



MAYOR
Ron Smith

CITY COUNCIL
Donald Abbott, Ward I
Ed Lawson, Ward II
Paul Anderson, Ward III
Charlene Bybee, Ward IV
Kristopher Dahir, Ward V

CITY ATTORNEY
Chet Adams

CITY MANAGER
Neil C Krutz, ICMA-CM

**SPARKS CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES FOR
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

1. **Call to Order**
The Workshop was called to order by Mayor Ron Smith at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Roll Call**
Mayor Ron Smith, Council Members Donald Abbott, Ed Lawson, Paul Anderson, Charlene Bybee, Kristopher Dahir, City Manager Neil Krutz, Acting City Attorney Alyson McCormick and City Clerk Lisa Hunderman, PRESENT.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Acting City Attorney McCormick.
4. **Public Comment**
None
5. **Agenda**
 - 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.

Motion: Move to approve the agenda as submitted.
Moved by: Council Member Bybee.
Seconded by: Council Member Dahir.
Yes: Council Members Abbott, Lawson, Anderson, Bybee, Dahir
No: None
Abstain: None
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
6. **Presentation and discussion concerning fiscal policy related to deployment of the Rescue Task Force at special events.**
Assistant City Manager John Martini, Police Chief Pete Krall, and Police Lieutenant Tony Marconato provided an overview of costs related to deploying the Rescue Task Force at special events and the cost-recovery policy.

Police Chief Pete Krall:

Chief Krall introduced staff and discussed the changing security landscape and associated challenges. Chief Krall noted the October 1, 2017 Harvest Festival mass-casualty tragedy in Las Vegas reshaped law enforcement threat assessment and thought processes surrounding live-entertainment and events security, resulting in increased security costs across the board. Chief Krall noted a unique challenge exists locally in trying to maintain adequate security while also maintaining a family-friendly environment.

2019 Special Events spanned over 51 event days for 32 events, with 8,785 overtime hours paid among Public Works, Fire Department, and Police Department staffs. Chief Krall noted most overtime hours were paid to the Police Department for staffing of special events. Chief Krall continued to give a breakdown of overtime hours by department and event, noting the largest staffing requirements and costs were dedicated during the Nugget Rib Cook Off, Hot August Nights, and Nugget Entertainment Center outdoor concerts.

Lieutenant Tony Marconato, Detective and former Special Events Coordinator:

Lt. Marconato opened with examples of local and national mass-casualty incidences, followed by an overview of the Police Department's Large Rescue Task Force (LRTF) and Reduced Rescue Task Force (RRTF) deployed for Sparks special events. Lt. Marconato stated the primary objective of each task force is to prevent, deter, or quickly neutralize mass-casualty threat events, with a secondary objective of triaging and transporting casualties should an event occur. Considerations for which task force is deployed include the crowd size and density of the crowd footprint. Deployment costs are currently estimated at \$1576.61 per hour for LRTF and \$1,100.15 per hour for RRTF. Lt. Marconato then turned the presentation over to Mr. Martini to discuss financial considerations.

Assistant City Manager John Martini:

Mr. Martini noted the Rescue Task Force team was formed two years ago and billing costs are changing as the program evolves and needs are assessed. The existing policy on cost recovery for special events is full recoupment from event promoters, posing a challenge when costs are higher than expected. Mr. Martini noted the 2019 Nugget Rib Cook Off RTF charge to the Nugget was \$67,969.88, a large and unbudgeted item for them resulting in a negotiated write down. Another challenge is posed when smaller promoters who did not require an RTF in years past must now have one to support increased crowd sizes. This is the case with this year's Sierra Nevada Lavender & Honey Festival and PumpkinPalooza.

Mr. Martini noted special events season is typically May through October, with 15 of 25 weekends requiring task force deployment for the 2020 season. The 2020 Rescue Task Force deployment is currently about 15 percent more than in 2019, with 11 events scheduled for the LRTF and 19 events for the RRTF, totaling 4,556 overtime hours estimated at \$352,381.52.

Mr. Martini concluded that main concerns are making sure promoters are adequately notified of estimates, eliminating the possibility of post-event negotiations; and establishing policy balance that supports public safety demands, support promoters who want to do hold events within city limits, and deters significant costs for the City.

After the presentations, Council asked clarifying questions from staff. Questions included charge negotiation process, fee structure communication with promoters, ability-to-pay concerns and possibly losing events, additional committee and federal funding options, staffing and overtime,

officer burnout, outside agency staffing considerations, possibility of contingency fund usage, vendor cost assessment and calculation methods, and how costs compare with events in other areas. Nugget General Manager and Senior Vice President Mark Sterbens, Jr. noted he understands the need and feels costs are fair for concerts, however he is concerned with charges for larger events like the Rib Cook Off. Lavender and Honey Festival Producer Ann Louhela commented she agreed with the need and cost is not a concern and discussed how small vendors are affected.

7. Comments

7.1 Comments from the public

PumpkinPalooza Coordinator Neil Horning provided comment about increased costs and ability-to-pay concerns, risking event cancellation.

Lavender and Honey Festival Producer Ann Louhela provided additional comment regarding increased costs to event participants.

7.2 Comments from the Council and City Manager

Council Member Dahir thanked Public Works and Police and Fire Departments for their expertise and guidance.

8. Adjournment

The workshop was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

RONALD E. SMITH, Mayor

ATTEST:

LISA HUNDERMAN, City Clerk

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