



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

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2:00 P.M., Monday, September 28, 2015
City Council Chambers, Legislative Building, 745 Fourth Street, Sparks, Nevada

1. Call to Order (Time: 2:00 p.m.)

The regular meeting of the Sparks City Council was called to order by Mayor Geno Martini at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call (Time: 2:00 p.m.)

Mayor Geno Martini, Council Members Julia Ratti, Ed Lawson, Ron Smith, Charlene Bybee, Ron Schmitt (arrived at 2:02; absent from 3:40 to 4:32), Acting City Manager Jeff Cronk, City Attorney Chet Adams and City Clerk Teresa Gardner, PRESENT.

ABSENT: None

3. Opening Ceremonies

3.1 Invocation Speaker (Time: 2:01 p.m.)

The invocation was provided by Pastor Barb West, Sparks Church of the Nazarene.

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance (Time: 2:02 p.m.)

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

4. Public Comment (Time: 2:03 p.m.)

Bill No. 2695 on prohibiting care and shelter of feral cats: Karen Jacobs, Traci Sorholus, Kimberly Wade of Nevada Humane Society, Charlene Hadwin of SPCA of Northern Nevada, and Deborah Banks spoke in opposition; Ardena Perry and Susan Rhoades spoke in favor.

Bill No. 2694 on urban agriculture: Marnie Degarson, Julie Cain, Brittany Ewers spoke in favor, Susan Rhoads spoke in opposition.

John Rhoads spoke of a letter submitted by his attorney to the city that did not receive a response and his concern with weeds.

Carrie Parker of Snell & Wilmer law offices, representing St. Mary's Regional Medical Services, spoke in opposition of agenda item 9.7 and the award of an agreement with Renown.

Council Member Schmitt asked the City Attorney to provide an opinion on what would prevail between the law and homeowners' association rules if Bill No. 2694 is adopted.

5. Agenda (Time: 2:41 p.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 Lawson, seconded by Council Member Schmitt, to approve the agenda moving agenda item 9.7 after 9.4. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

6. Minutes (Time: 2:41 p.m.)

6.1 Consideration and possible approval of the minutes of the regular Sparks City Council meeting on September 14, 2015.

A motion was made by Council Member Bybee, seconded by Council Member Smith, to approve the minutes of the regular Sparks City Council meeting on September 14, 2015. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

7. Announcements, Presentations, Recognition Items and Items of Special Interest (Time: 2:42 p.m.)

7.1 Proclamation: Reno-Sparks Goes to College Week (Time: 2:43 p.m.)

Mayor Geno Martini proclaimed the week of November 2-6, 2015 as "Reno-Sparks Goes to College Week" and encouraged all students and parents to participate in this event to become more informed of the educational opportunities to secure a successful future for our area's youth. The proclamation was presented to University of Nevada Reno's Christie Smith who thanked the Mayor and Council and invited all to the annual college fair at UNR on November 8, 2015.

7.2 Proclamation: Fallen Firefighter (Time: 2:45 p.m.)

Mayor Geno Martini read a proclamation and called upon all citizens of the City of Sparks to observe the day of October 4, 2015 to remember all fire and emergency personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community and to pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes. The proclamation was accepted by Fire Chief Tom Garrison.

7.3 Proclamation: Fire Prevention Week (Time: 2:49 p.m.)

Mayor Geno Martini proclaimed October 4-10, 2015 as "Fire Prevention Week" and urged all the people of the City of Sparks to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. The proclamation was presented to Fire Marshall Bob King.

8. Consent Items (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 2:56 p.m.)

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bybee, to approve the consent item as submitted. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

8.1 Report of Claims and Bills approved for payment and appropriation transfers for the period August 27, 2015 through September 9, 2015.

An agenda item from Financial Services Director Jeff Cronk recommending the City Council approve the report of claims and bills as presented in the staff report.

9. General Business

9.1 Presentation, discussion and possible direction on the results of the 2015 Public Citizens Survey. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 2:56 p.m.)

An agenda item from Sr. Administrative Analyst Kathy Clewett recommending the City Council accept the presentation. The citizen survey is conducted every 2 years and explores citizen ratings on quality of life, and growth related to jobs, population and retail. The biggest citizen concern is traffic congestion. Education and schools is a big concern but citizens realize the city is not responsible. Gang activity, graffiti and neighborhood appearance were a medium concern. Additional information on neighborhoods, community, safety, parks and recreation, city services, citizen involvement, consolidated government, and sustainability were discussed. Overall, 61% of citizens who contacted the city to resolve a problem felt the city was helpful; there was discussion on how to determine what areas need improvement. In addition, comments on the slow increase to doing business on the internet and exploring other survey methods to reach a more diverse population were discussed.

9.2 Discussion and possible approval for payment of the annual support from the City of Sparks to the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$100,000. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 3:20 p.m.)

An agenda item from City Manager Steven Driscoll, presented by Acting City Manager Jeff Cronk recommending the Council authorize the City Manager to process an annual support payment to the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) for fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$100,000. The Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) is the partnering agency providing economic development support to the city and the region. The Sparks City Council allocated monies for the support of various governmental and quasi-governmental agencies in the annual budget process and \$100,000 was approved for EDAWN in the fiscal year 2015-2016 Final Budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Bybee, seconded by Council Member Smith, to approve payment for the City's annual support of EDAWN for fiscal year 2015-2016 in the amount of \$100,000. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

9.3 Consideration and possible approval of a contract with RAD Strategies in the amount of \$100,000 to assist the City with the public outreach portion of the Comprehensive Plan update. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 3:22 p.m.)

An agenda item from Sr. Planner Karen Melby recommending awarding the professional services contract to RAD Strategies. The City of Sparks has elected to update the Comprehensive Plan as identified in the city's Strategic Plan. Staff issued a RFP for a consultant to support the city with the public outreach component of the city's Comprehensive Plan update. An interdepartmental staff committee reviewed the submittals and interviewed four teams. The review committee unanimously recommends that the City Council award RAD Strategies a contract in the amount of \$100,000 to assist with the public outreach portion of the update of the Comprehensive Plan. Funding for this contract was included in the city's fiscal year 2015-2016 budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bybee, to approve the contract in the amount of \$100,000 to provide professional services to RAD Strategies. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

9.4 Consideration and possible direction to staff to seek financing options for construction of Phase 3 of the North Truckee Drain Relocation Project. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 3:26 p.m.)

An agenda item from City Engineer John Martini recommending Council provide direction to seek financing options for construction of Phase 3 of the North Truckee Drain Realignment Project. At the February 24, 2015 City Council Workshop, Community Services staff presented a draft of the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2016 through 2020. Included in the CIP was \$25 million of budget authority for construction of Phase 3 of the North Truckee Drain Relocation project for fiscal year 2016. During the workshop, staff informed the City Council that adequate cash reserves would not be available in fiscal year 2016 and that the majority of the project construction cost would need to be financed. Staff estimates that total construction cost will be \$25 million of which \$18 to \$20 million will require financing.

Council discussed the time frame for financing and construction; the joint powers agreements' assumption of the debt once the flood fee is adopted; the importance of this project; and an emergency plan for the 2015/16 winter.

A motion was made by Council Member Schmitt, seconded by Council Member Lawson, to direct staff to seek financing options for construction of Phase 3 of the North Truckee Drain Realignment Project. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9.7 was presented

City Attorney Adams said items 9.7, 9.5 and 9.6 could be discussed together with separate votes.

9.5 Consideration, discussion and possible approval to terminate the existing contract with CDS Group Health, the third party administrator for the City's Group Health Plan. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 4:29 p.m.)

An agenda item from Administrative Services Director Chris Syverson recommending termination of the existing contract with CDS Group Health, the third party administrator (TPA) for the city's Group Health Plan. CDS Group Health has been our third party administrator since July 1999. CDS pays medical and dental claims, administers flexible spending and health spending accounts, administers COBRA, provides utilization and case management support and has a customer service team that answers benefit related questions for our employees and retirees. A contract with CDS Group Health was approved by the City Council in June 2012 and became effective July 1, 2012. The contract has mutually agreeable options to extend each fiscal year. The contract was extended July 1, 2015 and now continues until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2016. This previously approved contract has a termination clause of 90 days' notice by either party.

A motion was made by Council Member Bybee, seconded by Council Member Smith, to terminate the existing contract with CDS Group Health as the city's third party administrator effective December 30, 2015. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, YES. Council Member Schmitt, ABSTAIN. Passed unanimously with those present.

9.6 Consideration, discussion and possible approval to terminate the existing contract with Universal Health Network (UHN), the third party that maintains a network of health care providers for the City's self-insured group health plan. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 4:30 p.m.)

An agenda item from Administrative Services Director Chris Syverson recommending termination of the existing contract with Universal Health Network (UHN), the third party that maintains a network of health care providers for the city's self-insured group health plan. A contract with UHN was approved by the City Council in June 2006 and became effective July 1, 2006. The contract has mutually agreeable options to extend each fiscal year. The contract was extended July 1, 2015 and now continues until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2016. This previously approved contract has a termination clause of 90 days' notice by either party. In recent months, the city has engaged in seeking proposals for services through our membership with the Nevada Business Group on Health. This process allowed us to find significant savings through a new hospital contract with Renown, which also provided savings when utilizing Renown's Hometown Health Network.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bybee, to terminate the existing contract with UHN as the city's Third Party Network for the City of Sparks, effective December 30, 2015. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, YES. Council Member Schmitt, ABSTAIN. Passed unanimously with those present.

9.7 Consideration, discussion, and possible approval to participate in an agreement negotiated by Nevada Health Partners (NHP) with Renown Medical Center and Hometown Health for the provision of group hospital, network, and third party administration (TPA) services for the City's employees and retirees covered by the Group Health Insurance Plan for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, and authorization for the City Manager to execute agreements for these services. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 3:38 p.m.)

An agenda item from Administrative Services Director Chris Syverson recommending the City Council approve participation in an agreement negotiated by Nevada Health Partners (NHP) with Renown Medical Center and Hometown Health for the provision of group hospital, network, and third party administration (TPA) services for the city's employees and retirees covered by the Group Health Insurance Plan and authorization for the City Manager to execute agreements for these services. This is a three year agreement, starting January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018. The current agreement with Saint Mary's Hospital will expire on December 31, 2015. As part of the agreement there is a 2% minimum and 5% maximum inflator for hospital services tied to Medical CPI, after the first year. Participation will include the Hometown Health Network of Physicians and Third Party Administrator (TPA) services. The TPA agreement rate is guaranteed for three years. There is a savings of an estimated \$600,000 for the three year term of the agreement.

Council Member Schmitt chose to abstain because of a possible conflict of interest related to litigation.

Ms. Syverson described the process and said an independent consultant developed the request for proposal and provided financial analysis of the proposals. Ms. Syverson also discussed the responses received, provisions of the new hospital services, and the transition plan. A copy of the

participation agreement that will be executed by the City Manager and be a part of the entire agreement was included for information only.

Public comment was received by Carrie Parker of Snell & Wilmer law offices, representing St. Mary's Regional Medical Services, and Debra Simon of St. Mary's Hospital in opposition of the award of an agreement with Renown.

Public comment was received by William Magrath of McDonald Carano Wilson law offices and Dr. Anthony Slonim President and CEO of Hometown Health in support of the agreement between the City of Sparks and Nevada Health Partners and Hometown Health.

Council Member Ratti clarified the RFP was distributed by Nevada Health Partners, not the City of Sparks. Nevada Health Partners President Larry Harvey described the history of the group, the intention of the group and the current RFP process. City Attorney Adams said the city does not have the authority to enter into an agreement with hospital services directly. The City of Sparks is a member participant of Nevada Health Partners who is a non-profit. Council discussed the process related to the participation agreement and Administrative Services Director Syverson said it is a normal process when changes are made through the Nevada Health Partners. City Attorney Adams confirmed the process was followed appropriately and any questions should be directed to Nevada Health Partners.

A motion was made by Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bybee, to approve participation in an agreement negotiated by Nevada Health Partners (NHP) with Renown Medical Center and Hometown Health for the provision of group hospital, network, and third party administration (TPA) services for the city's employees and retirees covered by the Group Health Insurance Plan as recommended by staff and authorization for the City Manager to execute agreements for these services. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, YES. Council Member Schmitt, ABSTAIN. Passed unanimously with those present.

9.8 First Reading of Bill 2694 an Ordinance amending Title 20 to include standards for Urban Agriculture and other matters properly relating thereto.
(Time: 4:31 p.m.)

This is a first reading only, the bill was read by title by City Clerk Teresa Gardner.

9.9 First reading, of Bill No. 2695 an Ordinance amending Chapter 20.29 of the Sparks Municipal Code to clarify the definitions and adding Chapter 20.29.025 to prohibit any person from maintaining, creating or establishing a location or structure for the purpose of feeding, sheltering or providing sustenance to feral cats or attracting high risk species within the boundaries of the city; providing other matters properly related thereto. (Time: 4:32 p.m.)

This is a first reading only, the bill was read by title by City Clerk Teresa Gardner.

10. Public Hearing and Action Items Unrelated to Planning and Zoning

10.1 Public hearing and possible approval of the Consolidated Plan Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2014-15 for the City of Sparks to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) (Time: 4:33 p.m.)

An agenda item from Housing Specialist George Graham recommending Council approve submission of the CAPER for Program Year 2014-15 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The CAPER is a report on how the City of Sparks, along with the City of Reno and Washoe County, expended HUD funding (CDBG, HOME) and the jurisdictions' community development and affordable housing activities during 2014 Program Year (local government FY 2014-15). Each year, the City of Sparks must prepare and submit a CAPER to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Submission of the CAPER is a condition of receiving federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME program funding (Sparks receives the latter as a member of the Washoe County HOME Consortium [WCHC] where the City of Reno is the lead agency). The City of Sparks must conduct a 15-day public comment period, hold at least one public hearing and submit this report to HUD by September 30, 2015. There is no impact to the general fund.

The Public Hearing was opened; no comments were received.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawson, seconded by Council Member Schmitt, to approve submittal of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for Program Year 2014-15 for the City of Sparks to HUD. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

11. Planning and Zoning Public Hearings and Action Items - None.

12. Closed Door Sessions - None

13. Comments

13.1 Comments from the Public (Time: 4:36 p.m.)

Karen Jacobs spoke in opposition to Bill 2695 prohibiting the care of feral cats and Karen Boeger spoke in support of Bill 2695.

13.2 Comments from City Council and City Manager (Time: 4:41 p.m.)

Acting City Manager Jeff Cronk announced openings on 2 committees:

Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee has appointments available for 1 member of the residential construction industry, 2-year term; 1 member of the commercial development industry, 3-year term; and 1 member of the construction industry, 4-year term. Applications will be accepted until the close of business on October 16, 2015.

Airport Noise Advisory Committee has 2 appointments for 2-year terms. Applications will be accepted until the close of business on November 1, 2015.

Persons interested in serving on these committees should complete a Community Service Application, available from the City Clerk's office. You may also apply on-line at the city's website – www.cityofsparks.us. Click on "city services" on the web page, then click on "volunteering get involved", then click on "fill out a City of Sparks volunteer application."

14. Adjournment

Council was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

GENO R. MARTINI, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Gardner, City Clerk

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