



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, October 12, 2015
Sparks City Hall, Lower Level, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada

1. Call to Order (Time: 8:31 a.m.)

The workshop of the Sparks City Council was called to order by Mayor Geno Martini at 8:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call (Time: 8:31 a.m.)

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

ABSENT: None

3. Pledge of Allegiance (Time: 8:31 a.m.)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Schmitt.

4. Public Comment (Time: 8:32 a.m.) - None

5. Agenda (Time: 8:32 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 Bybee, to approve the agenda as submitted. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

6. Presentation, discussion and possible action on an update of preliminary, unaudited fiscal results for fiscal year 2014-2015 including a brief update on the Nevada PERS pension liability compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement #68 (For Possible Action) (Time: 8:32 a.m.)

A presentation from Financial Services Director Jeff Cronk including a financial update on fiscal year (FY) 2014-2015 fiscal results (unaudited), and the need for the city to record a proportional share of the Nevada PERS pension liability in compliance with the Government Accounting Standards Board Statement #68 (GASB 68) beginning in FY 2014-2015.

The final numbers for FY 2015 will be brought to Council in December. There is an overage in the general fund on the books for \$661,000 that will roll over into FY 2016. The ending fund balance for the health care fund will be negative \$447,000. The new health care policy was not factored in when the budget was done. Council requested a cost comparison be done after 6 months into the new plan. SB153 drove a three million dollar positive swing in the workers compensation liability, which dropped the negative liability number to one million dollars. GASB 68 now requires the city put its pro-rata share of the unfunded PERS liability on the books. Currently PERS is 75% funded which leaves 25% unfunded. Council Member Schmitt requested all long term liabilities be shown on a separate summary when the budget is presented. Mr. Cronk stated the summaries are reported in the CAFR and City Manager update.

7. Presentation, discussion and possible acceptance of the SWOT, Environmental Scan and the 2015 Annual Report (For Possible Action) (Time: 8:50 a.m.)

An agenda item from City Manager Steve Driscoll recommending the Council accept the SWOT analysis, Environmental Scan and the 2015 Annual report. These documents are the citywide annual reports that collectively provide a look back on FY 2014-2015.

The Strength Weakness Opportunity Threats (SWOT) document covers a citywide look at internal and external pressures. This was accomplished by all department heads planning for the future while evaluating what is going on in the entire valley.

The environmental scan is a pictorial presentation of city departments. Finance covers the general fund budget, Police covers certain crime statistics, Fire covers response and construction inspections, the Community Services section shows road upkeep statistics and building permit activity and the Parks and Recreation department shows how our parks are doing.

The 2015 Annual Report is a more in-depth analysis of how each department in the city functioned throughout the year. Included this year is an organizational chart of the city.

The City Manager handed out and discussed the Internal and External Assessment. Regarding the internal, he went over some of the detail work, discussing the different strengths and accomplishments for the city this past year. The discussion centered on: public safety, Title 20, the Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Recreation has received brand recognition, and spoke to Council's willingness to make policy decisions. The Mayor thanked the Council for their ability to make decisions and stated that he was proud to be Mayor.

The City Manager highlighted the success of the special events that occur within the city. He talked about the success of the Golden Eagle Regional Park and the various events the park draws as well as the need for flat fields. Council discussed looking at additional bond funding to add flat fields at Golden Eagle, LDJ and the urban core on the west side of Sparks.

There was discussion about weaknesses. Succession planning is a big issue with staffing levels being where they are. The permitting function is changing with Accela which will carry us forward technology-wise.

There was discussion regarding staffing and space needs. Neil Krutz is looking into solutions. Management is taking a hard look at things like telecommuting and alternative work schedules.

The City Manager led discussion on external opportunities. The city is looking at the different ways we can streamline our approval processes. The city is beginning to publicize its successes and social media is helping to accomplish that. Council discussed how well the city is using social media to report positive things. New faces are coming to the city, bringing new and fresh ideas. They are making a difference.

Council discussed growth and build up to bring in corporations, the obsolete nature of the industrial area, and the importance of the North Truckee Drain project to grow or revitalize the industrial area. Unfortunately, the flood project is not going to be as big a difference as needed.

Collaboration continues to be a big issue. Tiburon will be an important step when it comes to regional collaboration. The goal will be to use the system to its maximum potential.

The threat of being drawn into consolidation battles was discussed. Automatic aide is just one sign that the region is not ready for consolidation. The region needs to agree to the service levels for the fire agreement. The region needs to look at service and protocol levels before there is any discussion on governance.

The change in footprint of downtown and how it will affect the venues was discussed. The biggest challenge will be a loss of parking. There was discussion regarding the 4th of July which seems to be at risk. The City Manager suggested that the time to be discussing special event funding is when we start looking at the next budget.

Rising health care and workers comp costs are a definite threat. The change in health care providers will hopefully provide a savings.

Another threat is that we are perceived as not a full service city even though we know that we are. The Tesla effect needs to bring more than housing to the city. Housing only growth brings an increase in service level needs which is expensive. Council would like to see the 2000-2001 residential/ commercial study be redone and they would like to see the numbers for Sparks separately.

A motion was made by Council Member Bybee, seconded by Council Member Schmitt, to accept the SWOT, Environmental Scan and 2015 Annual Report as presented with the suggestions by council to be looked at. Council Members Ratti, Lawson, Smith, Bybee, Schmitt, YES. Passed unanimously.

8. Comments

8.1 Comments from the Public (Time: 10:35 a.m.) None.

8.2 Comments from City Council and City Manager (Time: 10:35 a.m.)

Council Member Lawson wants staff to prepare an agenda item to have council looking at allowing an amendment to allow final maps be approved at the administrative level.

Council Member Ratti would like to see a process for ordinance introduction to council and have it written down somewhere. City Manager will look into having a formalized procedure.

City Manager requested that the Council review the 2015 Annual Report as he did not spend much time on it during his presentation.

9. Adjournment (Time: 10:47 a.m.)
Council was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

GENO R. MARTINI, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Gardner, City Clerk

>>>