



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, MAY 13, 2025 - COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 arrived at 5:02 pm
Council Member Henry Longbrake

Also present were City Manager Patrick Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade, Director of Development Services/Capital Projects Kathy Raasch, and Interim City Clerk Candace Clark.

RECESSED THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND CONVENED A JOINT COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Aaron Barnes spoke about item b, asking Council to allow him to continue paying on the past due balances.

RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5:12 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel –Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(b)and (d)(2): (1 potential case).

Council voted to proceed with the voluntary separation and release of claims agreement by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

- b. Conference with legal counsel regarding potential initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

Council Member Longacre recused himself because he works in the cannabis industry. There was no reportable action.

- c. Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 Title of Position: City Clerk

Council voted to approve the appointment of Candace Clark as City Clerk by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm

ROLL CALL (previously taken)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Mayor Jernigan

INVOCATION - led by Vice Mayor Campbell

Mayor Jernigan offered condolences to the Martinez family and announced the upcoming fundraiser on Saturday, May 17, at the Eagles Aeries 2599.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Ayes: Council Members 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 Mayor Jeff Williams, and former Council Members Shawn Gudmundson and Tim Terral in attendance.

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

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Wayne Colburn of River Community Coalition reported that he made an error regarding donation protocol during the Chili Cook Off event and has made efforts to correct this.

Jared Johnson announced a fundraising event at the Local Eagles Aerie 2599 on Saturday, May 17 to benefit the Martinez family who lost 4 family members in a recent car accident.

Shawn Gudmundson offered condolences to the Martinez family and asked for clarification on the city's policy on the 5% local contractor rate in the RFP bid process.

Jeff Williams announced he is the new San Bernardino County Tax Assessor Field Representative, and distributed brochures.

PRESENTATION

1. City Clerk Candace Clark performed Oath of Office for Captain Jake Gault.
2. Development Services, in collaboration with our website design consultant, Tripepi Smith, presented a preview of the new City of Needles website to the City Council.
Kathy Raasch, Development Services Director / Project Manager gave staff report.
Council asked questions and discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE NPUA/COUNCIL ITEMS - None

NPUA / COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Member/Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Member/Council Member McCorkle, to approve NPUA/Council Consent items 3 through 4.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

3. Approved Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (PCA) for months of December through March 2025 and decrease the over-hydro rate from \$0.1538 to \$0.1238 with a reduction of .03 power cost adjustment as effective June 1, 2025.
4. Authorized the City Manager to execute the U.S. Department of Interior U.S. Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations Number 22ZGJFA60101110 – Amendment 1 to extend the period of performance end date from April 30, 2025, to April 30, 2028, to conduct the cooperative study entitled: "Groundwater Flow and Estimation of Total Dissolved Solids Concentrations near the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project, Imperial County, California."

ADJOURNED THE JOINT NPUA / COUNCIL MEETING AND RECONVENED THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE COUNCIL ITEMS - None

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Belt pulled consent item 9.

9. Adopt Resolution 2025-22, Waiving the Sealed Bid Process and Accepting the proposal from West Coast Renovators in the total amount of \$259,486 for the Roof Replacement; and \$7,360 for ceiling repairs at 1111 Bailey Avenue and authorizing payment using COPS AB 3229/AB1913 grant funds and General Fund in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Council Discussion ensued.

Mayor Jernigan opened public comment

Shawn Gudmundson asked what the grant is usually used for. Staff responded.

Mayor Jernigan closed public comment.

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Council Member McCorkle, to adopt Resolution 2025-22, Waiving the Sealed Bid Process and Accepting the proposal from West Coast Renovators in the total amount of \$259,486 for the Roof Replacement; and \$7,360 for ceiling repairs at 1111 Bailey Avenue and authorizing payment using COPS AB 3229/AB1913 grant funds and General Fund in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Council Member Pogue made a motion, second by Council Member Longacre to approve Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 on the Consent Calendar.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

5. Approved the Warrants Register through May 13, 2025
6. Approved the Minutes of April 22, 2025
7. Accepted Change Order No. 1 (Final) in the amount of \$118,640 to the Public Works Agreement with Phillips Excavating, Inc. for a final contract amount of \$506,933 for the Phase IV-B Water Service Lateral Replacement Project and Authorized Staff to Execute the Notice of Completion for the work.
8. Awarded Bid to Pyramid Building & Engineering, Inc. for the Water Main and Manifold Improvements Project in the amount of \$1,128,676 plus 10% contingency for a total project cost of \$1,241,544 contingent upon receiving Final Budget Approval by the State Water Resources Control Board; and, authorized staff to execute a Public Works Agreement with Pyramid Building and Engineering, Inc. and move forward with the Notice of Award and Notice to Proceed.
10. Adopted Resolution 2025-21, a list of Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 funded by SB1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.
11. Approved Project Funding Agreement No. 25-1003288 with San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) for the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA & ED) Phase of the River Street Paving and Minor Widening Project with a cost Not to Exceed (NTE) \$13,500 to be reimbursed by Measure I 2010 – 2040 Colorado River Subarea MLHP funds and Authorized Staff to execute said Agreement.

END OF COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR COUNCIL ITEMS

12. Adopt Resolution 2025-23, Accepting One-Year TeamCalifornia Membership Scholarship and Acknowledging Economic Development Partnership with FHLBank San Francisco.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.
Minimal Council Discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Campbell made a motion, second by Council Member McCorkle, to adopt Resolution 2025-23, Accepting One-Year TeamCalifornia Membership Scholarship and Acknowledging Economic Development Partnership with FHLBank San Francisco.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

13. Cancel the July 22, and August 26, 2025, regular City Council / NPUA / HACN meetings.

City Manager Patrick Martinez gave staff report.

Council Member Longacre made a motion, second by Vice Mayor Campbell, to cancel the July 22, and August 26, 2025, regular City Council / NPUA / HACN meetings

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Longacre, McCorkle, Vice Mayor Campbell, Council Members Pogue, Belt, Longbrake
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

14. Provide staff direction on Adoption of Social Media Policy.

City Manager Patrick Martinez and Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade gave staff report. Council Questions and Discussion ensued. City Manager Martinez and Deputy City Attorney Wade provided clarification.

Staff will present a social media policy for approval at the next council meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – given by Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade

CITY CLERK REPORT – given by City Clerk Candace Clark

City Manager Martinez recognized public comment for item 2 (website presentation)

Shawn Gudmundson suggested putting the school sporting events on the website

Jared Johnson spoke about including information on the website about where to access certain services, such as fishing licenses.

CITY MANAGER REPORT – for the weeks of April 4 and April 11, 2025

given by City Manager Patrick Martinez

COUNCIL REQUESTS

Council Member Longacre

- *Jack Smith Park fire mitigation prior to Memorial Day weekend*
- *BNSF - Fire mitigation across from EconoSmog, and along railroad tracks down Broadway*
- *New City Logo*

Council Member McCorkle

- *Acknowledged water rate decrease*
- *Excited about Social media and marketing*
- *Asked Rec Center to post events on Facebook*

Council Member Pogue

- *Reported on City Leader's Summit attendance in Sacramento – spoke with Assemblymember Gonzalez about possible regulatory exclusions for Needles and other border cities*
- *Asked about house fire from a year ago – status of house*

Vice Mayor Campbell

- *Thanked Council Member Longacre for Crack Seal machine*
- *Reported on City Leader's Summit attendance in Sacramento and highlighted the connections with Senator Padilla and Assemblymember Gonzalez, events, and learning opportunities she has been involved in over the past couple weeks.*

Council Member Belt

- *Shop local*

Council Member Longbrake – no requests

Mayor Jernigan

- *Reminded everyone Run for the Wall is tomorrow, May 14.*
- *Memorial Day – Friday, May 23 is decoration day at the cemetery; Monday, May 26 is the Memorial Day ceremony and clean up at the cemetery*
- *Expressed concern over the status of the El Garces and urged staff to check into maintenance and cleaning.*

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Jernigan adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm

Mayor Janet Jernigan

City Clerk Candace Clark