



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
NEEDLES PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY
HOUSING AUTHORITY CITY OF NEEDLES
CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
EL GARCES – 950 FRONT STREET, NEEDLES

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 - COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:15 PM - CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 5:22 pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council Member Zachery Longacre
Council Member Jamie McCorkle
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell attended via Teams
Mayor Janet Jernigan
Council Member JoAnne Pogue
Council Member Tona Belt
Council Member Henry Longbrake

Also in attendance were City Manager Patrick Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade, Director of Development Services Kathy Raasch, Utility Manager Rainie Torrance, and Interim City Clerk Candace Clark.

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jeff Williams spoke in favor of working with MIH to get their debt resolved, urging staff and council to consider the jobs and revenue they bring to the city.

Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade announced the conflicts of interest on Executive Session Item B for Council Member Pogue, whose son works for MIH, Vice Mayor Campbell, whose son works in the industry, and Council Member Longacre, who works in the industry; Due to the need for a quorum of 4 to vote, and according to FPPC Regulations, one of the conflicted members was chosen to vote by the drawing of straws as follows: Council Member Longacre drew the first straw, followed by Council Member Pogue drawing the second straw. Vice Mayor Campbell received the third straw, which was the short straw, and therefore Vice Mayor Campbell was chosen to participate in the vote.

RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5:29 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1)) - Brian Brown v. City of Needles, Bernard Hatz, II, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Case No. 5:23-01118-MWC (SSC)
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Potential Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4). One potential Case.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council Member Zachery Longacre
Council Member Jamie McCorkle
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Mayor Janet Jernigan
Council Member JoAnne Pogue
Council Member Tona Belt
Council Member Henry Longbrake

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT – Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade reported the following:

- a. No reportable action
- b. Council Member McCorkle made a motion, second by Council Member Belt, to authorize city staff and city attorney's office to pursue any and all remedies available to the City and NPUA to

collect on a settlement agreement and promissory note, from the following entities: Medical Investor Holdings, LLC (MIH), NCA Management Company LLC, 3247 AM LLC, and 2103 D LLC. Such authorization includes but is not limited to filing a lawsuit and pursuing any other available remedies. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Council Members Longacre and Pogue (left the room during this item)

With respect to unpaid utility bills, a motion was made by Council Member McCorkle, second by Council Member Belt, to allow staff to move forward in collecting unpaid utility bills. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Council Members Longacre and Pogue (left the room during this item)

With respect to unpaid taxes a motion was made by Council Member McCorkle, second by Council Member Belt to initiate proceedings to collect unpaid cannabis taxes. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Council Members Longacre and Pogue (left the room during this item)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Mayor Jernigan

INVOCATION - led by Vice Mayor Campbell

Mayor Jernigan asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge former City Employee Leo Renteria.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Pogue made a motion, second by Vice Mayor Campbell to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

INTRODUCTIONS - Mayor Jernigan acknowledged former Council Member Tim Terral and former Mayor Jeff Williams in attendance.

CITY ATTORNEY – Parliamentary Procedures given by Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Sonia Vicario, a resident at 900 Coronado Santiago Village, expressed concern about the unsafe living conditions in her complex, and urged staff to enforce code violations.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Manager Patrick Martinez introduced and gave a brief bio for new Code Enforcement Officer Ray Bernasconi. Interim City Clerk Candace Clark administered the Oath of Office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE COUNCIL ITEMS - None

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member McCorkle made a motion, second by Vice Mayor Campbell, to approve consent calendar items 1 through 3. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

1. Approved the Warrants Register through March 11, 2025
2. Approved the Minutes of February 25, 2025
3. Approved the Needles Rodeo Association Daily License Application for the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for their Needles Rodeo Association Rodeo, April 4 - 5, 2025. at the Needles Rodeo Grounds

END OF COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR COUNCIL ITEMS

4. Authorize the purchase of a Crafcro Inc. EZ 1500 Crack Seal Trailer and an Empire Cat Sullair 375 Compressor, with a total cost not to exceed \$184,972.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Minimal council discussion ensued.

Council Member Longacre made a motion, second by Council Member Pogue, to authorize the purchase of a Crafcro Inc. EZ 1500 Crack Seal Trailer and an Empire Cat Sullair 375 Compressor, with a total cost not to exceed \$184,972.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

5. Authorize an additional \$9,500 to the FY 25 budget for the demolition of the building at 100 G Street, utilizing general fund reserves for a total project cost not to exceed \$19,500.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Minimal council discussion ensued.

Council Member Longacre made a motion, second by Council Member Pogue, to authorize an additional \$9,500 to the FY 25 budget for the demolition of the building at 100 G Street, utilizing general fund reserves for a total project cost not to exceed \$19,500.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

6. Authorize the City Manager to proceed with GPS Trackit for Fleet Management Services at an annual cost of \$9,600 under a three-year contract.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Minimal council discussion ensued.

Public Comment - Tim Terral stated that he uses a GPS tracking system and suggested adding cameras, stating that in the event of an accident they pay for themselves.

Council Member Longacre made a motion, second by Council Member Pogue, to authorize the City Manager to proceed with GPS Trackit for Fleet Management Services at an annual cost of \$9,600 under a three-year contract.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-14 of the City Council of the City of Needles, approving the City of Needles Naloxone Policy and Procedures and authorize staff to proceed with implementation of the policy and procedures.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Minimal council discussion ensued.

Public Comment – Sonia Vicario, who works for Pacific Clinics, spoke in favor, stated that they provide Narcan at their clinic.

Council Member Longbrake made a motion, second by Council Member Longacre, to adopt Resolution No. 2025-14 of the City Council of the City of Needles, approving the City of Needles Naloxone Policy and Procedures and authorize staff to proceed with implementation of the policy and procedures.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

8. Authorize those interested to attend the League of California Cities (LCC) City Leaders Summit in Sacramento April 23-25, 2025.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Minimal council discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Campbell and Council Member Pogue expressed interest in attending. Council Member Longacre made a motion, second by Council Member McCorkle, to authorize Vice Mayor Campbell and Council Member Pogue to attend the League of California Cities (LCC) City Leaders Summit in Sacramento April 23-25, 2025.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

9. Authorize those interested to attend the ICSC Event at the Las Vegas Convention Center on May 18-20, 2025

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Council discussion ensued. Mayor Jernigan, Council Members McCorkle, Longacre, Longbrake, and Vice Mayor Campbell expressed interest in attending. Council Member Belt made a motion, second by Council Member Pogue, to limit attendance to three council members. Staff will use drawing of straws to determine who attends. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

10. Authorize the City Clerk's Department to publish a notice of vacancy on the Board of Public Utilities due to the retirement of Mike Schneider

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Council discussion ensued. Council Member Pogue made a motion, second by Vice Mayor Campbell, to authorize the City Clerk's Department to publish a notice of vacancy on the Board of Public Utilities due to the retirement of Mike Schneider, and to publish any future vacancies as needed. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – given by Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade

CITY CLERK REPORT – Given by Interim City Clerk Candace Clark

CITY MANAGER REPORT – for the weeks of February 21, and 28, 2025 - given by City Manager Patrick Martinez

COUNCIL REQUESTS

Council Member Longacre – reported that the dugouts at Ed Parry Park are being trashed and asked staff to keep them locked up; feral cats are becoming an issue again; asked about pothole repair in the Vistas; asked about the paint for Cal-Trans to cover graffiti; reported on the upcoming community clean up on March 29 on San Clemente street; thanked law enforcement for their efforts in addressing the illegal truck parking issue on Ice Plant road.

Council Member McCorkle – reiterated the vandalism issue in the Ed Parry Park dugouts; asked staff to work on a master plan for beautification on Broadway.

Council Member Pogue – commended Council Member Longacre on his cleanup efforts; asked about Route 66 Pharmacy Medicare Part B insurance acceptance; thanked the Fire Department for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection event recently held.

Vice Mayor Campbell – asked about painting the electric boxes around town; reported that it is illegal for minors to ride a bike without a helmet and urged enforcement and asked about providing a safety course for children; commended the book box located by Dance Traxx and asked about getting more.

Council Member Belt – welcomed new Code Enforcement Officer Ray Bernasconi; urged staff to hire local whenever possible; reported Dance Traxx building needs repair and asked staff to look into it; reported on the Egg My Yard event in Bullhead and asked about doing that in Needles; asked about status of Splash Pad.

Council Member Longbrake – talked about Ed Parry dugouts being locked; reiterated Broadway beautification and asked about getting someone to do a mural on the theater; suggested Broadway be two lanes with parking on either side; asked staff to install road striping at Duke Watkins; asked for \$20k to be donated by the city to Firehouse Ministries food bank; suggested city utilize local youth to paint the electric boxes.

Mayor Jernigan – reported on the podcast she participated in after the SBCTA meeting, with Mark Orr, Teamster representative; reported on the Little League season opener Eagles sponsored BBQ fundraiser; asked about a shade structure at Ed Parry park; reported on the upcoming Resource Fair and Chamber Breakfast; reported the Barstow Chamber of Commerce is moving into the Barstow Harvey House; asked about dog park signs and solutions for eliminating dog poop in the ballfields; asked for law enforcement to address semi-trucks parking on Erin Drive; asked for an update on the Website; asked about fencing with slats around trash bins in Santa Fe Park.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Jernigan adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm