

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

December 5, 2023

The adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 5th day of December, 2023, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, MOFFITT, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, CITY MANAGER MARTINEZ AND OTHER KEY STAFF

COMMNTS None

EX SESN CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the adjourned regular meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. for the purpose of an executive session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and/or (3) and/or (4) - Conference with legal counsel regarding potential litigation (one potential case adverse to Rio Buena Vista HOA [Homeowners Association])

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the adjourned regular meeting reconvened at 4:16 p.m. with all persons heretofore mentioned present.

Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager, reported that there was no reportable action taken during the executive session.

APPROVAL
AGENDA COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOFFITT, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
MOFFITT, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

CORSPNDN: None

PBLC APRN: None

CNST CAL: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER, to approve consent calendar items 1 through 3

1. Minutes of adjourned regular meeting held November 7, 2023
2. Adopt the City of Needles Sewer Overflow Prevention and Response Plan dated December 5, 2023
3. Approval of Western Area Power Administration Agreement No. 10-DSR-12165, Exhibit B.NMD, Revision No. 4 relating to updated costs for the Nora McDowell Switchyard for fiscal years 2024 through 2026

Agenda item 1 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT

Agenda items 2 and 3 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
MOFFITT, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

REG ITEMS: Utility Manager Torrance explained the request for a downtown lighting/holiday wreath ad hoc committee and the poor condition of the current lighting and wreaths. Will be asking the City Council to appoint three of their members and the ad-hoc committee will be tasked with making a recommendation to this Board and the Council.

LIGHTING/
WREATH
AD HOC

COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER noted that other cities have decorative lighting districts and asked who pays for the decorative lights. City Manager Martinez explained the ad hoc committee will provide guidance on how to proceed or if we should proceed as it needs to be decided how we want the downtown to look for years to come. Discussion followed on the decorative lights and who should pay the cost.

COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL felt the city should pay the electric bill as lighting is a public safety issue but as far as the lights, bulbs, etc. those costs should be in capital improvements.

COMMISSIONER McNEIL recommended CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL and COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER in addition to COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE and CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL so appointed to serve as the decorative lighting/holiday wreath ad hoc committee.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER asked staff, at the first meeting, to have a cost comparison of similar poles like in residential areas compared to decorative.

STATE OF
CANNIBS City Manager Martinez spoke on the cannabis industry and referenced the lengthy staff report included in the packet. He summarized the report and the benefits this industry has brought to Needles.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER referenced the \$100,000 per megawatt each facility has to pay that was put in place in 2017 and felt that should be revisited

due to inflation, cost of materials, etc. and should include all utilities. He also spoke on the condition of the streets in the community noting he gets hit up weekly on the inability to walk or ride a bike due to the poor condition. There needs to be an explanation as to why money has not been used in the last year and half on street work. He lastly spoke on odor from the facilities that can be horrendous and prevalent and is happening when the cannabis facilities think they can get away with it. City Manager Martinez responded there's no excuse for odor from the facilities and encouraged people to call or use the city's app and the business can be cited.

Discussion followed on the status of the cannabis industry and the financial stability in the market.

REPORTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged the following reports: 1) EUSI, LLC operational support services relating to the wastewater treatment facility and collection system October 2023; 2) Needles Present Perfected Rights (PPR) report October 2023; 3) Monthly activity report July 2023; 4) California Air Resources Board November 2023 Joint Auction Settlement Prices and Results

Utility Manager Torrance provided background information on the greenhouse gas auction, minimum pricing, and submittal of bids. She noted the city did not get any credits, the money was returned, and we'll go on the open market. Discussion followed on the bidding process, bidder competition, and who got the credits during that process.

MGR'S RPT: None

BRD RQSTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL asked Utility Manager Torrance to analyze how many greenhouse gas credits the city can apply for due to cannabis being grown locally. He spoke on photosynthesis, CO², and sequestration and felt that any energy supplied to grow houses should be applied and credit returned. He asked Utility Manager Torrance to look into CO² sequestration as farmer's use it and get credits.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 5th day of December, 2023, adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Chairman Secretary