

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 17, 2018

PRESENT:

Marsha Berkbigler, Chair

Kitty Jung, Vice Chair

Bob Lucey, Commissioner

Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner

Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk

John Slaughter, County Manager

David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:15 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

18-0280 AGENDA ITEM 3 New Employee Introduction.

County Manager John Slaughter asked the following individuals to introduce themselves to the Board:

Carolyn Boston, Clerk's Office
Brian deMunnik, Sheriff's Office
Mandy Flavel, Medical Examiner's Office
Travis Ham, Community Services Department
Sandy McKinnon, Human Services Agency
Casey Rapphahn, Regional Animal Services
Catherine Schultze, Regional Animal Services
Heather Shrive, Regional Animal Services
Suzette Turley, District Attorney's Office
Raymond Wiedefeld, Human Services Agency

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

18-0281 AGENDA ITEM 4 Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses-- Human Resources.

County Manager John Slaughter recognized the following employees:

Essentials of Personal Effectiveness

Lindarae Ohlson, Comptroller's Office
Genine Rosa, Health Department

Essentials of SAP for Financial Staff Program

Lindarae Ohlson, Comptroller's Office

Essentials of High Performing Teams

Genine Rosa, Health Department

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

18-0282 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Washoe County Safety Committee - Safety Recognition Award. Manager.

County Manager John Slaughter recognized the following employees for their efforts to ensure public safety:

Nancy Ueda, Regional Animal Services
Wenifred Mana-Ay, Regional Animal Services

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

18-0283 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Washoe County Recognition Committee - Shining Star Recognition Award. Manager.

County Manager John Slaughter noted this was the first recognition of the new Shining Star Award which was a program established by the Employee Recognition Committee of the Washoe Leadership Program. Individuals could be nominated for this award by their fellow employees, supervisors or the public. He asked all the following recipients to come forward to receive their awards:

Lora Barretta - Community Service Department
Mojra Hauenstein - Community Service Department
Bert Bracy - Public Defender's Office
Jessi Salim – Registrar of Voters
Carmen Mendoza – Health Department
Zelalem Bogale - District Attorney's Office (NOT PRESENT)
Kasey LaFoon, Human Services Agency
Rachael McGarrah, Human Services Agency
Jennifer Swezey, Technology Services

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

18-0284 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Public Comment.

Mr. Jeff Church provided some documents which were placed on file with the Clerk. He stated he ran a website called www.renotaxrevolt.com and he was a candidate for the Washoe County School Board. He spoke about a flood tax measure, Assembly Bill (AB) 375, which he thought would be coming to the Board for discussion on May 8th. He wanted to be considered for a seat on the committee to oppose AB375 and said he submitted his application to the Registrar of Voters. He reminded the Board he sat on the committee to oppose Washoe County Question 1 (WC-1) in the past. He believed there were a number of problems with AB375 including issues with Open Meeting Law and constitutional issues. He wanted to bring the issues to the Board well in advance so they would have time to discover any legal problems and request an explanation from the Flood Committee. He claimed, although written by the District Attorney, the explanation of AB375 was factually inaccurate and biased. He said the handouts he provided addressed the many reasons he was opposed to the ballot measure including the affect the increased taxes would have on property owners and the issue of unaffordable housing. He suggested people who lived in flood plains should mitigate their problems with help from federal and state grants. He noted citizens already paid sales tax for the purposes of flood control.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about telling the truth, the law, the death of a woman who had discovered President John F. Kennedy's killer and a Russian journalist who she said was murdered.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still presented and read a statement which, along with some photos, was placed on file with the Clerk. She stated the Lemmon Valley Swan Lake Recovery Committee appealed the approval of a project in Lemmon Valley to the Planning Commission. She was informed by staff she had to prove her standing as an aggrieved party to appeal. To prove the merits of the case, she brought forward some photos taken on January 24, 2017. She discussed each photograph and accused the County of the egregious treatment of residents in the area. She claimed certain road repairs, additional Hesco barriers, the pumping of water from open fields, and neglecting to drain the fields reflected mismanagement and a waste of taxpayer money. She spoke about Bedell Flats and said emergency flood response mitigation was not a permanent solution. She stated it was time to address flood issues properly.

Mr. Geoff Staffelbach, resident of Spanish Springs, complained about the Rise marijuana dispensary on La Posada Drive. He said despite promises the dispensary would be inconspicuous, the Rise building had been painted a bright orange color with very large lettering on the outside. Due to citizens' objections the building was repainted off-white; however, the large lettering was still there. Mr. Staffelbach felt the building should be repainted again to match the rest of the shopping center and he wanted the company to dispose of the large signage on the outside of the building. He remarked he had not seen any visible security around the building, which was further proof the owners of the Rise dispensary could not be trusted to make good decisions and should have their use permit rescinded.

18-0285 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Jung stated she heard about an eviction database and though she was not sure who generated the database, she wanted staff to see if they could access the information. She mentioned Matthew Desmond was a sociologist who won a Pulitzer Prize for his book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* and wondered if Mr. Desmond had something to do with the database. She revealed she was interested in the information as it related to the issue of homelessness in the County. She heard of a case where an individual was evicted for owing less than \$30 dollars which raised the question of how much discretion property managers had. She said the information in the database could be used when developing a master plan for homelessness.

Commissioner Hartung presented photographs of the Rise dispensary which were displayed and placed on file with the Clerk. He noted the building and signage were currently in compliance with the use permit. He thanked Commissioner Lucey for being involved in ensuring compliance and said Rise's attorney and lobbyist were also very responsive. He also presented photographs of the roadway on Bellatrix Way. He said there had been continuous complaints about a Waste Management (WM) truck leaking hydraulic fluid and he was frustrated the County was put in the middle of WM's customer service issues. He noted WM responded to the complaint and took action to fix the roadway; however, he felt they were guilty of providing poor customer service. He commented a vacant parcel being used as a car lot on the corner of La Posada Drive and Pyramid Way was in severe disrepair. He noted the Manke Family was seeking a land use change; however, he was displeased they had not taken care of the parcel as they had committed to. He directed a question to Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro regarding the possibility of creating a dashboard to show road closings. He thought a dashboard would help everyone, especially the fire services and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), to know when and where roads would be closed.

Commissioner Lucey said, as Mr. Jeff Church pointed out during public comment, the Commission approved the placement of a flood tax measure on the ballot for the upcoming election cycle. He wondered about the status of a potential opening on the committee to oppose Assembly Bill (AB) 375 and if so, wanted the selection process to move forward.

County Manager John Slaughter replied the applications for the arguments committees were available on the County's website. He indicated if citizens were interested in serving on those committees they could seek information on the website or contact Washoe County 311 for assistance with the application process.

Chair Berkbigler explained the issue would be heard during the May 8th Commission meeting.

Commissioner Lucey said the County was conducting a citizen survey to gather information about improving the quality of life, the future, land usage and planning which could assist in future master plan revisions and updates. He encouraged citizens to go to the website www.washoecounty.us to participate in the survey.

Chair Berkgigler asked for staff time to discuss the requirements to merge the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. She wanted clarification about merging the two entities by the end of the summer. She thought excessive staff time and funds were spent on development issues and said the Community Advisory Boards were equipped to hear issues and provide recommendations to the Board.

Commissioner Hartung mentioned the Truckee Meadows Water Authority had property in Farad, California that was no longer utilized. He stated the 103 acres on the Truckee River was an important piece of the area's history.

PROCLAMATIONS

18-0286 **9A1** Proclaim May 3, 2018 as National Day of Prayer.

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to former County Commissioner Bonnie Weber, University Family Fellowship Pastor Dan Sipma, Faith Alive Christian Center of Reno Associate Pastor Joey Bock, and Faith Alive Christian Center of Reno Pastor David Oberg.

Ms. Weber thanked the County for the proclamation. She stated the first proclamation was presented in 2004 and this was the 13th annual celebration in Washoe County. She said the event was scheduled for the first Thursday of May in the courtyard of the Washoe County Administration Complex at 12:00 p.m. She explained she and former Washoe County Commissioner Bob Larkin started the event in 2005. Funding for the event came from the community and the churches that were involved. She encouraged the community to join in the celebration.

Pastor Sipma thanked the Board for the proclamation.

Associate Pastor Joey Bock thanked the Board for its continued support of freedom of expression.

Pastor David Oberg thanked the Board for the proclamation and for its service to the community.

11:05 a.m. **Commissioner Jung left the meeting**

18-0287 **9A2** Proclaim May 2018 as Older Americans Month.

Commissioner Herman read and presented the Proclamation to Human Services Agency (HSA) Social Services Coordinator Abby Badolato, Washoe County Senior Advisory Board Vice Chair Donna Klontz, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Public Affairs Administrator Michael Moreno, HSA Community Outreach Coordinator Chris Ciarlo, Washoe County Senior Advisory Board Secretary Marsy Kupfersmith and Truckee Meadows Community College Program Director Rick Sorensen.

Ms. Badolato explained in fiscal year 2016/2017 the HSA increased the amount of congregate and home delivered meals for seniors by more than 5 percent. She said more than 21,000 individual senior citizens were helped through the various programs offered. She thanked the Board for the proclamation and support.

Ms. Klontz said about 100 events would occur for Older Americans Month during May. She explained a flyer containing the schedule of events was in the process of being printed. “Engage at Every Age” was the theme for the current year’s event.

Mr. Moreno said he was proud to support and participate in Older Americans Month. He explained scheduled events included seminars to inform seniors about using the RTC transit services and the various options to serve their transportation needs. He indicated the “Stuff a Bus” events would occur on May 11th. He noted the RTC would be providing free bus transportation on April 22nd for Earth day.

Mr. Ciarlo encouraged citizens to attend the events. He highlighted some of the events which included the event kick off on May 1st at the Washoe County Senior Services Center, the “Stuff a Bus” event on May 11th at the Greater Nevada Field, the Incline Community Assistance Center open house on May 18th, and the Bocce Ball and social hour at the Renaissance Hotel on May 24th. He thanked the Commissioners for supporting the seniors in the community.

Ms. Kupfersmith expressed her excitement about more senior events being held in Sparks this year.

18-0288 **9A4** Proclaim May 1, 2018 as Law Day.

Commissioner Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Chief Judge Scott Freeman and Law Library and Self Help Center Manager Emily Reed.

Chief Judge Freeman said he was honored to receive this proclamation. He stated it was interesting to sit in the audience of a County Commission meeting and watch the Commissioners face many of the same issues he dealt with in the courtroom. He explained the Legislature made the law, the District Attorney's Office prosecuted the offenders and, if they were found guilty, it was his job to determine the sentencing. He stated the process required the entities to work together. He said it was a powerful process that had been successful for the past 60 years.

Ms. Reed thanked the Board for the recognition of Law Day. She stated the Northern Nevada Women's Lawyer Association would be hosting a "Lawyer in the Library" event. She indicated the first event of this type was held in 1999. She said there would be 14 attorneys at the event to assist individuals with legal questions. She encouraged citizens to use the free legal services.

Commissioner Lucey encouraged anyone in need of legal assistance to attend the event.

18-0289 **9A3** Proclaim May 2018 as National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month.

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Health District Environmental Engineer Yann Ling-Barnes, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Public Affairs Administrator Michael Moreno and Washoe County School Police Officer Roger Marks.

Ms. Ling-Barnes said she was a member of the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance. She explained information regarding daily activities could be found online at www.bikewashoe.org as well as on the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance Facebook page. She encouraged people to ride bikes to protect air quality.

Public Affairs Manager for the RTC Michael Moreno stated he appreciated Commissioner Hartung's comments. He noted one of the guiding principles at the RTC was to ensure safe and healthy communities. He acknowledged the work that had been done by Commissioners Hartung and Lucey to increase the number of bike amenities and infrastructure in the community. He mentioned citizens could find information about bike related activities online at www.bikewashoe.org.

Washoe County Police Officer Roger Marks stated he was the Safe Routes to School Coordinator for the Washoe County School District (WCSD). He commended the Board for supporting alternative forms of transportation through its recognition of National Walk to School Day, Nevada Moves Week, Bike Month and Bike Week. He mentioned a bike event that would deliver books to kids at Hunter Lake Elementary School and a second event at Cold Springs Middle School. He invited the Commissioners to attend.

18-0290 **9A5** Proclaim May 2018 as One Truckee River Month.

Commissioner Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Executive Director Christi Cakiroglu, One Truckee River (OTR) Education and Outreach Coordinator Patricia Tierney, and Nevada Land Trust Executive Director Alicia Reban.

Ms. Reban stated OTR had a new Coordinator and she extoled the work of numerous other staff members and volunteers. She mentioned Renown Health was the lead sponsor of OTR Month and said one could view the over 50 river related events that would be held locally over the next month at www.onetruckeeriver.org. She noted staff would come back to the Board at a future meeting with an update regarding the progress made on the OTR plan.

Ms. Cakiroglu encouraged everyone to view the aforementioned website to see the calendar of events. She noted there were many biking events listed and one could celebrate Bike Month and River Month at the same time.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly thanked Commissioner Hartung for recognizing the National Day of Prayer. She talked about God, prayer, liars, the law, diversity and political correctness.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 9A1 to 9A5 be adopted.

DONATIONS

18-0291 **10A** Accept cash [\$9,268.30] and in-kind [estimated value \$42,707] donations from various businesses, organizations and individuals for Regional Parks and Open Space programs and facilities; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

18-0292 **10B** Accept cash donations in the amount of [\$3,450.00] for the period January 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018 and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

18-0293 **10C** Accept a donation of a K-9 dog, equipment, handler training, and travel costs valued at [\$19,810.00] from Washoe County K9 Partners, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Lucey read the donations and thanked the donors for their generosity. He mentioned the K-9 dogs were a true asset and helped officers daily. He spoke about what the donated money would be used for.

Sergeant Phil Jones said he wanted to thank Ms. Cathy Barcomb and Ms. Patti Kelly who were responsible for soliciting donations and for reaching out to the community to schedule fund raising events. The Barks and Badges event would take place at Bartley Ranch Park on May 19 followed by a fundraising dinner.

Chair Berkbigler said the dogs were marvelous and she was looking forward to attending the Barks and Badges event.

Commissioner Hartung remarked there had been a reduction in the number of deputies on the streets. He believed the canines were force multipliers that also had a calming effect on people. He said they were essential and a joy for the community.

Sergeant Jones said with the help of K9 Partners multiple agencies trained together and obtained their dogs from the same prestigious kennel.

There was no public comment on the donations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 10A to 10C be accepted.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM – 11A

18-0294 **11A** Approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement [in the amount of \$3,000] for Fiscal Year 2017-2018; District 4 Commissioner Vaughn Hartung recommends a [\$2,000] grant to the Board of Regents to support the Nevada Water Innovation Campus, and a [\$1,000] grant to the Friends of Washoe County Library to support the Spanish Springs Library's STEAM related programs and services; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager. (Commission District 4.)

Commissioner Hartung stated he wanted to recognize Spanish Springs Librarian Julie Machado. He thought it was important to highlight what Ms. Machado was doing with the donations received.

Ms. Machado thanked the Board for the generous donation to the Friends of Washoe County Library. She said the Library was expanding its Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) programs which would help the entire community prepare for the technological advances that would be brought to the area. At the Spanish Springs Library in particular, they were adding "visual" STEAM which included the use of microscopes. She invited the Commissioners to visit the Library.

Commissioner Hartung said he had known Ms. Machado and her husband for 35 years and she was an asset to the Spanish Springs Library. He said it was a pleasure to support her endeavors.

Commissioner Lucey noted Commissioner Hartung was donating \$2,000 to the Nevada Water Innovation Campus and \$1,000 to the Friends of the Washoe County Library.

Commissioner Hartung said the County would no longer discharge effluent anywhere except in designated areas with return flow requirements to downstream users. He explained the Nevada Water Innovation Campus promised to provide impressive technology to deal with water resources. He expressed his support to Dr. Krishna Pagilla and the program because it would benefit all the County's water reclamation facilities.

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda Item listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Item 11A be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Item 11A is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

18-0295 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

County Manager John Slaughter stated there was no need for a closed session.

18-0296 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

Ms. Elise Weatherly thanked Commissioner Hartung for his questions, analysis and opposition to issues he felt passionate about. She asked for less money to be spent on the homeless population and more money to be spent on people that were trying to help themselves. She was disappointed with the use of recreational cannabis in the County.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still stated a misunderstanding occurred regarding Deodar Way when she was told it would be chip sealed to allow emergency vehicles to travel the road at a higher speed. She stated the road had not been sealed and she thought it affected emergency response times. She wanted a permanent fix for Lemmon Valley, Silver Lake and White Lake.

Mr. Geoff Staffelbach thanked Commissioner Hartung for supplying the photographs of the Rise dispensary. He wanted the lettering on the building to be smaller and inconspicuous. He expressed his concern about the future of the dispensary.

18-0297 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

Chair Berkbigler asked staff to confirm the Rise dispensary in Spanish Springs was in compliance with the required security measures.

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12:05 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

MARSHA BERKBIGLER, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Prepared by:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk
Catherine Smith, Deputy County Clerk