the State pays a fixed amount. The employees are trained with skills which businesses throughout the community can use. The goal is to teach the employees assigned tasks for each job. The donation from the City is requested to help keep the doors open and keep the people employed. Mayor Putnam said that donation requests are reviewed during the budget process each year. Councilman Cain added the store provides a much needed service to the community, and asked if West and Casalez had any ideas on how to grow the business, suggesting that the public needs to become more aware of what they do and the needs they have. West said they have contacted area mines for help and will be approaching the County for assistance on February 21. Mayor Putnam advised the City will look at the request for funding during the budget process, which typically takes place in late March. No action was taken.

### **TEEN, YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER**

Brian Nelson shared his vision for a teen, youth and family community center in Winnemucca. Nelson's background includes working with youth and teens as a teacher and coach in Indiana, a parks and recreation director in Ohio, a unit director of the Boys and Girls Club in Pahrump, Nevada, and a substance abuse counselor/prevention coordinator in Winnemucca. Nelson added he has communicated his idea for the center to Alaine Nye of the Frontier Community Action Agency, Sunny Johnson of the Frontier Community Coalition, the Family Stability group and the Sixth Judicial District Court Youth and Family Services agency. Nelson proposed the idea of utilizing the City weight room facility for the Center. The weight lifting equipment will be replaced with game tables, pool tables, etc. Some renovations will have to be made. Many organizations in the community could use the Center, such as community groups, church youth and teen groups, and youth sport organizations that are already in place. The Center will be staffed by volunteers. Mayor Putnam said it was her understanding that the first thing to be done is the development of a committee that will be responsible for bringing people together with similar goals in mind. Putnam said the issue of staffing needs to be addressed, as the City does not have the staff necessary to oversee a Community Center of this type. Recreation Director Swecker said usage of the weight room has never been that good, and losing it will not be an issue for the City. Table games could be located where the current weight equipment is

located. Councilman Billingsley expressed concern that it is hard to put together and sustain a project of this magnitude, especially when using volunteer labor for staffing and with raising the necessary funding. Nelson pointed out that in-kind donations (labor and materials to remodel the space) will help tremendously. Councilman Sheen said she liked the idea of running the Center under the auspices of existing groups in town and believes that is what will make the program workable. Putnam assured Nelson the City is agreeable with the idea of moving forward with the concept and will coordinate with Nelson to seek out involvement from others in the community, and she is willing to participate in a planning session. Nelson thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and indicated that he will continue to work on the project with the support of the City.

## **STAFF / COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilman Stone reported the Governor proposed a new economic development plan for the state covering the 2012-2014 period, using the idea of accomplishing the statewide economic development goals through regional groups.

Councilman Cain said he met with the County Commission regarding the urban pond project. The County agreed to sponsor the project, and appointed Cain as the contact for the County. The next step is to approach businesses for funding assistance. Water permitting will take up to six months to complete. The NDEP approvals on the restroom facilities may create certain challenges. NDOW supports the project. The start-up time is expected to be a minimum of six months. The County is moving forward with the new dispatch center project at an estimated cost of \$2.1 million. The facility will be located on the property fronting the Humboldt County Detention Center.

Councilman Billingsley said he enjoyed participating in the golf pro selection/negotiations process, and that it was a good experience.

Councilman Brooks said there was nothing to report from the NNRC. Brooks attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Drake Rose and Associates. Several complaints were passed on to her concerning citizens not being treated very well by the dispatch center. Brooks directed them to contact the Humboldt County Sheriff with complaints. The high school basketball and wrestling teams are doing well this year.

Mayor Putnam attended: (1) the open house for the new mammography system at the hospital; (2) the community breakfast where Police Chief Silva shared what was happening at the Police department; and, (3) the Newmont breakfast with City Manager West. The Mayor, City Manager West, Public Works Supervisor Sutton, and Councilmen Brooks and Cain recently toured the Carry-On Trailers manufacturing plant located at the Airport Industrial Park. Mayor Putnam also attended the Mayor's meeting in Reno last week. Eight Mayors were in attendance. Applied Analysis gave a presentation concerning possible changes in the State sales tax computations. Nevada has changed over the years to a service-oriented State (from 39% to 69% of State revenues). The intent of the presentation was to educate people concerning the sales tax distribution and how the State demographics have changed over the years. West noted that the City needs to be very concerned about the Legislature tampering with the sales tax distribution formula because the consolidated tax revenue is currently 42% of the City total general fund revenue. Any tampering with the existing formula will most likely result in a reduction in amount distributed to the rural local governments.

**PUBLIC / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE:**

There were no public or personal communications or correspondence.

Mayor Putnam adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m. until the next meeting on February 21, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddy D. Davis  
City Clerk

**PASSED AND ADOPTED:** February 21, 2012

**VOTE OF COUNCIL:**

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Di An Putnam  
Mayor

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Eddy D. Davis  
City Clerk