

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 21, 2024

PRESENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair
Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair
Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner via Zoom*
Clara Andriola, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
David Solaro, Assistant County Manager
Mary Kandaras, Chief Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Michael Clark, Commissioner

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

24-0305 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Invocation.

Emilio Vaca, Area Director for Reno Sparks Young Life, provided the invocation.

24-0306 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Public Comment.

Ms. Julie Shackelford Barger commented that Washoe County was recently mentioned in the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) evening news. She summarized that the story reported there were officials in several battleground states who doubted the accuracy of the 2020 election results, promoted conspiracy theories, refused to certify the election, and supported the actions that took place on January 6, 2021. She alleged Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark were part of that group. She declared there were 60 or more election court cases in the Nation, and all but one were unsuccessful. She pointed out that 11 of the unsuccessful cases were from Nevada, which led her to believe there was no voter fraud. She speculated about plans to station police or National Guard officers at polling places and asserted there was no need to expend taxpayer dollars on such things. She claimed unsubstantiated conspiracy theories threatened democracy, the peaceful transition of power, and her constitutional right to have her vote counted.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still remarked that she received a mail-in ballot despite requesting not to. She alleged Mr. Robert Beadles lost his court case because the law was

written to protect Washoe County staff. She indicated that she was a retired State employee who was responsible for the collection of gas tax revenues. She asserted that as elected officials, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) was obligated to ensure things were done right and to address issues brought forth by the public. She declared if a signature on a ballot did not seem correct, it needed to be put aside, and the voter should be required to bring their driver's license to the County for further verification. She speculated that anyone could have taken her mail-in ballot, and she would not have known it was gone because she did not ask for it to be sent. She spoke about Swan Lake and claimed it was contaminated with effluence that harmed people.

Mr. George Still declared he did not request a mail-in ballot but received one. He claimed there were many conspiracy theories surrounding elections, but this was not one of them. He alleged Swan Lake was contaminated, but the County ignored the problem.

Mr. Terry Brooks read an original poem about how unhoused children adapted to school.

Mr. Roger Edwards thought it should concern people when an operation was too large to be responsive. He found it relatively easy to connect with individual citizens to address their concerns and believed that, due to procedural requirements, the Commission had to make more extensive efforts to be available in the same capacity. He declared that the Office of the County Manager (OCM) was responsible for placing items on BCC agendas and opined any requests from Commissioners should be added immediately. He noted that each Board member represented about 90,000 people who expected the Commission to work for them. He spoke about residents in Golden Valley who were billed for a water recharge program that had been out of service for seven years, an issue he mentioned to the Board several times. He divulged he had an outstanding bill from the program because he refused to pay for a non-operational service.

Ms. Elise Weatherly thanked the Board for their hard work. She discussed forgiveness and expressed uncertainty about researching election candidates because they did not know her. She mentioned some cartoons depicting former Washoe County Commissioners that made her uncomfortable. She declared the target audience for her music was people who did not fit in. She recounted an incident at her workplace where she made a correctable mistake and opined issues within her homeowners association (HOA) were also fixable.

Mr. Richard Bissett stated that burning fossil fuels to power vehicles and heat buildings worsened air pollution in the community and contributed to a warming global climate. He pointed out that since 2021, Washoe County tracked its energy use and emissions for more than 100 buildings and a fleet of more than 600 vehicles. He looked forward to the County's sustainability plan to work with local and regional agencies and community organizations to advance sustainability best practices across several sectors. He remarked that many people in Washoe County were burdened by high energy bills, air pollution, and chronic illnesses caused by pollution. He claimed people lacked access to

locally grown healthy foods, parks, clean air, and the economic or political power to improve those challenges. He believed Washoe County supported solutions that improved the quality of life for residents and visitors. He thanked the BCC and Washoe County's Sustainability Department. He declared that reduced greenhouse gas emissions would decrease energy costs and create cleaner air, resulting in healthier people, fewer missed school or work days, longer life expectancies, and a stronger economy.

Mr. Matthew Wilkie spoke about the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB). He said Commissioner Clark, City of Sparks Councilmember Kristopher Dahir, and City of Reno Councilmember Devon Reese requested that CHAB hold meetings more often. He mentioned the anti-camping ordinance recently passed by the BCC. He recalled Chair Hill's request for quarterly updates from the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team, and he wondered if the Commission would receive another update soon. He suggested the BCC consider monthly or quarterly evening meetings to allow people to attend after work. He asked the Board to contemplate an avenue for the public to bring items before the Commission.

Ms. Janet Butcher alleged there were several observations from the last election that were presented with affidavits, and just because a judge would not consider them did not make them untrue. She commended staff from the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office who tried to work with her schedule. She claimed some people of a certain political affiliation volunteered to be election workers but were not assigned to a polling location. She said she received a mail-in ballot but not a sample ballot and wondered why. She spoke about an individual who received a postcard addressed to their deceased mother with information about registering to vote online in Arizona. She discussed the County's budget and asserted she performed an analysis the year before that determined Washoe County spent two to three times what other counties in the United States (US) did.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon provided documents that were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He said the document was a breach of contract notice for Commissioner Andriola, who he alleged did not have a bond on file and had not met certain criteria outlined in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). He remarked the District Attorney's (DA) Office reported that Commissioner Andriola was not required to have a bond, and he asserted that the County had 24 hours to provide him with proof from NRS to substantiate that claim. He read from his distributed document and opined Commissioner Andriola's position should be vacant; therefore, her receipt of a taxpayer-funded salary constituted the collection of illegal fees. He demanded the Board host a town hall meeting to redress the people's grievances and pass a resolution to make Washoe County a Second Amendment sanctuary county.

Ms. Chris Garvey announced she was a candidate for the Ward 1 seat on the City of Sparks Council. She expressed discontent with issues in the election process and declared that, as overseers of the election, the BCC was responsible for correcting those problems. She opined it would restore people's trust if the Board agreed to hear Vice Chair Herman's election integrity resolution. She alleged one of her campaign signs was removed from private property because someone thought it was propaganda. She said the County

informed her that staff would investigate the incident and be in touch, but she had not received any additional responses. She recalled asking for some surveillance footage from the Sparks Senior Center, but Washoe County told her the building did not have cameras. When she contacted the City of Sparks, someone told her the building had a camera system owned and operated by Washoe County. She wondered which entity had the correct information. She asked the Board to clean up the election process and restore the people's trust.

10:33 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

11:00 a.m. **The Board reconvened.**

24-0307 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Announcements/Reports.

Assistant County Manager (ACM) David Solaro remarked that County staff was aware of some issues related to election ballots, one of which was that people received mail-in ballots despite opting out. He assured that County staff understood the importance of public trust in the election process and would work diligently to determine what happened. He mentioned an audit was performed on Washoe County's voting system that aimed to identify how processes failed and said staff would notify the community as information from the audit became available. Chair Hill asked how community members would be informed, to which ACM Solaro replied that letters would be sent to affected individuals.

Vice Chair Herman spoke about an individual who claimed they received 23 mail-in ballots. She said rural mailboxes were not locked or protected, so anyone could have taken them. She instructed the person to call the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office for directions on what to do with the ballots. She believed issues like that made people worry about how responsible or transparent the system was. She stated Nevada was ranked 49 in the nation in education and elections, which she opined was embarrassing. She recalled a public commenter's request for evening meetings and thought Commission meetings were often too lengthy to host in the evenings. She noted that Citizen Advisory Boards (CAB) existed throughout the community and typically convened at 6:00 p.m. She requested that the budget adoption be continued to a future meeting where all five Commissioners were present.

Commissioner Andriola suggested a standing agenda item to keep the Board apprised of any progress on issues identified in the election audit. She pointed out a provision in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) that required postmarks on mail-in ballots to ensure they were not counted after election day. She requested confirmation that Washoe County would not count mail-in ballots that were not postmarked. Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) Mary Kandarar stated that the issue was the subject of a lawsuit brought by the Republican National Committee (RNC) versus the Secretary of State (SOS) and other ROVs on the issue of NRS 293.269921. She declared as the law stood, to count a mail-in ballot for any election, the ballot must be mailed to the County Clerk, postmarked on or before the day of the election, and received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fourth day

following the election. She noted a subsection in the law that created the presumption that if the postmarked date could not be determined and the ballot was received within three days of the election, it could be assumed that the postmark was on or before the election date. She assumed that provision was what would be challenged in the court case. She advised that the County should follow the plain language of the law, meaning if a ballot was received by mail no later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the election and the postmark date could not be determined, the ballot would be deemed to have been postmarked on or before the date of the election. Commissioner Andriola thought the explanation was clear and wanted to ensure the ROV and Washoe County would follow the law as written. She expressed concern regarding some panels along the road in Spanish Springs that were installed incorrectly by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). She had a promising conversation with NDOT and commended them for working to rectify the situation. She shared that NDOT would provide a presentation to the Spanish Springs CAB on June 13, 2024.

Chair Hill congratulated Commissioner Garcia on her successful Ride and Roll event at the Oddie Wells Project. She opined it was great to see all the children riding their bikes in the t-shirts and helmets distributed at the event. She announced that Northern Nevada HOPES (HOPES) planned to open its new facility on Fourth Street later that day, and she looked forward to the strides a partnership between HOPES and the Cares Campus would achieve in the community.

DONATIONS

24-0308 **7A1** Recommendation to accept cash donations totaling \$6,493.24: [\$3,137.24 Come In From The Cold Series]; [\$91.00 from the donation drop box at the May Museum]; [\$3,265.00 to the Arboretum for bricks, general maintenance and support]; and accept in-kind donations from May Arboretum Society [valued at \$3,386.08] 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.)

24-0309 **7B1** Acknowledge retroactively various one-time, in-kind gift donations at a value of [\$3,575.00] from the Washoe Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Foundation and a one-time cash donation at a value of [\$200.00] from Ms. Kathryn M. Krump, on behalf of Ms. Susan Krump accepted by the Second Judicial District Court, CASA Program, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Chair Hill, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, with Commissioners Clark and Garcia being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A1 through 7B1 be accepted.

PROCLAMATIONS

- 24-0310** **6A1** Proclaim the month of May 2024 as Treatment Court Month. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Andriola read the proclamation.

Assistant Court Administrator Jeremy Wilson stated therapeutic courts were the cornerstone of helping people rise out of substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health challenges. He declared the court was committed to the diversion of criminogenic risk within the community and sought to help people free themselves from addiction. He introduced Assistant Court Administrator Catherine Kinkead and Court Clerks Leslie Somoza and Kimberly Rials.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, with Commissioners Clark and Garcia being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6A1 be adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 8A1 THROUGH 8E1

- 24-0311** **8A1** Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, including the following categories: Communications, Monthly Statements/Reports, and Annual Statements/Reports. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0312** **8B1** Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge a grant of [\$20,000, no County match required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, retroactively for Family Peace Center operating expenses; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0313** **8C1** Recommendation to appoint Clinton Hohenstein and James Phoenix to the two open Washoe County seats on the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council (NLJRCC) for a partial two-year term ending on June 30, 2025, pursuant to Assembly Bill 236 (2019) (now codified at NRS 176.014). The Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council advises and assists the Nevada Sentencing Commission in making data-driven policy recommendations to Nevada's Legislature by providing input on and recommendations regarding various criminal justice issues and matters that are important at the local level. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

- 24-0314** **8D1** Recommendation to Acknowledge Court Assistance Program Allocation from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court for Court Assistance Program in the amount of [\$125,355.00 for FY24, no match required; including up to \$2,500 for participant incentives- including gift cards]. The program focuses on adults with drug, alcohol, and mental health issues by aiding participants with numerous services such as counseling, evaluations, and incentives. The allocation is paid in quarterly installments retroactively July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0315** **8D2** Recommendation to Acknowledge Community Court Program Allocation from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court for Community Court Program in the amount of [\$99,764.00 for FY24, no match required; including up to \$2,500 for participant incentives- including gift cards]. The program, also known as young offenders' court, focuses on defendants ages 18-25. Allocation will be paid in quarterly installments retroactive to July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0316** **8D3** Recommendation to Acknowledge Specialty Court General Fund Allocations from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court for DUI Court in the amount of [\$20,250.00 for FY24, no match required; including up to \$2,500 for participant incentives- including gift cards]. The program focuses on 2nd DUI Convictions. Allocation will be paid in quarterly installments retroactive to July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0317** **8E1** Recommendation to approve and execute Resolution directing County Treasurer to give notice of the sale of properties subject to the lien of a delinquent special assessment in the following district: WCAD 32 – Spanish Springs Valley Ranch Rd, parcels: 076-300-44, 076-310-61, 076-310-64, 076-310-77, 076-371-09, 076-372-03, 076-381-23, 076-391-23, 076-391-65, WCAD 37 - Spanish Springs Sewer Phase 1A, parcel: 089-323-04 (additional description of affected parcels contained in Exhibit “A” of attached Resolution.) Treasurer. (Commission District 4.)

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, with Commissioners Clark and Garcia being absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8E1 be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8E1 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-0318 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve Lease Agreement between IRG Plaza, LLC and Washoe County for a ten-year lease agreement (June 1, 2024 - June 30, 2034) with up to two five-year renewal options in the initial annual amount of \$415,000 with an annual escalation of three-percent (3%) each subsequent year plus one-month for an original term of 13-months with a total not to exceed [\$446,000] for FY24-FY25 (June 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025); and then ongoing for the full ten-year lease for occupancy at 777 W. 5th Street, Reno NV (APN #007-242-2) to support the residential needs of Men’s CrossRoads; and Approve Amendment #2 to the contract with Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE) to serve as the program Operator of Men’s CrossRoads, authorizing an increase of [\$64,583] for a not to exceed total of [\$874,903] for FY24 and approve the RISE renewal for FY25 in an amount not to exceed [\$1,585,320] for the term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and if approved, further authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the amendment. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote, with Commissioners Clark and Garcia being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved and authorized.

24-0319 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Public hearing, discussion, and possible action on the Washoe County Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025) pursuant to NRS 354.596-estimated appropriations [\$1,122,465,145], as well as possible changes to the Tentative Budget and adoption of it as the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 pursuant to NRS 354.598-estimated appropriations [\$1,157,868,726]. The proposed budget incorporates Board priorities of funding for existing contractual obligations, supplies, utilities, personnel costs, capital improvements and operations, maintaining the County’s assets and infrastructure needs, and operating budget requests. The proposed budget also includes the following actions: 1) To approve the changes to position control for Fiscal Year 2025 indicated on Attachment A-including 30.2 Net New Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions and Reclassifications/Evaluations/Title Changes/Other Changes/Etc. impacting 122.0 positions/ incumbents. If necessary to accommodate any material changes desired by the Board as identified during the hearing on the Tentative Budget, this item may be continued to May 28, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

***11:36 a.m. Commissioner Garcia joined the meeting.**

Budget Manager Lori Cooke provided a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: General Information; FY 2025 Budget July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025; FY 2025 Budget Priorities; FY 2025 Budget (All Funds) (11 slides); FY 2025 Budget – General Fund; FY 2025 General Fund Budget (2 Slies); General Fund – Fund Balance (2 Slides); FY 2025 Recommended General Fund Budget (3 slides); FY 2025 Budget – Other Funds; FY 2025 Recommended Budget Other Funds; FY 2025 Recommended Budget CIP; FY 2025 Recommended Budget; Questions/Discussion; Supplemental Information; Washoe County Budget (2 slides); and Property Taxes – Overview.

Ms. Cooke declared there were minimal adjustments from the tentative to the final budget. She mentioned the focus areas identified by the Board during its Strategic Planning Workshop. She explained that funds for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) came from various sources, such as general fund transfers, federal funds, and philanthropic funding. She reviewed material changes in the budget, which included that the General Fund ended with a net-zero balance; the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) had a net-zero position change because it created one position and eliminated another; some additional Full Time Equivalent (FTE) requests from the Health District; and a net increase in the Capital Improvements Fund due to the West Hills rehabilitation project and some true-ups for carry-over capital projects. She stated that governmental funds were divided into several categories that, when combined, determined total appropriations. She displayed a graph that depicted the number of FTEs in the County by year and noted the highest staffing volume was in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, and the lowest was in FY 2014. She remarked population data was certified by the State Demographer and used by County staff to compile the budget because it showed the ratio of County employees to citizens. She opined staff members supported the large population through efficient programming developed when COVID-19 (C19) forced the County to automate services and create more efficient business practices. She asserted the General Fund comprised nearly 50 percent of the County's budget and was sourced from property taxes (p-tax) and consolidated taxes (c-tax). She said that future budget forecasts predicted uses to outpace sources, which would create a budget deficit and the possibility of falling below the fund balance policy of 10 to 17 percent. She recommended new FTEs and some position title changes in FY 2025. She pointed out a decrease in transfers out from FY 2024 to FY 2025 because some one-time projects in FY 2024 were not continued to FY 2025.

Chair Hill congratulated the budget team on their hard work. She acknowledged the challenges departments face in obtaining project resources creatively. She appreciated the staff's application of the Board's requests, from the tentative budget presentation to the final budget. She noted that Commissioner Garcia was present via Zoom for the presentation.

Commissioner Garcia thanked the budget staff for their hard work.

Assistant County Manager (ACM) David Solaro expressed appreciation to the departments, the employees, and all the various teams that helped craft the budget. He thought there were some challenges ahead but assured that departments could be creative with the manner in which they provided services to the community. Chair Hill stated that the Board needed to pay attention to the potential of a fiscal cliff and opined there might be legislative work the Board could do to help the County continue to fulfill the community's needs.

Vice Chair Herman opined that people were nervous about the \$1 billion budget and wondered if there was a way to decrease it. Ms. Cooke declared a budgetary decrease would require policy direction from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She asserted that Washoe County was a growing community and the \$1 billion budget was not out of line from a per capita standpoint. She claimed it was hard to draw comparisons between Washoe County and other counties because they were often unique in the community services they provided, and Washoe County covered a vast geographical area. She thought the County would have to decrease community services to achieve a smaller budget. Vice Chair Herman mentioned p-tax and asked why it was not higher due to the volume of development in the community, to which Ms. Cooke responded that p-tax had abatements, so it would not go up at the same rate as assessed values. She noted that newer properties paid more in taxes because they had not depreciated like older properties. She said a cap on p-tax was implemented in 2006; therefore, qualifying residential properties would only receive a three percent increase, and non-qualifying or non-residential properties would receive an eight percent increase.

Chair Hill stated that Clark County recently heard a presentation about abatements, and she requested that the BCC receive one as well.

Commissioner Andriola noted that the ending fund balance was 18.9 percent, which was outside of the 10 to 17 percent threshold, and asked if that created any compliance issues. Ms. Cooke recalled that the BCC set the 10 to 17 percent policy because best practices indicated the County should hold at least two months, or 16.6 percent, of working capital. When the ending fund balance was over 17 percent, there were possibilities for one-time projects or additional funds for ongoing projects. She reminded that based on future budget forecasts, the ending fund balance might dwindle in the coming years. She declared it was not a statutory violation to be over the 17 percent threshold; there would only be a violation if the County fell below a four percent fund balance. Commissioner Andriola commended Ms. Cooke on her presentation and expressed appreciation for the meetings staff held with Commissioners to ensure they understood what was presented. She mentioned a graphic in Ms. Cooke's presentation that displayed staffing levels and indicated the County was doing more work with less staff. She asserted Washoe County's budget could not be compared to other counties. She agreed with Chair Hill's request for a presentation on abatements and said she was comfortable moving forward with the budget as presented.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 3-1 vote, with Vice Chair Herman voting no, and Commissioner Clark being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be adopted and approved.

24-0320 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Discussion and possible action on the County Manager's recommended Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 and direct the County Manager to submit the CIP to the State of Nevada and others by August 1, 2024 as required by NRS 354.5945 [FY 2025 total appropriations of \$235,090,538] which requires all local governments annually to prepare a five-year capital improvement plan to be submitted to the State Department of Taxation and County Debt Management Commission by August 1st of each year. The CIP is a five-year plan for the County's capital improvements for park facilities, including trails, open space, and regional parks; libraries; roads under purview of the County; purchase of light and heavy fleet equipment; utilities infrastructure; capital outlay for major equipment; and County buildings and other facilities. The CIP is limited to capital projects with an estimated cost of \$100,000 or more for assets that have a life-span of more than one year, as part of the reporting requirements of the State and under Board of County Commissioner (BCC) policies. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Budget Manager Lori Cooke provided a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan; Infrastructure Scorecard; Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan; FY 2025 Capital Improvements Fund; FY 2025 Capital Improvements Fund; FY 2025 Parks Capital Fund; FY 2025 Utilities Fund; FY 2025 Roads/Equipment Services/Other Funds; FY 2025 Capital Facilities Tax; Capital Improvement Program; and Questions/Discussion.

Ms. Cooke stated that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) had to follow the budget agenda item because an approved budget was required for the appropriations in the five-year plan, and the CIP had to be submitted to the Department of Taxation along with the budget. She mentioned that some capital purchases occurred outside the capital funds for things like fleet equipment, road projects, utilities, and sewer or stormwater projects. She displayed the County's infrastructure scorecard and pointed out several areas of progress between 2022 and 2023. She said the scorecard was used for project recommendations and policy decisions. She declared if the County did not maintain infrastructure investments, its grade would slip. She recommended Washoe County should allocate about \$18 million to the CIP over five years to keep the grade up. She divulged that individual departments could not submit requests to the CIP in 2024 because there were several funding sources set to expire that needed to be expended on current projects with specific funding and operational deadlines. She reviewed upcoming CIP projects and noted the most extensive project was the West Hills rehabilitation. She spoke about the existing projects and carry-over budget line items which included some unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that could be allocated to projects like the Cares Campus

and permanent supportive housing. She explained that undesignated budget items existed for unforeseen expenditures related to projects. She noted the Parks Capital Fund mainly consisted of carry-over projects, but the South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan implementation was added as a new project. She remarked that the largest Utilities Fund project was the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF) expansion project. She declared the capital facilities tax was an ad valorem tax subject to abatement and growth caps like any other property tax (p-tax) rate. She informed that 60 percent of the Capital Facilities Tax Fund went to the State Highway Fund, and 11.25 percent went to the Cities of Reno and Sparks. Staff recommended a transfer from the Capital Facilities Tax Fund to the Roads Special Revenue Fund.

Commissioner Andriola asked if the undesignated budget line items were contingency funds. Ms. Cooke responded that was the best way to explain them. She stated the County had to have a sufficient balance within each fund, and the undesignated funds accounted for price escalation and variants. Assistant County Manager (ACM) David Solaro added when the County received projects from different departments, they did their best to estimate costs, but it could be several years before the project received funding from the CIP. He asserted there needed to be a mechanism to ensure the County could keep up with price escalations. Commissioner Andriola expressed her desire to convert the End of the World Camp into a park to safeguard the 149 petroglyphs in that area.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Clark being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved and directed.

24-0321 AGENDA ITEM 12 Public Comment.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board that she received emailed public comments that were placed on file.

24-0322 AGENDA ITEM 13 Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Andriola expressed appreciation for the time County Manager Eric Brown and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Abbe Yacoben dedicated to ensure she was prepared for the budget presentation. She mentioned an opportunity to conduct a workshop to enhance the public's understanding of the County's budget formulation process and allow attendees to ask clarifying questions.

Chair Hill stated the budget was the Board's most vital task. She opined that the County's expenditure of resources revealed its priorities and agreed there was an opportunity for a public budget workshop.

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12:23 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

JANIS GALASSINI, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Taylor Chambers, Deputy County Clerk*