

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 14, 2024

PRESENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair

Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair

Michael Clark, Commissioner

Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner

Clara Andriola, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk

Eric Brown, County Manager

Nathan Edwards, Assistant District Attorney

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:

24-0268 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Charles Albright advocated for stewardship and enjoyment of the Truckee River. He spoke about a rafting event that had remaining space for additional participants. He encouraged Commissioners to go see the river from that perspective and support the efforts of the nonprofit organizations One Truckee River and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB). He said his goals were to ensure safe rivers that were free of dams. He recalled information from the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) about dams not paying for themselves, and he remarked the effect dams had on the river was negative. He stated they needed to be removed since they were no longer useful. He mentioned the dams, with the exception of the dam at Ambrose Park, were associated with the County. He thought a free-flowing river would be healthier and deliver cleaner and better water to people downstream. He was especially concerned about getting high-quality water to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. He suggested TMWA had a lot of land that they could use for solar and wind power generation, and the money raised from that could be used to pay for their bills instead of using power generated from dams.

Mr. Terry Brooks read an original poem about the difficulties of poor mental health during circumstances of homelessness.

Mr. Jonathan Boulware provided updates about the Downtown Reno Partnership (DRP). He informed he had served on the DRP Board since its creation in 2018. He applauded the work of their Executive Director, Ms. Neoma Jardon, and the whole team. He thought their efforts to increase awareness of the work of the ambassadors were

especially remarkable. He explained the focus of the DRP was on maintaining a clean and safe downtown, and he added they were growing the program in the upcoming fiscal year by adding eight licensed security ambassadors to the 20 ambassadors they already had. He reported the DRP worked closely with the maintenance and operations team of the City of Reno. He disclosed that in April 2024, the ambassadors picked up 21,000 pounds of trash, including bulky items like couches. He recounted they made up to five dump runs each day. He shared that the ambassadors gave 106 rides to services like the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Social Security Office and also gave 43 rides to homeless shelters. He said they returned 160 shopping carts to owners and completed 184 pressure washes. He described, as an employee of Jacobs Entertainment on 4th Street, he witnessed the ambassadors at work. He remarked on the connections they were able to make over time by building trust with vulnerable residents of the area. In conclusion, he mentioned a number of entertainment events taking place at the J Resort over the summer.

Mr. Gary Mifsud recalled an event he orchestrated in 2019 for senior citizens. He reported engaging three bands, booking a space with the help of Chair Hill, and planning for 200 attendees, but he was ultimately disappointed by the turnout on the day. He attributed the sparse attendance to a broken promise about an anticipated funding source and bad publicity from that individual before the event. He thanked the Commissioners for their service.

Mr. Luis Fain thanked the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the opportunity to speak. He divulged that he had become an American citizen two weeks prior, and felt it was his duty to share his ideas about solutions to what he believed was the most important problem in the world. He quoted former President John Adams, saying the true source of our suffering has been our timidity and we have been afraid to think. He added a quote from Mr. Benjamin Franklin regarding the love of liberty and the knowledge of rights. He spoke about a nonprofit organization he opened with his partner, which aimed to provide an opportunity for every American to pursue happiness as outlined in the Constitution. He wanted to speak to each Commissioner to explain how Washoe County could become the first county in the Nation where those issues would no longer be in crisis. He concluded by reading the poem *I Dreamed in a Dream* by Mr. Walt Whitman.

Ms. Elise Weatherly talked about a song from the 1960s titled Alfie, which considered the question of what was meaningful in life. She said she found the words increasingly impactful as the years went by. She recalled other songs she found relatable and divulged plans she was developing to record her own version of a song called Autumn Leaves, which she theorized could be the theme song for homeowners associations (HOAs), given their perceptions of urgency regarding leaves. She spoke about the difficult and important work of the District Attorney (DA). She mentioned insight and guidance she felt she received in dreams.

Mr. George Cavros provided documents, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He described his work with the clean energy and conservation nonprofit agency Western Resource Advocates. He expressed concern about a proposed rate increase from NV Energy, which he acknowledged was outside the

usual purview of the BCC but deemed was still potentially of interest to the Commissioners. He specified NV Energy was not asking for additional dollars or an increase in the return on equity for their shareholders, but he found the rate proposal unusual. He explained that it would significantly restructure residential bills for Northern Nevada families. He said families would pay a higher fixed charge, which would triple from the current rate of \$16.50, and go up to \$44.40 per month and would not be reduced regardless of how much energy was used. He determined that was problematic because it disincentivized energy conservation and would impact low-income customers the most. Mr. Cavros claimed it was well-established that lower-income customers used less energy; thus, changing the structure of the bill to a higher fixed charge upfront would disproportionately impact low-income households. He stated it also sent the wrong price signal on saving energy and doing the right thing and undermined efforts people made to improve energy efficiency in their homes. He offered to continue discussions on the issue if there was interest and hoped that if the Commissioners were inclined to have their voices heard, they would submit letters of concern to be included in the docket.

Mr. Drew Ribar divulged his candidacy for Assembly District 40 and said the Commissioners encouraged his decision to run for office due to the bad decisions he watched them make. He expressed unease about the funds used for the assistance of unhoused residents, most notably the Cares Campus. He questioned what he understood to be a lack of fiscal accountability and transparency. He stated concern about the quality of meals being provided to senior citizens. He hoped the two Commissioners running for reelection would not retain their seats, and he asserted that if he won the election in his race, he would use every opportunity he had to advocate for greater government accountability. He asked the Commissioners to leave the government open and accountable and to refrain from approving anything that would restrict access to information. He communicated his intent to look further into details of where funds were ultimately channeled and spent. He emphasized the importance of public servants being accountable.

Ms. Carla Parra expressed gratitude on behalf of the JUSTin HOPE Foundation for the disbursement being considered in Agenda Item 8E3. She said the BCC's support directly enabled the organization to continue its mission of fostering inclusion, empowerment, and support for the individuals they served. She stated they hoped to continue providing essential services and programs that promoted independence, helped build skills, and created opportunities for meaningful engagement in the community. She explained the JUSTin HOPE Foundation was dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of those they served, and they appreciated being joined by the BCC in championing the cause of working towards a more inclusive, compassionate society.

Ms. Janet Butcher recounted her attendance at the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting the prior day. She was unsure how the CHAB meeting schedule was established and did not know why meetings were not held more often. She pointed out that evictions were not always a result of unpaid rent, but were sometimes a punitive reaction to tenant complaints about habitability, which landlords could reframe as lease violations. Ms. Butcher stated concerns about upcoming elections and opined she had been waiting years for known election issues to be addressed and

resolved. She was concerned about the way elections were overseen and the funding of groups that influenced the way voting was conducted. She felt the opinions and observations of citizens were discounted in favor of supporting the existing system. She wondered how other counties of similar size across the United States were able to conduct elections on a single day, in contrast to the extended voting window available in Washoe County. She thought those single-day elections were run fairly and without complaint, which she admired.

Mr. Scott Finley read from a document and displayed images, which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk.

Ms. Kelly Stevens related her experience attending the CHAB meeting the prior day. She was alarmed that the BCC engaged the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). She described her concerns about CSH funding sources and wondered how County taxpayers might be impacted by suggestions from CSH. She expressed deep concern about the lack of fiscal transparency from the County, and warned about possible consequences of mismanagement and corruption. She mentioned a special investigations team had watched and documented Commissioners, DAs, and their office staff for the past three years and she suggested Commissioners take note and prepare for future discomfort.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon provided a document, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He stated Board members were under a private, commercial contract. He summarized his intent to serve a Notice of Breach of Contract to Chair Hill and expressed frustration that the document he provided was placed on the permanent record according to standard procedure rather than being passed along to Chair Hill as he wanted. Chair Hill reminded Mr. St. Jon of the requirement for public commenters to address the Board as a whole in that venue. He spoke about a sign he made and brought into Chambers, and objected to camera angles being changed during the meeting in ways that did not maintain visibility of his sign. He recalled demanding a town hall meeting that was not scheduled. He outlined his understanding of appropriate procedures for redress. He demanded that discussion of a resolution for a Second Amendment sanctuary county be added to a future agenda, and insisted the metal detectors used outside of Chambers for BCC meetings be removed. He theorized that they were illegal.

Ms. Penny Brock displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She divulged she found it difficult to decide whether to comment about taxes or about voting because she had concerns about both, and felt a lot occurred in the prior week. She informed she decided on elections and outlined her concerns about the Registrar of Voters (ROV) office. Ms. Brock asserted that according to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), the ROV was to have submitted a plan for public observation of elections by April 15. She reported she had not yet seen that plan. She stated she could not find any definition for observation or observers, and she believed the placement of observers in what she termed the fishbowl was inappropriate. Based on her research, she understood observers had the right to be on the floor, to stand behind an election worker, and to observe the signature verification and the date of the postmark. She acknowledged revised plans for room layout that were created by the ROV, but she found them insufficient to address

the problem. She theorized observers would be unable to exercise rights enshrined in the Constitution and in NRS. She referenced an article written by Mr. Robert Beadles, who expressed numerous concerns about election processes in Washoe County. Ms. Brock cited observation practices in California that she deemed superior. She perceived things were getting worse in the County.

Mr. Cliff Nellis displayed a document and an image, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. He spoke about meaningful voting observation and outlined examples of what it was not. He said without transparency, there was tyranny, not democracy. He suggested alternate arrangements to improve signature verification, including different placement of signature check stations and a method for displaying the signatures near computer screens to ensure congruence. He reasoned adjudicator stations and scanning stations also needed to be observable to ensure ballots were not being run through more than once. He commented observers should be free to walk around the floor and see everything that went on. He avowed if the lights went out, as they did in the last election, the whole election should be declared invalid and redone. He thought if any candidate challenged the outcome of an election, or if any organization challenged the outcome on one of the questions, the County should pay for an audit of that race. He supported hand counting of ballots and of the voting machine tape. He did not believe the machine tape was counted under existing procedures, which he disagreed with. He theorized the machine tapes needed to be counted to ensure a reasonable degree of accuracy and trigger a full hand recount if discrepancies in the results exceeded the predetermined threshold.

Mr. Donald Fossum displayed images, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. He supposed many people no longer attended BCC meetings because trust was broken, and they no longer felt heard. He was grateful that public comment was restored at the beginning of meetings for people who wanted to be able to participate and then get to work. He said his main reason for attending that day was to express his concern about election observers being kept out of a range where they would truly be able to see what was going on. He divulged his frustration with how some Commissioners were representing their constituents, which he felt had, in some cases, diverged from the platforms on which they were elected.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca requested a parallel hand count for the upcoming election. She thought many community members were becoming aware of the problem. She opined that doing the right thing required having a backbone and was not always easy. She stated only about 3 percent of American colonists wanted freedom from England, and she said they gave their money, status, and even their lives in some cases in pursuit of what they believed in. She disputed the claim by some that the founding fathers were old white men, and she asserted they were, in fact, in their mid-twenties and thirties. She announced it was time for people to grow a spine, no matter what the consequences were. She warned that trust had been broken, and people across the United States had lost confidence in the systems and people in place.

10:51 a.m. The Board recessed.

11:00 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

24-0269 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Andriola extended appreciation for the work that went into the two in-person meetings and the online informational overview meeting pertaining to the review of sections of the Washoe County Code (WCC) that governed equine business. She thanked attendees for their participation and investment in the process. She divulged extensive meetings on the subject, which she said had resulted in the recognition that WCC related to equine business had not been comprehensively reviewed since the 1990s. She said many people were impacted by the Codes, and she theorized the financial impact of WCC compliance was excessive. She explained her choice to help by allocating her discretionary funds to support revision efforts as outlined in the January 23, 2024, Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting and noted the revisions would take time. She requested a future agenda item to pause enforcement of WCC related to equine business, provided the activities undertaken were not a safety concern for livestock or the public. She recalled making a similar request in the past, which led to the review being undertaken.

Commissioner Andriola mentioned a mistake made by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) on the sound panels lining Pyramid Highway. She reported that she was in discussions with NDOT and that work on a remedy was underway. She added she also reached out to the Governor's office and hoped a resolution would be seen and heard soon.

Commissioner Clark urged citizens to review the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting held the prior day. He summarized his understanding of the information, saying deaths in the homeless community had increased over the prior year, the total number of homeless people had increased over the prior year, and \$300 million had been spent over the past five years. He theorized that with the count of approximately 1,700 homeless people, the money spent was equivalent to \$176,470 per person, which he speculated could have been a downpayment on 1,700 homes instead. Although he did not think the funds went into the pockets of officials or employees, he affirmed they were spent. He contended there were numerous other ways those funds could have been used. He wanted to see an external audit of where all funds were used and how people were being helped. He stressed the audit should not be conducted by the County; he preferred the impartiality of an external agency. He discerned the outcomes reported did not align with stories in the media, and he drew a parallel to the folktale of The Emperor's New Clothes. He spoke about the negative effects on the area he observed from the Cares Campus. He mentioned an upcoming trip to Miami to look at how homelessness was being addressed there. He hoped the City of Miami had some good ideas, and he said he would provide a report to the BCC about what he learned upon his return. He surmised the public was interested, but he wondered if people had become somewhat desensitized to the issues.

Commissioner Clark restated his requests for a number of BCC agenda items. He expressed frustration about some items he previously requested not being agendaized. He asked specifically about Vice Chair Herman's single-item election integrity

resolution, which he reported was submitted on February 27, 2024, to Chair Hill and County Manager Eric Brown. He pointed out it was not agendized as stipulated by Section 5.5 of the BCC Rules of Procedure Handbook. He objected to the rule not being followed and demanded the item be placed on the agenda of the May 21, 2024, meeting under Agenda Item 5. Vice Chair Herman stated she would second that if it was a motion, and Commissioner Clark affirmed it was a motion. Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards advised that no motion or vote was possible for items that were not on the agenda. He noted that Commissioner Clark had made a request, which was the extent of what was possible at that time. Commissioner Clark disclosed he viewed the accountability of holding a vote on the item as more important than the outcome. He said the public wanted to know how each Commissioner felt about the item, and he thought it was possible some Commissioners did not want their vote on the item to be on record. He recalled that during his time in the Assessor's Office, an audit from the State was conducted on a regular basis. He said he was trying to get the Registrar of Voters (ROV) a sample of the vote, and that was the basis of the resolution he wanted agendized.

ADA Edwards added an analysis of the resolution was completed by the DA's office immediately after it was submitted, and the results of that analysis were known by Commissioners.

Vice Chair Herman mentioned information she heard about County employees from departments outside the ROV providing support during upcoming elections, which she was concerned about. She wanted to ensure everyone remembered that all persons engaged in election support activities like ballot sorting, counting, or observation were subject to the rules outlined in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). She speculated that the use of County employees outside the ROV might be an overstep.

Commissioner Garcia wished all types of mothers a happy Mother's Day. She opined that motherhood was the hardest job in the world, and she supposed the most difficult thing about motherhood was juggling family and career. She spoke about the upcoming trip some Commissioners were taking to Miami, which she noted meant they would miss the May 21, 2024, meeting. She reported they were scheduled to learn about the sequential intercept model and how mental health and substance abuse tied in with the criminal justice system. She hoped to bring back exciting information and innovative ideas to tackle issues the County was facing. She talked about filling in for Chair Hill at the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. She was excited about how much Washoe County was doing and how much was being coordinated. She mentioned Behavioral Health Administrator Julia Ratti was a highly-respected champion for the causes being considered, and a major asset to the County for the work ahead. Commissioner Garcia felt the needle was being moved in the right direction, though she said a lot more work and collaboration would be needed. She thought Ms. Ratti's new position was ideal for that upcoming collaborative work. She said one of the best parts about being a County Commissioner was being a part of many different regional boards. She said two of her regional boards, Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), highlighted and celebrated May as Bike Month. She welcomed the community to attend an upcoming Bike Month event, which she

described. A flyer with details of the event was placed on file with the Clerk.

Manager Brown shared information about two upcoming Board openings. He informed one was with the Nevada Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) and closed on Friday, May 17, 2024. Another was for a partial term through June 30, 2026, with the Washoe County HOME Consortium (WCHC), which also closed Friday, May 17, 2024. He divulged that he was in attendance at the CHAB meeting the prior day and heard the consultant say that the region needed to be prepared to spend \$300 million on housing, specifically affordable housing. Chair Hill affirmed that she heard the same thing. Manager Brown said he was happy to provide another update to the BCC with detailed reports of the Cares Campus spending, and clarified the \$300 million figure was an estimate of future capital spending that would be needed to make affordable housing available.

Chair Hill asked for confirmation that the County was audited by an outside firm every year, which Manager Brown provided.

11:23 a.m. **ADA Edwards left the meeting.**

PROCLAMATIONS

24-0270 **5A1** Proclaim May 14, 2024 and the week of May 12 through May 18, 2024 as Peace Officer Memorial Day and National Police Week. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Andriola read the proclamation.

Sheriff Darin Balaam, on behalf of all the men and women in law enforcement, thanked the Commissioners for attending the recent memorials and expressed appreciation for the recognition they received with the proclamation that day.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

24-0271 **5A2** Proclaim the month of May 2024 as International Internal Audit Awareness month. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hill read the proclamation.

Internal Audit Manager Katelyn Kleidosty thanked Commissioners for acknowledging the importance of internal auditors to the County and for recognizing International Internal Audit Awareness Month.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 5A1 and 5A2 be adopted.

24-0272 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Presentation by Maurice Page, Executive Director Nevada Housing Coalition, to provide updates on Nevada Housing Coalition and Housing in Washoe County. (All Commission Districts.)

Nevada Housing Coalition Executive Director Maurice Page conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Nevada Housing Coalition Presented to: Washoe County; About Us; Elevate NV Affordable Housing; 2023 Nevada Legislative Session; Housing Affordability Varies Across the Housing Spectrum; Key Facts; Nevada's Affordable Housing Supply; Housing Affordability - Washoe County; Housing Affordability – Reno; Homeownership Affordability – Reno; Cost Burdened Renter Households – Washoe County; Stay in Touch!; Thank You.

Mr. Page summarized that recognizing the challenges faced by many Washoe residents in recent years, the County took proactive steps to tackle the housing affordability issues in the community. He commended the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for their focus and determination to improve circumstances for residents suffering from the housing shortage. He advised the discussion that day would confront a stark division, with people on one side living in the midst of a housing crisis and people on the other side observing from the sidelines. He said the role of the Nevada Housing Coalition (NHC) was to understand, advocate, and work towards solutions that bridged the gap, ensuring understanding was translated into meaningful action. He asked Commissioners to keep that objective in mind during the presentation and discussion that day.

Mr. Page described the NHC as a Statewide, member-based, nonprofit organization. He disclosed he had been the Executive Director of the organization for seven months, and shortly after he assumed the directorship, the Board of Directors informed him circumstances were changing in Nevada, and they needed to be able to focus on housing as a whole. He reported the NHC updated its mission statement to promote the development and preservation of affordable housing for all Nevadans through collaboration, education, and advocacy. He said they also created a vision statement, which described a Nevada where all residents had access to an affordable place to call home. He stated it was commonly understood that housing was fundamental to personal and community well-being. He proclaimed stable and affordable housing formed the cornerstone of thriving communities. He communicated that, in collaboration with industry leaders, educational bodies, and community organizations, the NHC aimed to build an ecosystem that not only supported housing development but also empowered Nevadans to engage in sustainable living practices.

Mr. Page explained a program the NHC developed called Elevate NV, which aimed to educate the public about affordable housing. He said the program included collaboration with other nonprofits and emerging developers within the State. He described that they provided technical assistance and support for capacity building to help others learn about affordable housing, which he acknowledged was not something most people studied in school. Mr. Page believed the education they were able to provide helped build the next generation of developers within the State. He informed one of the largest components of the work done by the NHC was advocacy, particularly for creating more

affordable housing within the State. He cited the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 310 during the 2023 Legislative session as a huge accomplishment for them and said the \$32.2 million designated in the newly created Supportive Housing Development Fund would go towards development and support for people who were struggling to maintain housing. He listed some hurdles people faced in achieving the stability needed to maintain housing. He suggested housing should be talked about not only from a perspective of homelessness, but also as a broader view of the entire field of available housing options and needs. He stated affordable did not exclusively mean low income. He reasoned it also should include people like firefighters, school teachers, casino workers, and grocery store employees, who he postulated were all struggling. He emphasized more affordable housing needed to be developed so individuals could maintain and sustain their housing going forward. He invited Commissioners to imagine the security generated by a person having their own bed to lay in, knowing their children were safe and could attend school well-rested. Similarly, he advocated for the importance of people having a roof over their heads and being able to go to work focused on their jobs. He reported the NHC provided assistance with legislation beyond AB310, including advocacy for AB62, AB448, and AB396.

Mr. Page proposed that the conversation about housing affordability varied across the housing spectrum. He outlined the three tiers of affordable housing defined by Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 278.01902, NRS 278.01904, and NRS 278.01906. He reviewed data recently provided by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and pointed out trends evident through data comparisons from prior years, which included significant cost increases and much more modest wage increases. He mentioned his office was in the process of updating the statistics showing Nevada's affordable housing supply, and the figures displayed on that slide of his presentation were from 2022. He observed significant shortfalls in some housing inventory, especially the available units for households at 30 percent to 35 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), which numbered 1,118 statewide. He discerned it was important to create and implement long-term funding strategies since the area of shortfall was not the most appealing opportunity for developers. He talked about the Home Means Nevada Initiative (HMNI), which allowed the addition of 4,000 new homes to the pipeline for increased inventory. He commented there were additional funds, including the Community Housing Fund, which he noted Clark County was also using. He said the goal was to address the crisis, and NHC knew there were no immediate solutions. He encouraged continued partnerships and conversations about solutions and best practices.

Mr. Page stated that looking at basic numbers for housing affordability revealed a mismatch between salaries and costs for both home purchase and home rental. He indicated it was a disparity that needed further consideration. He suggested wages needed to be increased to maintain balance. He reasoned the situation boiled down to supply and demand, and an increased supply of houses would drive prices down. He said he had spent his time as the Executive Director meeting with individuals in the community, including elected officials and community leaders. He worked to understand the current status of housing in the State and where the NHC could guide toward a better overall position. He reported they created a Policy Committee that would craft possible solutions with the goal of creating more long-term funding strategies for affordable housing. He

informed there would be a policy forum on July 25, 2024, at the Nugget in Sparks, followed by the Annual Nevada Housing Conference on October 16 and 17, 2024, also at the Nugget. He expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for listening to his presentation and invited them to ask any questions.

Chair Hill commended Mr. Page on the HMNI, which she noted changed what was possible on the local level and was entirely the work of the NHC. She asked Mr. Page if he had any ideas on the legislative solutions he intended to carry forward. He responded the Policy Committee was still new, and he was not yet sure of the specific recommendations they might make. He disclosed the committee was scheduled to have their first meeting that week, and added he already had a foundation in place based on the conversations he held with leaders statewide over the prior months. He theorized the biggest concern was long-term funding, especially with HMNI funds going away in the next couple of years. He said without additional funding, it would not be possible to build as rapidly as they had in the last two years. He warned that to not fall further behind, it would be essential to work with the Governor and State and Federal delegations to create funding streams to preserve momentum and continue to build. Chair Hill recalled a recommendation made at the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting the prior day, which was to bring local jurisdictions together to develop laser-focused alignment on the issue. She welcomed any help the NHC could provide to convene and encourage local governments to work together and secure funding. Mr. Page reiterated the importance of addressing the full spectrum of housing and offered the NHC would love to be the convener to bring jurisdictions together. He reasoned having accurate data was a priority, and wanted to better understand the broader impact on infrastructure when new units were added to the inventory.

Manager Brown acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Page and applauded his success in quickly getting the attention of the right stakeholders. Manager Brown said he had attended multiple sessions with Mr. Page where developers were present alongside representatives from other jurisdictions. He reported those convenings led to productive conversations. He asked Mr. Page to return to a slide in his presentation, titled Nevada's Affordable Housing Supply, that used an annotated bar graph to depict the housing supply. He pointed out the figure at the bottom of the slide, which indicated a total of 1,118 units in the whole State for individuals between 30 percent and 35 percent AMI. He stated that was the category of housing the County was focused on as they tried to transition people out of shelters and into housing. He shared that most of those people could not afford the higher-cost units where there was more available inventory. The supply of housing that was affordable to them was severely limited, which caused problems. He wanted people to start thinking about the observed increase in the number of residents who worked and had incomes, but were priced out of housing and were turning to shelters. He theorized the problem was not going to go away, and both he and Chair Hill observed rental assistance would soon end. He thought staff needed to return to the BCC with an update and perhaps give some recommendations because the situation was constantly changing and evolving. Manager Brown emphasized the problems could not be ignored.

Mr. Page noted that his organization was working with the Kenny Guinn

Center for Policy Priorities, which was conducting an assessment of housing needs throughout the State. He hoped a report on their findings would be ready to share by October 2024.

11:38 a.m. Assistant District Attorney Nathan Edwards returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Andriola wondered about housing stability trends nationally. She was especially curious about increased economic disparity, where housing costs outpaced wage increases. She questioned how Washoe County and Nevada compared to other similarly-sized counties and states. Mr. Page responded that he did not have specific information about counties at that time, but he affirmed the gap was huge across the Country. He said all the states he researched were experiencing the same challenges as Nevada, though he noted Arizona was in a slightly better position. Commissioner Andriola asked since the problem seemed to be the same in many different areas if there were common economic trend factors like inflation contributing to the problem. Mr. Page confirmed inflation was a significant contributor. He informed people were looking for places to retire where housing was less expensive. He described conditions in Texas, where there was a tax structure similar to Nevada and land available to build, which led people to move there. He explained that with the increase in people moving to Texas, people were starting to get priced out, and they increasingly had to move to the suburbs of cities like Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, which further drove costs up. He advised Texas did not have the right infrastructure to absorb that growth, and was starting to experience challenges similar to what Nevada was experiencing.

Chair Hill thanked Mr. Page for his time and presentation. She added she looked forward to future collaborations.

24-0273 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Appearance, presentation and update by Tracy Moore, Washoe County School District, and Quinn Korbolic, Washoe County Technology Services, on the development, construction, and implementation of Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS). Technology Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Washoe County School District (WCSD) Chief of Police Tracy Moore stated that in addition to his position as Chief of Police for WCSD, he had also been the Chairman of the Joint Operating Committee for the radio system for six years, and had served on that committee since the start of his career with WCSD in 2005. He summarized the purpose of the presentation that day was an update on the construction of the new public safety radio system. He recalled communication problems he observed many years prior during his work with the volunteer fire service. He informed the Radio System Joint Operating Committee was developed in 1999 to solve the communications problem. He reported the current public safety radio system was implemented on the advice of a consultant. He described through that process, it was found that the State of Nevada had experienced similar limitations in efforts to communicate with statewide stakeholders in emergency management. The Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS) was established to address the need for statewide radio coverage. He advised the system included private and

government entities and Washoe County was a partner. He recalled that inclusion was a hurdle because the system was primarily designed for public safety government agencies. He explained they were able to work out an agreement that resulted in NV Energy, federal agencies, and tribal agencies being included in the system.

Mr. Moore said the system was necessary for public safety emergency events, active assailant events, special events, community evacuations, and daily operations. He articulated it allowed radio communication across agencies and departments, but they were encountering an issue with the age of many system components. He specified replacement parts had become more difficult to obtain and, despite their best efforts, the system was reaching the end of its life. He divulged unforeseen high construction costs they had encountered as they worked to update the system, which necessitated critical spending decisions. He disclosed that moving forward with the system update as planned would put them \$6 million over budget, which he explained would be shared amongst participating agencies and jurisdictions. He stated that in addition to the infrastructure costs, there would also be equipment costs, including new radios for patrol cars. He cautioned the update was an investment that could not be overlooked or put on the back burner.

Washoe County Information Technology Manager Quinn Korbolic conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS) Overview & Update; Nevada Shared Radio System (1); Nevada Shared Radio System – P25 Upgrade; P25 System Implementation Schedule; Nevada Shared Radio System (2); Washoe County Progress; Project Update; Thank You.

Mr. Korbolic said the NSRS project had been on the strategic plan and in progress since 2018. In that time, he thought only one update had been provided to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and the only Commissioner who was on the Board at that time was Commissioner Herman. He reasoned it was a good time to provide an update and talk about some of the issues brought up by Mr. Moore. He summarized NSRS was a public safety radio system that supported over 40 different agencies across the State. He advised the system was primarily used for public safety communications including dispatch, law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical response agencies. He provided examples of its use by agencies outside of Washoe County, including the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), the Department of Corrections (DOC), Nye County, Storey County, Mineral County, Elko County, and the Nevada Capitol Police.

Mr. Korbolic recounted that Washoe County had worked with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and NV Energy since the 1990s to operate and manage the NSRS, and he viewed it as a true public and private partnership. He highlighted information on a map displayed in his PowerPoint, which contained dots indicating radio sites. He explained the color coding of the dots and pointed out that both NV Energy and NDOT had sites in Washoe County, which directly benefitted the County through increased radio coverage. Mr. Korbolic echoed Mr. Moore's remarks about the age of the system and the lack of vendor support to maintain the infrastructure, which was the primary reason for the upgrade. He added that the upgrade would utilize new Project 25 (P25) technology,

which would be a secondary benefit. He disclosed they also planned to expand coverage, increasing from 115 sites to 135 sites, which would increase radio coverage across the State. He reported they would upgrade from a proprietary system to P25 open standard technology. He explained that P25 was an open standard set by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officers (APCO). He said the open standard meant that any P25-compliant radio from any manufacturer could operate on their system. He advised the system currently operated only with Harris brand radios, and there was only one vendor to work with, which was limiting.

Mr. Korbolic conveyed the new system would improve communications and statewide coverage, and would increase capacity in two ways. He explained one way was a higher capacity for emergencies. He provided a theoretical example of a large fire or school shooting that generated high traffic on the radio system. He divulged that high traffic sometimes created difficulties with the current system, and messages did not immediately get through as intended. He said with the new system, there would be enough capacity to cover large incidents. He advised the current system was limited to 16,000 users, but the new system effectively allowed for unlimited users, which he stated would also help with capacity. He shared there was significant pent-up demand for new radios and predicted when the switch to the new system was made, they would be able to meet that demand.

Mr. Korbolic informed NSRS currently had a contract with the Harris Corporation, now called L3Harris. He described they worked with NDOT and NV Energy in 2017 and selected Harris through a request for proposal (RFP) process administered by NDOT. He related the contract was signed in 2018 and the project got underway. Mr. Korbolic showed how the project was divided into three implementation regions. He described the first region was southern Nevada, which started immediately in 2018. He said Region 2 was the northwestern portion of the State, and Region 3 was the northeastern part. He stated Region 1 was almost complete, and they were working to verify and validate coverage. He advised once L3Harris completed that validation and met a number of other requirements, Region 1 would fully move over to the new system, likely in August 2024. He expected Region 2 would undergo the same process in May 2026, and the full system was projected to be functional in the summer of 2027. He talked about the Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS), details of which were shown on a slide in the PowerPoint. He said a primary benefit of the new system was that everyone would be able to communicate across agencies, which was essential for effective emergency response. He pointed out parallels between NSRS and discussions about regional computer-aided dispatch (CAD) implementation. In both cases, no information would be lost when calls were transferred among agencies. He reported there were interlocal agreements in place between all agencies that covered operations, administration, and a fee structure.

Mr. Korbolic referred to a map in his PowerPoint to indicate system progress in different areas of Washoe County. He described the blue dots as completed sites, the yellow dots as in progress, and the red dots as delayed. He pointed out that not all of the sites shown on the map were existing sites and highlighted some that still needed to be built to reduce existing gaps in coverage for public safety communications. He spoke

about permits and leases related to some of that additional construction. He disclosed a year-long delay at the beginning of the project due to performance issues with L3Harris but reported they were back on track with the rest of the schedule.

Mr. Korbolic cautioned that construction costs had risen significantly since the original contract was signed in 2018, which impacted the budget. He said NSRS was working with the partner agencies to arrive at the most equitable solution for sharing the increased costs. He advised additional funds were not needed until the summer of 2025. Mr. Korbolic shared they were working on an addendum to an interlocal agreement, and he anticipated the revised agreement would be completed before construction began in 2025. He added they were actively pursuing grant funding sources and had hired a consultant through Lexipol to help with that. He concluded by acknowledging the staff for the radio system, who were doing their regular jobs and helping build the new system. He appreciated their dedication, pride, and alignment with the mission. He thanked the Commissioners and offered to answer any questions.

Chair Hill asked Mr. Korbolic if he knew what the projected budget overrun was. She also wanted to know if the revised interlocal agreements would go to the BCC for review prior to being finalized. Mr. Korbolic affirmed the agreements would go to the BCC. He noted construction plans were being adjusted to allow for prioritization, and depending on decisions made in that regard, the cost could be anywhere between \$3.2 million to \$6 million over budget. Chair Hill asked if infrastructure bonds through the State were being considered as part of the funding plan, and Mr. Korbolic confirmed they were. She thanked Mr. Korbolic and his team for their great work and dedication. She said she looked forward to getting future updates and supporting efforts to get the new system online.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 8A1 THROUGH 8H1 EXCLUDING AGENDA ITEM 8D1 HEARD SEPARATELY

- 24-0274** **8A1** Recommendation to approve the reappointment of Rob Pierce to the Washoe County Board of Adjustment to represent Commission District 5 (unincorporated County area of District 5 (generally includes the areas of Verdi, North Valleys, Cold Springs, Warm Springs, portions of Sun Valley, and all of the High Desert Planning Area extending to the Oregon border), to fill a term beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2028, or until such time as Mr. Pierce no longer serves on the Board of Adjustment or a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)
- 24-0275** **8A2** Recommendation to adopt resolution R24-28 accepting real property for public recreation use described as Common Area Parcel A of the Reserve at Monte Rosa Unit 2, Tract Map No. 4836, Document No. 3598845, recorded on November 30, 2007, Assessor’s Parcel Number 142-400-02, totaling 10.01-acres; and if approved, direct the Clerk’s Office to record the resolution in the Office of the County Recorder. Community

Services. (Commission District 2.)

- 24-0276** **8A3** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 278.040, the appointment of Amy Owens to the Washoe County Planning Commission representing Commission District 3 (generally includes portions of Panther Valley south of Sagehen Lane; and Sun Valley generally north of Dandini Boulevard, south of 7th Avenue and west of a boundary extending along Leon Drive to Wall Canyon Drive to Lupin Drive to Klondike Drive); to fill a full term beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2028, or until such time as Ms. Owens no longer serves on the Planning Commission or a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first. Eligible applicants include: Carol A. Burns and Amy Owens. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)
- 24-0277** **8B1** Recommendation to certify charges, levy and direct the Treasurer to collect \$275,404.34 in special assessments for fiscal year 2024/2025 as requested by the State Engineer of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, for Black Rock Desert Groundwater Basin (\$68.91), Honey Lake Valley Groundwater Basin (\$5,237.65), Hualapai Flat Water District (\$8,704.30), San Emidio Desert District (\$4,736.29), Warm Springs Valley Groundwater Basin (\$9,358.59), Washoe Valley Groundwater Basin (\$3,298.60), Warm Springs/Winnemucca Creek Basin (\$4,000.00), Cold Springs Valley Groundwater Basin (\$8,000.00), Lake Tahoe Groundwater Basin (\$10,000.00), Lemmon Valley Water District (\$20,000.00), Pleasant Valley Groundwater Basin (\$6,000.00), Spanish Springs Valley Groundwater Basin (\$30,000.00), Tracy Segment Groundwater Basin (\$4,000.00), Truckee Canyon Segment Groundwater Basin (\$12,000.00) and Truckee Meadows/Sun Valley Groundwater Basin (\$150,000.00). Authorize the Treasurer to remove uncollectible assessments and/or correct assessments on the tax roll as requested by the Division of Water Resources; direct the Clerk to execute the State of Nevada Division of Water Resources certification letters and send them back to the Division pursuant to NRS 533.285; and direct the Comptroller to pay to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources the requested funds. Finance. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0278** **8C1** Recommendation to accept the FY24 Federal Title IV-B Subpart 2 Caseworker Visits subaward from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support caseworker visits in the amount of [\$20,015.00; \$5,854.00 county match] retroactive to October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0279** **8E1** Recommendation to approve agreement with the Community

Foundation of Northern Nevada, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to act as fiscal agent for the Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives Fund which will accept donations and contributions to be designated to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System. Future contributions would be used to support other regional behavioral health initiatives. Per section 6 of the fund agreement, an administrative fee will be deducted from the fund balance and allocated to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to perform administrative oversight of the fund. The administrative fee is \$400 annually or 1.5% of the average daily balance of the fund to be paid annually, whichever is greater. There is no fiscal impact to Washoe County, administrative fees will be paid directly by the fund. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts).

24-0280 **8E2** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$3,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District 2 Commissioner Mike Clark recommends a [\$3,000.00] grant to FIRST Nevada - a non-profit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes - to support the Clawbotics robotic team; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 2.)

24-0281 **8E3** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$10,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$5,000.00] grant to JUSTin Hope Foundation - a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes - for the purpose of supporting families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to Note-Able Music Therapy Services - a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes - for the purpose of supporting individuals with disabilities through a range of adaptive and neurologic musical therapy services; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 3.)

24-0282 **8E4** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$5,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Circle of Life Hospice Foundation -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- to support the program's caregiving support; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Great Basin Chaplain Corps -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- for the purpose of supporting its mission of providing support and comfort in the time of grief, trauma, and loss; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the

Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 5.)

- 24-0283** **8F1** Recommendation to accept the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Grant Management Unit grant award DO 1438 [amount not to exceed \$199,802.00] to be used to pay for one current Regional Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit Victim Advocate position, travel, operating expenses and victim services expenses for the retroactive grant period of January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, and if approved authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documents; direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0284** **8F2** Recommendation to acknowledge Receipt of Status Report of Commissary Fund set up per NRS 211.360 to be utilized for the welfare and benefit of the inmates for items such as counseling, chaplaincy services, vocational training, and certifications programs for inmates in the jail, submitted by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Commissary Committee for Fourth Quarter for Fiscal Year 2023. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0285** **8F3** Recommendation to retroactively approve the Law Enforcement Funding Agreement between the University Police Department (UPD) of the University of Nevada and Washoe County, on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) to provide reimbursement for extra staffing/patrol services [up to \$5,000.00 per game for 2024 and up to \$5,500.00 per game for 2025] needed in Reno, Nevada for the University of Nevada football games During 2024 and 2025 seasons. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0286** **8G1** Recommendation to approve and sign a lease agreement between Washoe County and Desert View Commercial Properties, LLC, for Washoe County to rent real property known as East Red Peak (APN 502-250-07) for the purpose of constructing, installing, and operating a communications site for the Nevada Shared Radio System for a period of ten (10) years beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2034, with the option to renew for one additional term of ten (10) years; for an initial cost of \$2,000.00 per month and subsequent cost increases to the monthly rent each year beginning on January 1, 2025, equal to the effective interest rates earned by the invested assets of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) trust funds combined, not to exceed 10% annually. Technology Services. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0287** **8H1** Recommendation to accept Treasurer's status report for the period ending April 30, 2024, of payment of refunds and interest since last update in the amount of \$10,451.43 on certain property tax overpayments for

residential properties at Incline Village/Crystal Bay, in compliance with the October 21, 2019 Order issued by the District Court in Village League to Save Incline Assets, Inc., et.al. vs. State of Nevada, et.al., Case No. CV03-06922, as modified and clarified by the settlement agreement regarding the processing of refunds. Treasurer. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Clark asked to pull Agenda Item 8D1 from the Consent Agenda.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Amy Owens introduced herself as an applicant for the Washoe County Planning Commission for District 3. She disclosed she was a native Nevadan, had lived in District 3 intermittently for 20 years, and had been a resident of Sun Valley for the past nine years. She informed she had an associate's degree in biology and was currently employed with the State in the Research and Analysis Bureau. She reviewed experiences that she thought indicated her suitability for the open position. She articulated her desire to do more for her community and thought this board appointment would enable her to make meaningful and lasting changes.

Ms. Andrea Pelto expressed gratitude on behalf of herself and Chaplain Chaz Blackburn for the special fund disbursements recommended in Agenda Item 8E4 to support the Circle of Life Hospice Foundation and the Great Basin Chaplain Corps. She advised both organizations and their projects were nonpartisan and important to all people. She believed people needed to continue to get involved in work of this kind because there was a growing need at all levels of the community. She divulged she recently accepted the position of Treasurer for the Circle of Life Hospice Foundation and said being a local senior advocate, she heard stories daily about seniors suffering from both isolation and unstable housing. She stated the importance of the hospice house model used by her organization, which gave the dying a place to be cared for with dignity during their final days.

Commissioner Garcia disclosed, regarding Agenda Item 8F3, that she was an employee of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). She indicated her work was in education and had no relation to the Law Enforcement Funding Agreement, and she intended to vote on the item.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8H1, excluding Agenda Item 8D1, be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8H1, with the exclusion of Agenda Item 8D1, are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-0288 **8D1** Recommendation to approve a payment of \$752.56 per day, retroactive to July 1, 2023, to Sparks, Wadsworth, and Incline Justice Court judges who preside over pretrial detention hearings on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays and to authorize Budget, Comptroller, and Human Resources to make the necessary amendments. [Net fiscal impact of \$70,741]. Sparks Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Clark stated for the record that this issue was previously addressed for other courts. He wondered if there were compelling reasons for now considering payments to the additional courts listed in the item, or if they were just missed the first time.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards recalled that the item considered previously was for the Reno Justice Court, which Chair Hill affirmed. Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas confirmed that Agenda Item 8D1 was being considered individually because different courts operated as separate branches of government, and after the Reno Justice Court led the way, other courts brought similar items forward on their own behalf, which she advised was typical for courts.

Commissioner Clark said it appeared as though it was initially missed, and then other people wanted extra pay.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8D1 be approved.

BLOCK VOTE – 9 THROUGH 12

24-0289

AGENDA ITEM 9 Recommendation to approve the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security “Lemmon Valley Home Acquisitions Phase I” grant award budget adjustment in FY24 [in the amount of \$352,570.32 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$117,523.44] for the purpose of purchasing certain residential properties located in the Lemmon Valley area of Washoe County, removing all existing structures, buildings, materials and debris, thereby returning these parcels to vacant open space that are further deed restricted to prevent any future development; (2) direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and (3) designate the County Manager as the authorized representative with the authority to enter into and execute all necessary construction and purchase agreements for the properties. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock expressed her objection to Block Votes. She pointed out she had comments on multiple items within the Block Vote, and felt the rights of taxpayers to comment were curtailed when items were grouped together. Regarding Agenda Item 9, she was concerned about not knowing the extent of the project in Lemmon Valley. She observed the item summary referenced a Phase I, but she could not discern how many properties were involved or who the owner would be. She surmised the County would be the owner, but could not be sure. She noted the item indicated deed restrictions would prevent future development, but she wondered if there

was a plan to build a shelter or affordable housing for the homeless. She recalled hearing at the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting the prior day that available land was limited in Sparks and Reno.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved, directed, and designated.

24-0290 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to: (1) award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Jail Security Control System and Inmate Communication Project - PWP-WA-2024-089, located at 911 East Parr Boulevard, Reno, Nevada [staff recommends James F. Thomson, Jr. dba American Southwest Electric, LLC, in the amount of \$5,243,583.00]; and (2) approve a separate project contingency fund [in the amount of \$471,922.47] for the total construction cost not to exceed \$5,715,505.47. The project will upgrade the existing door controls, communication, and integration of the security camera systems at the Washoe County Regional Detention Facility, Reno Justice Court and the Second Judicial District Court. Community Services. (Commission Districts 1 and 3.)

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be awarded and approved.

24-0291 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the Interim Financial Report for Washoe County Governmental Funds for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2024 recognizing a total funds balance increase of \$93 million year-to-date and \$14 million year over year. This unaudited interim financial report is provided quarterly, in addition to the audited annual comprehensive financial report, to provide information on Washoe County's primary operating fund and accounts and identify significant variances between the years. - Unaudited Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock observed the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget was over \$1 billion, which she thought was already high, and said she did not understand requests for increases beyond that. She disclosed her past employment with a defense contractor funded by the federal government. She recalled when the time came for budget creation and approval, her boss would ask employees in the department to think of ways to ask for more money. She theorized it was common practice in government to find ways to request and spend more money. She looked forward to seeing the budget in more detail in the coming weeks and predicted increases.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be acknowledged.

24-0292 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to accept a subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Licensing in the amount of [\$720,000.00; \$0.00 county match] retroactive to July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 to provide American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds to support child care provider training/technical assistance, quality improvement, and capacity building by assisting new child care center applicants and new family home-based child care applicants with start-up costs; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the subaward and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. 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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be accepted, authorized, and directed.

24-0293 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Declaration of Canvass of Vote and Order for the Palomino Valley General Improvement District Recall Election of Trustee Thomas Baker, as required by NRS 293.387. "Canvass" means a review of the election results by the Board of County Commissioners, by which any errors within the election results are officially noted and the official election results are declared. The canvass shall separately note any clerical errors discovered and take account of the changes resulting from the errors discovered, and the results declared must represent the true vote cast. As soon as the Board declares the results, the Registrar of Voters shall certify the abstract of the results, which must contain the number of votes cast for the recall and against the recall and enter it in the record of the Board. The Board shall order the Registrar of Voters to transmit a copy of the certified abstract, as well as a mechanized report of the abstract in accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary of State, to the Secretary of State within the time required by NRS 293.387. Voters. (All Commission Districts.)

Deputy Registrar of Voters (ROV) Andrew McDonald canvassed the vote for the Palomino Valley General Improvement District (PVGID) recall special election for Mr. Thomas Baker. He reported one day of in-person early voting took place at the Spanish Springs Library on May 2, 2024. He stated a single day of in-person voting was held on Election Day, May 4, 2024, at the Spanish Springs Library. He informed there were 1,288 active, registered voters in the PVGID who were given the opportunity to vote in the

election, either by mail or in person. He revealed the ROV received 343 ballots cast, which represented 27 percent of the active, registered voters in the election. He described that of those, 234 were mail ballots, 50 were in-person early voting ballots, and 59 were in-person Election Day ballots. He summarized there were 233 votes for a recall and 107 votes against a recall, including 3 undervotes. He defined an undervote as a ballot cast by a voter that showed no legal, valid selection for any candidate for a particular office or ballot question. Lastly, he reported there were no clerical errors discovered, and the results presented were the true votes cast. He said he was available for any questions.

Commissioner Clark observed it was rare for a recall to be carried through so many steps of the process. He commended the efforts of the citizen, Mr. Larry Chesney, who put it together, and the ROV for carrying the recall through.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the Declaration of the Canvass of the Vote for the Palomino Valley General Improvement District Recall Election of Trustee Thomas Baker be approved and the Registrar of Voters was directed to transfer the abstract to the Secretary of State.

24-0294 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Request by the Department of Alternative Sentencing to initiate, pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.030 and 2.040, and conduct a first reading of an amendment to Washoe County Code 11.090 (Fees for cost of supervision; Imposition; waiver or reduction) to allow the Board to adopt a fee schedule through resolution rather than requiring code change. If supported, set the public hearing for the second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance for May 28, 2024. District Attorney. (All Commission Districts.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Bill No. 1912.

Chair Hill noted she had been in contact with the Department of Alternative Sentencing. They indicated they were keeping the fee schedule and the portion of the ordinance that allowed the Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer to waive or reduce the imposition or reduce the amount of the fee in the case of economic hardship.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Bill No. 1912 was introduced by Commissioner Andriola, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

24-0295 **AGENDA ITEM 15** Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code chapter 15 (County Finances; Purchasing) by modifying and updating language for audits and the Audit Committee. These updates include clarifying functions and authority for independent

external auditors; changing the appropriation of monies from the county manager to the comptroller for audits by independent external auditors; updating requirements for audit committee membership; clarifying that the County Manager sits as a non-voting member; adding quorum requirements and reasons for a committee member's removal from the audit committee; combining and modifying sections about the audit committee's code of ethics and charter; removing language governing consent and approval from elected officials for audits into the officials' statutory duties and responsibilities because the provision conflicts with the Board of County Commissioners authority to order an audit of an elected official's department; modifying language related to the audit schedule; modifying language related to audit schedule; modifying language related to special audits; modifying language related to an auditor's access to records; modifying language related to the written response to an audit; and changing audit retention for three years instead of permanent retention; and all other matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. If supported, set the public hearing for the second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance for May 28, 2024. Finance. (All Commission Districts.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Bill No. 1913.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards mentioned he and Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) Mary Kandaras reviewed the ordinance and questioned the wisdom of the proposed Section 15.540 subsection 5. They thought subsection 5, which addressed the removal of a member, should not be included. They reasoned it would be better to have Audit Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and they advised wording to that effect could be added at the end of subsection 2. They also identified a potential concern over the independence of separately elected offices. He pointed out the last sentence of the provision in section 15.550 stipulated audits that infringed on the statutory duties and responsibilities of elected officials would not be conducted without the consent and approval of the elected official. He said that sentence was proposed to be stricken. He noted similar provisions in sections 15.560 and 15.568 that addressed the same type of issue. He and CDDA Kandaras suggested those provisions all remain untouched to preserve an appropriate balance of authority between the BCC and other elected offices.

Chair Hill sought assurance that audit compliance, as outlined in section 15.566, was still required, which ADA Edwards affirmed. He clarified the language being considered was about exceptions. He said the general rule was that departments comply with audits, and these provisions addressed situations in which audit compliance created a conflict with statutory duties.

Chair Hill recalled a public commenter having concerns about the proposed change to three-year record retention instead of permanent retention. She asked for confirmation about what State law required for records retention, and whether there had

also been a change at the State level.

Internal Audit Manager Katelyn Kleidosty explained audit work papers were kept in adherence to the retention schedule designated by the Nevada State Library and Archives, which informed the three-year retention period. She clarified their audit reports were retained in perpetuity through the Clerk's Office because they were submitted to the BCC.

Vice Chair Herman wondered if a version of the ordinance, including changes and suggestions from the meeting that day, would be brought back to the BCC in a revised form. Chair Hill confirmed the changes would be incorporated prior to the second reading and possible adoption. Vice Chair Herman said she would prefer for a revised version to be presented as a new first reading. ADA Edwards advised it could be brought back as either a first or second reading. He affirmed it was appropriate for it to come back as a second reading, and if anyone had concerns or objections at the time of the public hearing, those could be stated.

Chair Hill asked if there was any particular rush to approve the ordinance. Ms. Kleidosty replied she hoped to have it done before the next Audit Committee meeting on June 13, 2024.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock theorized the number of changes warranted fresh reconsideration by the Commissioners once everything was in writing. She was also concerned about the change to the retention policy and preferred permanent retention. She wanted to see everything clarified in writing at a new first reading.

Bill No. 1913 was introduced by Commissioner Garcia, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

24-0296 **AGENDA ITEM 16** Public Hearing and possible action to hold the first reading of an ordinance: (1) amending Ordinance No. 1000 in order to change the boundaries of District No. 24 (Groundwater Remediation); (2) providing for a notice of a public hearing and other matters relating thereto; and (3) setting the public hearing for the second reading and possible adoption on June 18, 2024; AND, Possible action to hold the first reading of an ordinance: (1) imposing a fee on the parcels of land in Washoe County, Nevada District No. 24 (Groundwater Remediation) to pay the costs of developing and carrying out a plan for remediation; (2) providing for a notice of a public hearing and other matters relating thereto; and (3) setting the public hearing for the second reading and possible adoption on June 18, 2024. The Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District was formed in 1997 to address the tetrachloroethene (PCE) contamination of groundwater in the central Truckee Meadows area. The District is tasked with remediating PCE contamination and annually updates both the Service Area boundary and Contaminant Area boundary based on continuous analysis

and modeling efforts. There is no impact to the General Fund. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)
Chair Hill opened the public hearing.

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Bill No. 1914.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Bill No. 1914 was introduced by Commissioner Andriola, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Bill No. 1915.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Bill No. 1915 was introduced by Commissioner Garcia, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

24-0297 **AGENDA ITEM 17** Public Hearing: Second reading and possible adoption of an ordinance amending the Washoe County Code at Chapter 110 (Development Code), Article 222 Truckee Canyon area, to add a new section for the Sutcliffe Community Area Modifiers which: designates parcels subject to the modifier, specifies exceptions to the development standards for the neighborhood commercial regulatory zone for the Sutcliffe Community Area, provides for additional residential uses which shall be allowed by right in the Sutcliffe Community Area, and provides for additional commercial uses which shall be allowed with a special use permit in the Sutcliffe Community Area; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini, read the title for Ordinance No. 1718, Bill No. 1910.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1718, Bill No. 1910, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

24-0298 **AGENDA ITEM 18** Public Hearing: Second reading and possible adoption of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) in Article 216 Spanish Springs Area, to add the Village Green Community Area Modifiers, to include provisions related to: applicability, exceptions, setbacks, building height, truck delivery areas, utilities, architecture, lighting, exterior sign lighting, parking lot lighting,

landscaping, Calle de la Plata and Pyramid Way streetscapes, buffer yards, transportation improvements, and public trail easements; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. The adoption of this development code amendment will sunset the Village Green Commerce Center Specific Plan located on the south side of Calle de la Plata, east of Pyramid Highway in Spanish Springs (APNs 534-561-01, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09 and 10). The Village Green Commerce Center Specific Plan was incorporated into the Development Code via Ordinance No. 1709, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on December 12, 2023. This proposed development code amendment incorporates standards from the Village Green Commerce Center Specific Plan directly into the development code. Community Services. (Commission District 4.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini, read the title for Ordinance No. 1719, Bill No. 1909.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1719, Bill No. 1909, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

24-0299 **AGENDA ITEM 19** Public Hearing: Second reading and possible adoption of an ordinance amending Ordinance 1535, Washoe County's Requirements and Schedule of Rates and Charges for Provision of Reclaimed Water Service, to remove rates and charges for reclaimed water irrigation service, charges for bulk reclaimed water service (subdivision construction), water rights fee, connection privilege fee for new connections, and associated deposits, and other matters properly relating thereto. The rates and charges for reclaimed water irrigation service will be removed, currently as \$1.16 per 1000 gallons used each month in Zone 1 and \$1.74 per 1000 gallons used each month in Zone 2, including removal of the monthly base rate. The charge for bulk reclaimed water service will be removed, currently \$2.00 per 1000 gallons used monthly with a minimum charge of \$50 per month per temporary connection, and the removal of the water rights fee, currently \$3,500.00 for each acre-foot of demand, and removal of the connection privilege fee for new connections, currently \$2,500 in Zone 1 and \$4,135 in Zone 2, per acre-foot of estimated annual water demand, as recommended at the November 14, 2023 Washoe County Commission meeting and supported by the 2023 Utility User Rate and Connection Fee Study, thereby encouraging the continued and increasing use of reclaim water for irrigation, construction and other allowed purposes and reducing regional dependency on potable water that is currently sourced from the Truckee River and Nevada groundwater sources. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini, read the title for Ordinance No. 1720, Bill No. 1908.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1720, Bill No. 1908, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

24-0300 **AGENDA ITEM 20** Public hearing, second reading, and adoption of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 65 (Safety and Disaster Services) by repealing the definition of “division”; by repealing sections related to the county risk manager and transferring the former risk manager’s duties to the risk management division of the comptroller department; by amending provisions to: expand the risk management division’s authority to settle claims related to damage and repair of county property (with no related third party claims) from \$1,000 to \$2,500; expand the risk management division’s authority to settle any claim or suit for damages from amounts less than \$10,000 to amounts up to \$25,000; expand the county manager’s authority to settle any claim or suit for damages from amounts between \$10,000 but less than \$25,000 to amounts greater than \$25,000 but no more than \$150,000; expand the board of county commissioner’s sole authority to settle any claim or suit for damages from \$25,000 or greater to \$150,000 or greater; and by revising provisions related to: the county’s safety program; the county safety officer; posting of safety notices; reporting requirements for occupationally related injury or illness; reporting requirements in the event of a fatality or catastrophic event; reporting requirements by officers, employees, volunteers and department heads following an accident, incident or injury; written documentation of accidents and incidents; investigation and evaluation of accidents and incidents involving county officers, employees or volunteers and the safety committee’s review of such investigations; and by amending provisions related to the safety committee’s powers and duties, membership, terms of office, and meeting schedule; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. Manager’s Office. (All Commission Districts.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini, read the title for Ordinance No. 1721, Bill No. 1911.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock recalled a comment she made on the first reading of the ordinance, which she wanted to add to the record again on the second reading. She stated her concern about the proposed expansion of the spending authority of the County Manager. She reasoned at least one County Commissioner should be part of those approvals to improve accountability. Additionally, she was confused about the provision that expanded the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) sole authority to

settle any claim or suit for damages from \$25,000 to \$150,000 or greater. She wondered what the process would be for those cases, and thought the conflicting language should be cleared up before the ordinance was voted on.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 3-2 vote with Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1721, Bill No. 1911, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

24-0301 **AGENDA ITEM 21** Public Comment.

Ms. Penny Brock talked about her attendance at the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting the previous day and posed the question of why homelessness was increasing in the County. She recalled Chair Hill reporting at the CHAB meeting that Washoe County was the only county in Nevada that used the Built for Zero approach to housing affordability. Ms. Brock cautioned that it sounded like Marxism when the government stepped in to take care of everybody. She objected to the hiring of a consultant from the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and did not recall that expense being discussed or approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She was concerned about how programs would be funded long-term since the initial infusion of money awarded during the COVID-19 (C19) pandemic had been spent. She theorized there was a disconnect between the expenditure priorities of the County government and what taxpayers were able and willing to pay.

24-0302 **AGENDA ITEM 22** Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown reminded Board members that he and two of the Commissioners would be in Miami the following week. He advised that, despite the planned travel, a meeting still needed to be conducted on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to take action on the budget and meet deadlines. He informed them that arrangements would be made for virtual participation.

Commissioner Clark spoke about projections shared at the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting regarding upcoming costs that he heard differently from Manager Brown and Chair Hill. He said he heard \$300 million, and read from an item in which an Our Town Reno reporter quoted the same figure. Commissioner Clark requested totals for a number of budget items related to the Cares Campus, starting with County, State, and Federal allocations. He also asked for totals of construction contracts, grants, donations, goods and services, and partnerships with Volunteers of America (VOA) and other organizations. He sought a comprehensive, detailed account of all costs related to the Cares Campus since its inception in 2021. He expressed frustration about not knowing the grand total of expenses to date. He wanted a fair market value of the land and the 60-year, \$1 lease of land for the next phase of the Cares Campus to be factored in, along with an estimate of the loss of real estate taxes if that land had been in the private sector. Commissioner Clark reflected on the reduction in property values for parcels surrounding the Cares Campus and theorized about the effect on taxes collected.

Vice Chair Herman mentioned her attendance at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast earlier in the month. She stated the importance of prayer, which she thought the County and State needed.

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1:01 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:
Heather Gage, Deputy County Clerk

Pending Board Approval