



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
NEEDLES PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY
HOUSING AUTHORITY CITY OF NEEDLES
CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1111 BAILEY AVENUE.

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 - COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council Member Larry Ford
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Mayor Janet Jernigan
Council Member Tona Belt
Council Member Henry Longbrake
Council Member JoAnne Pogue

ABSENT

Council Member Jamie McCorkle

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5:01 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 Agency designated representatives: Mayor Janet Jernigan, Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell, Councilman Henry Longbrake Unrepresented Employee: City Clerk

No reportable action

- b. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 Title: City Clerk

No reportable action

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

ROLL CALL – As noted above. Mayor Jernigan excused the absence of Council Member Jamie McCorle

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT – given by City Attorney Robert Patterson as noted above

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Mayor Jernigan

INVOCATION - given by Vice Mayor Campbell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ford, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Pogue Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

CORRESPONDENCE – One of the Housing Commission applicants, Manuel Rubalcaba, sent an email to the City Clerk, withdrawing his application for Parks and Recreation Commission

INTRODUCTIONS – Mayor Jernigan acknowledged former Council Member Tim Terral in attendance.

CITY ATTORNEY – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES given by City Attorney Robert Patterson

PUBLIC APPEARANCE - None

INTERVIEWS

1. Make appointments to the Parks and Recreation and Housing Commissions to fill the current vacancies.

City Council interviewed John Valter for Housing Commission.

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, seconded by Council Member Longbrake, to appoint John Valter to the Housing Commission.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Pogue Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

City Council interviewed Dr. Mary McNeil for Parks and Recreation Commission.

Council Member Ford made a motion, seconded by Council Member Longbrake, to appoint Dr. Mary McNeil to the Parks and Recreation Commission

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Pogue Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

NPUA / COUNCIL REGULAR ITEM

2. Authorize the Purchase of one (1) Pole/Reel/Dump Trailer from Brooks Brothers Trailers not to exceed \$55,060, utilizing the Electric Asset Replacement Fund

City Manager Martinez gave staff report

Council had minimal questions

Mayor Jernigan opened public comment at 6:13 pm

No Public Comment

Mayor Jernigan closed public comment at 6:13 pm

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, seconded by Council Member Pogue, to Authorize the Purchase of one (1) Pole/Reel/Dump Trailer from Brooks Brothers Trailers not to exceed \$55,060, utilizing the Electric Asset Replacement Fund

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Mayor Jernigan, Pogue, Belt
Noes: Council Member Longbrake
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ford, to Approve Consent Calendar Items 3 through 10.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Pogue Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

3. Approved the Warrants Register through July 14, 2026

4. Approved the Minutes of June 23, 2026
5. Accepted and filed the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2026
6. Adopted Resolution 2026-21 approving the Title VI Compliance Plan for the Needles Area Transit
7. Waived full reading and adopted Ordinance 682-AC (second read adopt)
8. Accepted FY 27 Update to the LAIF Authorized Persons List
9. Approved Amendment No. 4 to the Professional Services Agreement with TKE Engineering Inc. to Provide On-Call Supplemental Engineering Services
10. Approved the Eighth Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement for Building Support Services with Willdan extending the contract term for one year.

END OF COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR COUNCIL ITEMS

11. Authorize or deny the City Manager, or designee, to submit an application for the City of Needles Safe Truck Parking Area Project through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program, and to execute all documents necessary for the application process and, if awarded, the acceptance and administration of grant funds, subject to City Attorney approval as to form

City Manager Martinez and gave staff report

Phil Angelides (via Teams) announced his team and addressed Council

Council asked questions and considerable discussion ensued

Phil Angelides (via Teams) gave report and answered questions

Mayor Jernigan opened public comment at 6:36 pm

Tim Terral spoke in favor of the grant, stating that Councils in the past have turned away opportunities

Wayne Colburn spoke in favor of the grant and offered suggestions on possible businesses that could offer services and offset costs, and asked about the other end of town business that is proposing a truck stop

John Valter stated that this would benefit trucks traveling from ports and traveling east, noting that the closest truck stop is 18 miles further east

Mayor Jernigan closed public comment at 6:41 pm

Council Member Belt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell, to Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to submit an application for the City of Needles Safe Truck Parking Area Project through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program, and to execute all documents necessary for the application process and, if awarded, the acceptance and administration of grant funds, subject to City Attorney approval as to form

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake

Noes: Council Member Ford

Absent: Council Member McCorkle

Abstain: None

12. Reject all Bids for the Animal Control Restroom Addition Project Rebid; and Authorize Staff to Revise the Plans to Include the Purchase of a Modular or Prefabbed Building and Resolicit Bids for Installation of the Preferred Alternative

City Manager Martinez and Kevin Sebourn, Capital Projects, gave staff report

Council had minimal questions

Mayor Jernigan opened public comment at 6:50 pm

Tim Terral suggest portable bathroom units

Mayor Jernigan closed public comment at 6:51 pm

Council Member Belt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Pogue, to Reject all Bids for the Animal Control Restroom Addition Project Rebid; and Authorize Staff to Revise the Plans to Include the Purchase of a Modular or Prefabbed Building and Resolicit Bids for Installation of a Prefabricated Building

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Pogue Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

13. Adopt Resolution 2026-27 Calling for the Placement of a Transient Occupancy Tax Measure on the Ballot at the General Municipal Election to Be Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and for the Submission to the Qualified Voters of an Ordinance to Enact a Four Percentage Point Increase in Transient Occupancy Tax.

City Manager Martinez gave staff report
Council asked questions and discussion ensued
Mayor Jernigan opened public comment at 6:57 pm
No Public Comment
Mayor Jernigan closed public comment at 6:57 pm

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, seconded by Council Member Longbrake, to Adopt Resolution 2026-27 Calling for the Placement of a Transient Occupancy Tax Measure on the Ballot at the General Municipal Election to Be Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and for the Submission to the Qualified Voters of an Ordinance to Enact a Four Percentage Point Increase in Transient Occupancy Tax.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Pogue Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

14. Adopt Resolution of Necessity and Conduct First Reading of Ordinance 684-AC Ordering the Submission of a General Obligation Bond Measure to the Qualified Voters at the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election

City Manager Martinez gave staff report
Council asked questions and minimal discussion ensued
Mayor Jernigan opened public comment at 7:01 pm
No Public Comment
Mayor Jernigan closed public comment at 7:01 pm

Council Member Pogue made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ford, to Adopt Resolution of Necessity and Conduct First Reading of Ordinance 684-AC Ordering the Submission of a General Obligation Bond Measure to the Qualified Voters at the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ford, Campbell, Pogue Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: Council Member McCorkle
Abstain: None

15. Adopt Resolution 2026-29, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Needles calling for the placement of a Charter Amendment Measure regarding City Council compensation on the ballot at the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election for submission to the qualified voters.

City Manager Martinez gave staff report
Council asked questions and minimal discussion ensued
Mayor Jernigan opened public comment at 7:08 pm

Wayne Colburn suggested \$100 instead of \$250

Nancy Greenwood said Council should put this on the ballot and let the voters decide

Mayor Jernigan closed public comment at 7:09 pm

Council Member Longbrake made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ford, to Adopt Resolution 2026-29, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Needles calling for the placement of a Charter Amendment Measure regarding City Council compensation on the ballot at the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election for submission to the qualified voters.

The compensation amount was amended from \$250 to \$150 per month.

Motion failed by the following roll call vote:

- Ayes: Council Member Ford, Pogue, Longbrake
- Noes: Vice Mayor Campbell and Council Member Belt
- Absent: Council Member McCorkle
- Abstain: None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT given by City Attorney Robert Patterson

CITY CLERK REPORT – given by City Clerk Candace Clark

CITY MANAGER REPORT – given by City Manager Patrick Martinez

COUNCIL REQUESTS

Council Member Ford

- Stated we should have done more for the 250th celebration and urged staff to plan for a big celebration honoring the 100th year of Route 66.
- Asked about speed limit signs on Parkway

Vice Mayor Campbell

- Spoke about the upcoming 250th/100th Celebration on November 7, 2026
- Thanked Sheriff's department for the dry water event
- Offered condolences to Dr. Mary McNeil on the passing of her sister-in-law

Council Member Pogue

- No Requests

Council Member Belt

- Asked about imposing a time limit or charge for the parking lot at Jack Smith park
- Requested staff look into getting rinse stations at the beaches
- Reminded staff to stay on top of keeping the beaches clean

Council Member Longbrake

- Agreed with Council Member Ford on the lack of celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States
- Thanked staff for fixing the streetlights

Mayor Jernigan

- Reported on the upcoming Route 66 sign by the bridge
- Reported that the Route 66 magazine printed an article featuring the Wagon Wheel and Needles
- Reported on the Tourism summit and their promotion of rural cities
- Stated that the drive thru shield will be installed in the next couple of months
- Reported on the success of the Operation Drywater event and praised the collaboration between agencies

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Jernigan adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM