

City of Elko )  
County of Elko )  
State of Nevada )

SS February 2, 2016

The City Council of the City of Elko, State of Nevada met for a special meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris Johnson.

**NOTE: The order of the Agenda has been changed to reflect the order business was conducted.**

## **ROLL CALL**

**Mayor Present:** Chris J. Johnson

**Council Present:** Councilman John Rice  
Councilwoman Mandy Simons  
Councilman Robert Schmidlein  
Councilman Reece Keener

**City Staff Present:** Curtis Calder, City Manager  
Scott Wilkinson, Assistant City Manager  
Ryan Limberg, Utilities Director  
Shanell Owen, City Clerk  
Dawn Stout, Administrative Services Director  
Ben Reed Jr., Police Chief  
Jeremy Draper, Development Manager  
Matt Griego, Fire Chief  
Bob Thibault, Civil Engineer  
James Wiley, Parks and Rec Director  
Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director  
Ted Schnoor, Building Official  
Mike Hess, Landfill Superintendent  
Darin Windous, Fleet Superintendent  
Justin Alanis, Electrician  
Karen Walther, Animal Shelter Manager  
Nikki Johnson, Aquatics Manager  
Dale Johnson, Water Superintendent  
Dean Cernick, Assistant Water Superintendent  
Joshua Kauffman, Street Superintendent  
Diann Byington, Recording Secretary

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. **ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

*There were no public comments.*

### I. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

- A. Discussion regarding the short and long-term vision of the City of Elko, including administrative & technical services, transportation, water/sewer infrastructure, public safety, parks & recreation, public works, Elko Regional Airport, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Mayor Johnson said these types of workshops are mostly open. We can get started with a presentation of multiple ideas. As we go through this process, if there are things we need to talk about or get that as part of the mix we can add that in and put together a plan for the next year, 5 years and even 10 years.

Councilman Rice said he put together a PowerPoint. It is general with broad objectives. He wanted to make sure that what he was writing down aligned with the mission statement. We are all familiar with the statement. He began his presentation (Exhibit "A"). His highlights were:

- Move into the new Police Station
- Enable long-term management of homeless population
- Commit to medical marijuana establishments
- Upgrades to Geo-Thermal Systems
- Continued development of the south side Sports Complex
- Begin planning for a new Aquatic Center
- Cedar Street Reconstruction Project
- Continue with bike lane designations
- Redevelopment District
- Work directly with Governor Sandoval for "Tesla or Faraday-like" project in Elko
- Aggressive Economic Development Downtown
- Acquire Union Pacific Lands
- Develop Regional Airport Authority
- Continue planning for our 2017 Centennial
- Complete infrastructure at Exit 298
- Transportation partnerships with State of Nevada and Elko County
- BLM Land Exchange

Councilwoman Simons asked who owns the old Lamoille Power plant.

Councilman Rice answered NV Energy. If they sell an asset the benefit needs to go back to the users.

Councilman Schmidlein had written down some items (Exhibit “B”). His highlights were:

- Regional Roads
- Infrastructure Water/Sewer
- City Departments
- Parks and Recreation
- RDA
- Homeless Issue

Councilman Keener brought up some other items:

- Excellent execution of all of the different building projects
- Look at the Fun Factory and see if we should continue it
- Feasibility of the adult softball league
- Funding sources for the Swimming Pool
- Water/Sewer will have a key retirement soon
- Complete the load-out facility at the WRF
- Street evaluation and attention to patches when weather permits
- Bottlenecks in traffic
- New opportunities for the airport for more flights
- New Master Plan at the Airport
- Section 18
- Fire Department secondary facility
- Homeless

Councilwoman Simons gave a PowerPoint presentation (Exhibit “C”). Her areas of interest were:

- Airport
- Cemetery
- Downtown
- Fire
- Parks and Recreation
- Police
- Streets
- Utilities
- Capital Project Priorities
- Move public hearings to 5:30
- Prayer before council meeting
- Employee recognition
- Better working relationship with county
- Centennial celebration
- Land inventory
- Old Police Station
- #1 goal is to find a longer term solution for the homeless population

Mayor Johnson went over some ideas:

- Waterline at Exit 298, the Sports Complex and Ruby View Golf Course will keep staff busy for the year
- Air service between Elko and Reno
- Animal shelter, structure-wise, maybe in ten years, the City should deal with
- Enhanced 911
- Landfill covering program
- Building Department – being able to look at projects and then go to the iPad and do inspections
- Cemetery
- Mutual Aid needs to be reviewed each year with the County
- Relocate NDOT
- Geothermal
- Decision on old police station
- Aquatics center
- Mine tax net proceeds distribution
- Regional Airport
- Summit on Criminal Justice issues
- Homeless and the next step

Councilman Rice asked would it be feasible for staff to compile a list of these items.

Scott Wilkinson, Assistant City Manager, answered yes, and in addition to that, Jeremy Draper, Ryan Limberg and other staff are working at revising the Development Report. That will address some of the issues discussed.

## **NO ACTION**

- B. Discussion regarding short and long-term budget priorities, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Mayor Johnson noted that during the previous discussion he wrote down: Short Term Budget Priorities as Geothermal, Aquatic Center plans and Police building demolition. Long Term Goals are Animal Shelter, Fire Station and City Hall expansion. He asked Dawn Stout and Curtis Calder if that was what they were looking for to get the budget process started.

Curtis Calder, City Manager, answered we are just at the starting point of the budget. We will be bringing up the different funds to Council beginning in March. The Council is talking a lot about capital but the day to day operations also need to be discussed and looked at. Roll up costs for personnel happens every year. Roughly half a million increase roll up costs by just doing nothing every year. Last year we talked about sustainability and we need to continue to keep that in mind. The short term is the current and next year budget. Long term planning is looking at when the bonds expire, Master Planning, update to Development Plan, annexation and water, roadways, etc. Main source of revenue for the General Fund is consolidated sales tax. Legislative matters will begin in 2017 and there may be some legislative efforts that we discuss as cities and townships that will hopefully gain some traction and eventually benefit us. We will

be budgeting for lobbying services. Federally there may be some other items coming up that could benefit Elko.

Mayor Johnson asked if there were specifics that they were looking for.

Mr. Calder answered not really unless council had something really specific to discuss. Councilwoman Simons pointed out some items that we can deal with in the short-term. We have done really well since last year. The Chamber of Commerce reached out to us and asked us to comment on accomplishment of our goals from last year in comparison to what our future goals are. This conversation will give them lots of good information and hopefully we can get more support from the public. When he sends this out he will "CC" everyone on council.

Mayor Johnson said he thought these discussions were not necessarily where to spend money but how to get on those paths. You mentioned where the City of Elko needs to engage with the State of Nevada and visit the Governor and legislatures. We could put together a nice list of what we would like to talk about: The property tax cap; the 3 cent and 8 cent increase in property tax; net proceeds of mines; and, the airport.

Ryan Limberg, Utilities Director, mentioned there is an internal type of 5-year capital plan. Each year we update that plan. We try to time our projects on what another department is doing. If the Street Department is working on replacing a street then the Water Department will also get in there and update their services. This could give council information on those 5-year project plans from the staff level.

Councilwoman Simons asked for a copy.

Mr. Limberg answered they are currently working on that document and will have a new final version in a month or so.

Jeremy Draper, Development Manager, said it is usually presented to the Council for adoption

Mr. Calder said the land inventory is an ongoing annual analysis. There are some acquisition efforts we are working on. One is the possible acquisition of Jennings property at the airport and possibly getting that property for next to nothing. There may be a long term plan for the homeless plan and we are working on that. We are looking at an acquisition of tank property on the south side of town and talking about land exchanges with the school district. We have had discussions with the BLM on Sec 18 in exchange for Kittridge Canyon. Union Pacific terminated discussions with us. We get quarterly letters from NDEP regarding the contamination on the UP land but the contamination is getting worse not better. We will begin budget workshops and council will have that time to discuss more.

Mayor Johnson asked for further comments without a response.

**NO ACTION**

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*There were no public comments.*

There being no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting.

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Mayor Chris Johnson

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Shanell Owen, City Clerk