



MAYOR  
*Geno Martini*

CITY COUNCIL  
*Julia Ratti, Ward I*  
*Ed Lawson, Ward II*  
*Ron Smith, Ward III*  
*Charlene Bybee, Ward IV*  
*Ron Schmitt, Ward V*

CITY ATTORNEY  
*Chet Adams*

CITY MANAGER  
*Stephen Driscoll*

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**  
**8:30 A.M., Monday, November 16, 2015**  
**Sparks City Hall, Lower Level, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada**

**1. Call to Order** (Time: 8:30 a.m.)

The workshop of the Sparks City Council was called to order by Mayor Geno Martini at 8:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call** (Time: 8:30 a.m.)

Mayor Geno Martini, Council Members Julia Ratti, Ed Lawson, Ron Smith, Ron Schmitt, City Manager Steve Driscoll and City Clerk Teresa Gardner, PRESENT.

ABSENT: Council Member Charlene Bybee

ON STANDBY: City Attorney Chet Adams

**3. Pledge of Allegiance** (Time: 8:30 a.m.)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Julia Ratti.

Mayor Martini asked for a moment of silence for the people of France.

**4. Public Comment** (Time: 8:31 a.m.) - None

**5. Agenda** (Time: 8:31 a.m.)

**5.1 Approval of the Agenda (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Consideration of taking items out of sequence, deleting items and adding items which require action upon a finding that an emergency exists.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Lawson, to approve the agenda as submitted. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Schmitt, YES. Council Member Bybee, ABSENT. Passed unanimously with those present.

**6. Item I: Presentation, discussion and possible direction on reaffirming the City's vision for the future. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)** (Time: 8:32 a.m.)

A presentation from City Manager Steve Driscoll with facilitator Erica Olsen confirming the City of Sparks' vision statement "Be the city of choice for Residents, Businesses and Visitors" is on track and to be the basis for future operational and strategic planning efforts.

City Manager Driscoll discussed the epic study and how it relates to the City of Sparks. The city is broken down into three different census zones in the study: old Sparks, Sparks industrial area and Sparks suburban. City Manager Driscoll spoke on how to strategically handle growth using the information gathered. The city will need to determine when additional services such as fire stations, public safety, street improvements and park facilities will be necessary.

City Manager Driscoll said the epic study showed job growth is happening in Storey County. Housing is a concern. The current houses being built will be out of the price range for some of the jobs that are coming in. Council asked if staff will be able to keep up with the housing component. Staff answered that current staffing will be sufficient as housing growth will be linear and they are putting steps in place to be prepared for whatever growth brings. Staff discussed having Council meet with developers to express of the type of development the Council would like to see. Council stated time is of the essence and directed staff to get a list of developers together and create talking points. City Manager Driscoll spoke about how the infill in South Meadows is affecting the city and what might happen when that area is full and new development will be needed. Sparks will have the advantage at that time.

**7. Item II: Presentation, discussion and possible direction on 'levers' the City can use to direct the future of the City. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 10-:35 a.m.)**

Facilitator Erica Olsen led a discussion on “levers” the city can pull. One is to encourage infill development in Redevelopment District #2 and the Oddie Blvd corridor, and the need to have a master plan update. Council also discussed addressing the changing needs of millennials and if it is even possible to do so.

The Mayor spoke about Renown buying Lowes, and the jobs that will be coming as a result.

In addition, legislative changes, long term land use, and fiscal sustainability were discussed. Council asked if the city should be looking at annexing land, and if so, where. Tesla is not the only upcoming change Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) is working with.

Council discussed the regional plan for a trolley car versus planning for a light rail 20 years in the future. Council does not see a benefit to Sparks.

**8. Item III: Presentation, discussion and possible direction on strategic areas of focus which may include development policy; environmental sustainability; water sustainability; expansion of recreation facilities; and/or infrastructure improvements. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)(Time: 9:00 a.m.)**

Council discussed the flood control plan in the industrial area. Council is concerned if it floods in that area again the businesses that are there will leave and not come back. Flood control needs to be our priority now. Council said 2018 is too late to have a plan for commercial development. The city cannot come up with a plan B without its regional partners. City Manager Driscoll will propose to the Mayors/ Managers to have an agenda item on flood control at the next concurrent meeting. Council suggested showing film of what happened in 1997 at the next concurrent meeting.

City Manager Driscoll discussed Council’s environmental sustainability action plan done in 2009. Council discussed knowing what they would like to fund. Council suggested dusting off the

environmental sustainability action plan and review for current issues. Council asked if the city needed to do a water conservation plan. Mayor Martini said the water plan should come from Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA).

Council discussed effluent and reclaimed water. City Manager Driscoll gave 3 talking points. The first talking point is can effluent be used to recharge the aquifers. The second talking point is should the city invest in a purple pipe system. The third talking point is can effluent be a commodity and sold. Council determined there are 2 goals, fiscal and environmental. The city has gone from having too much effluent reclaimed water to not having enough. The number one priority should be to recharge the aquifer. Staff confirmed Council's direction was to not sell any additional effluent water until recharge questions have been answered. Staff cautioned there could be a ripple effect with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), there could be pushback and the city could be held to a higher standard. Staff stated this is a Reno/Sparks conversation, not a regional conversation.

Council discussed exploring ways of energy conservation regarding trash and recycle. The city needs to relook at the data as things have changed. Council stated this issue needs to be one of the top conversations to have regionally, the city is not large enough to consider this issue on its own.

City Manager Driscoll discussed the refinancing of bonds for Golden Eagle Regional Park (GERP); however, that would not equal more fields but the city would benefit from flat fields at GERP and other parks. Council and staff discussed having projects ready in case a federal funding opportunity comes up, looking at projects like Sparks Middle School flat field and Larry D. Johnson Community Center (LDJ) gym. Council and staff discussed recreation facilities and how parks could be done in the future, that the city could shift from neighborhood/pocket parks to larger regional parks. Staff stated selling the smaller fields for larger parks is not a viable answer. The currently entitled houses are slated to be built with smaller parks. Staff is not confident enough in the Tesla effect to start having conversations with developers to change current entitlements. Council discussed the possibility of a facility use fee.

**9. Comments**

**9.1 Comments from the Public** (Time: 10:58 a.m.) None.

**9.2 Comments from City Council and City Manager** (Time: 10:58 a.m.) None.

**10. Adjournment** (Time: 10:59 a.m.)

Council was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

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GENO R. MARTINI, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Teresa Gardner, City Clerk

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