



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, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 - COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:30 PM - CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council Member Jamie McCorkle
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Mayor Janet Jernigan
Council Member Tona Belt
Council Member Henry Longbrake

ABSENT

Council Member JoAnne Pogue
Council Member Zachery Longacre

RECESSED THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND CONVENED A JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

Council Member Longacre recused himself due to a conflict of interest, because he works in the cannabis industry. Vice Mayor Campbell, and Council Member Pogue recused themselves due to conflicts of interest because they both have close family members who work in the cannabis industry.

RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5:32 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Potential Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4). One potential Case.

No reportable action

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT – Deputy City Attorney Wade gave report as noted above.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Mayor Jernigan

INVOCATION - led by Vice Mayor Campbell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Council Member McCorkle 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 in attendance

Mayor Jernigan presented Mike Schneider with a plaque in recognition of his service on the Board of Public Utilities.

CITY ATTORNEY – Parliamentary Procedures Deputy City Attorney Wade will give at the next meeting.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Tim Terral asked staff to look into adding bus services to Bob Belt Beach Parks and Jack Smith Park

Wayne Colburn reported the River Community Coalition is hosting a Chili Cook off on April 19 at Santa Fe Park and requested donations of time and services.

Palo Verde College representatives Jon McNeil and Jaclyn Randall reported on the upcoming 5k Color Run & Walk on Saturday April 12, 2025.

Jared Johnson commended City staff on the Cemetery clean up; reported that 3 Petes Ballfield needs an extension of the net / fence to prevent baseballs/softballs from going into the road.

PRESENTATION

1. Pastor James Jones gave a presentation - end of year report for Isabel's Pantry Food Bank

INTERVIEWS

2. Interview/Appoint Patrick McCaffrey to the Housing Commission, Tenant over 62 position, with a term to expire 12/31/2028

City Manager Martinez gave staff report.

Mr. McCaffrey addressed Council. Minimal discussion ensued.

Council Member McCorkle made a motion, second by Council Member Longbrake, to appoint Patrick McCaffrey to the Housing Commission, Tenant over 62 position, with a term to expire 12/31/2028. 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

PUBLIC HEARING

3. Approval of Resolution 2025-13 recommending approval of a Conditional Use Permit, for the conversion of an existing motel to a multi-family residential complex comprised of 29 micro-apartments and 1 manager's office unit at 1707 Needles Hwy, (APN 0185-048-09-0000) in the General Commercial (C-2) land use zoning designation.

City Planner Romero and City Manager Martinez gave staff report.

Council asked questions of staff and discussion ensued.

Mayor Jernigan opened the public hearing at 6:50 pm.

Applicant Armen Ghadimian spoke about the project and answered Council questions.

Tim Terral spoke in favor of the project, complimenting the applicant on transforming the property.

Mayor Jernigan spoke in favor of the project.

Mayor Jernigan closed the public hearing at 6:54 pm

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Council Member McCorkle to adopt Resolution 2025-13 approving a Conditional Use Permit, for the conversion of an existing motel to a multi-family residential complex comprised of 29 micro-apartments and 1 manager's office unit at 1707 Needles Hwy, (APN 0185-048-09-0000) in the General Commercial (C-2) land use zoning designation.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE NPUA/COUNCIL ITEMS - None

REGULAR NPUA / COUNCIL ITEMS

4. Approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-12 and NPUA Resolution No. 02- 25-2025-NPUA Amending Resolution No.'s 2024-27 and 06-11-2024- NPUA. Adopt the Proposed Revised Budgets for FY 2024-25 Mid-year Budget Revisions-City of Needles and NPUA.

City Manager Martinez gave staff report.

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Council Member Longacre to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-12 and NPUA Resolution No. 02- 25-2025-NPUA Amending Resolution No.'s 2024-27 and 06-11-2024- NPUA. Adopt the Proposed Revised Budgets for FY 2024-25 Mid-year Budget Revisions-City of Needles and NPUA.

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

ADJOURNED THE JOINT NPUA/COUNCIL MEETING AND RECONVENED THE COUNCIL MEETING at 7:01 pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE COUNCIL ITEMS - None

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Council Member McCorkle to approve consent calendar items 5 through 7. 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. Approved the Warrants Register through February 25, 2025
6. Approved the Minutes of February 11, 2025
7. Authorized the Mayor to execute contract number 20-212 A-1 with San Bernardino County Public Works for Emergency Response Mutual Aid

END OF COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR COUNCIL ITEMS

8. Staff seeks direction from the City Council on proceeding with the structural assessment, design, and bid process for the awning replacement.

Mayor Jernigan and City Manager Martinez gave staff report.

Council discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Council Member Pogue to proceed with the structural assessment, design, and bid process for the awning replacement.

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 Wade

CITY CLERK REPORT – given by Interim City Clerk Clark

CITY MANAGER REPORT – for the weeks of February 7 and 14, 2025 - Given by City Manager Martinez

COUNCIL REQUESTS

Council Member Longacre – Thanked Cal Trans for clean up efforts; requested illegal parking enforcement on Ice Plant road; asked for an update on splash pad; reported that overgrown palm trees in the spillway at the top of J Street need to be trimmed.

Council Member McCorkle – Asked about lighting along River Road – change lights to all white lights; requested staff look into repairing River Road prior to next year's busy season; attended NHS Student Advisory Panel, requested students be informed about the NAT bus and promote Golf Course to students to get more involvement.

Vice Mayor Campbell – complimented cemetery improvements; thanked all who supported Women's Club Golf Tournament; Expressed concern over the California Bear sign on Highway 40 – dangerous and illegal to pull over and get pictures – requested staff to look into a solution.

Council Member Pogue – thanked Public Works for clean up efforts around town.

Council Member Belt – reported on kids riding motorized bikes on the streets and expressed concern over safety; asked staff to look into getting pickleball courts and a walking path by new pump track.

Council Member Longbrake – Agreed with Council Member Belt on getting pickleball courts; asked staff to fix water fountain at Jack Smith Park; concerned about increasing cannabis odors in town; reported Santa Fe trash cans are still overloaded; reported a new Crispy Crunchy Chicken at Chevron is scheduled to open within a couple weeks.

Mayor Jernigan – attended Laughlin Economic Dinner with City Manager Martinez; coffee with a cop was nice but attendance was low, encouraged community to participate; attended Chamber breakfast; reported Resource Fair is finalized – this is the third year; attended Teamsters BBQ; attending SBCTA next week and after the meeting she will participate in a podcast hosted by Mark Orr of the Teamsters; encouraged everyone to support the sports tournaments happening in Needles this week; thanked Public Works for their efforts cleaning up around town

ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Jernigan adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm

Mayor Janet Jernigan

Interim City Clerk Candace Clark