

**WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION
RENO CITY COUNCIL
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

JOINT MEETING

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

AUGUST 17, 2009

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chairperson*

John Breternitz, Washoe County Commissioner

Bob Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner*

Robert A. Cashell, City of Reno, Mayor

Jessica Sferrazza, Reno City Councilmember

Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilmember

Pierre Hascheff, Reno City Councilmember

Sharon Zadra, Reno City Councilmember

Dave Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember

Dan Gustin, Reno City Councilmember

Geno Martini, City of Sparks, Mayor

Mike Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember

Julia Ratti, Sparks City Councilmember

Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember

Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilmember

Phil Salerno, Sparks City Councilmember

Barbara Clark, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, President

Barbara McLaury, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

Scott Kelley, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

ABSENT:

David Humke, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman

Kitty Jung, Washoe County Commissioner

Estela LeVario Gutierrez, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

Ken Grein, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

Nancy Hollinger, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

Dan Carne, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

The Commission, Board, and Councils convened at 8:35 a.m. in joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, with Reno Mayor Cashell presiding. Also present were Washoe County Clerk Amy Harvey, Washoe County Manager Katy Simon, Washoe County

Legal Counsel Paul Lipparelli, Reno City Clerk Lynette Jones, Interim Reno City Manager Donna Dreska, Reno City Attorney John Kadlic, Sparks City Clerk Linda Patterson, Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey, and Washoe County School District Legal Counsel Randy Drake.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the roll for their respective entities, and the Commission, Councils, and Board conducted the following business:

It was noted the Washoe County School District and the Board of County Commissioners did not have quorums present.

***8:36 a.m.** Commissioner Larkin arrived.

09-891 AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the agenda for the Reno and Sparks City Councils, the Washoe County School District and the Washoe County Commission Joint Meeting of August 17, 2009.”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by City of Reno Councilmember Zadra, seconded by City of Sparks Councilmember Salerno, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke, Commissioners Jung and Weber, and School Board Trustees Gutierrez, Grein, Hollinger and Carne absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

09-892 AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment (three-minute time limit per person) – (Additional Public Comment on specific agenda items will be limited to a three-minute time limit per person after each agenda item and must be related to the specific agenda item.) Comments to be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and to the Reno and Sparks City Councils, Washoe County School District, and the Washoe County Commission as a whole.”

***8:39 a.m.** Commissioner Weber arrived establishing a quorum for the Board of County Commissioners.

Jerry Purdy spoke on his concerns toward the numerous budget reductions occurring within the School District and the reluctance amongst State government to properly fund school systems. He stated Nevada was the “promised land” for businesses because there was no corporate income tax, no taxes on corporate shares, no franchise tax, no personal income tax, no inventory tax, nominal annual business fees, low unemployment tax and a minimal employer payroll tax rate. Mr. Purdy urged the new

Washoe County School District Superintendent to secure stable long-term funding for the School District.

Sam Dehne addressed the Boards and the Councils.

09-893 AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the minutes for the Joint Meetings of February 9 and May 11, 2009, between the Washoe County Commission, Reno City Council, Sparks City Council and Washoe County School District Board of Trustees.”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by City of Sparks Mayor Martini, seconded by City of Sparks Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke, Commissioner Jung, and School Board Trustees Gutierrez, Grein, Hollinger and Carne absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved.

09-894 AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Appearance: Dr. Heath Morrison, Washoe County School District Superintendent. (Washoe County School District). Board of Trustees’ and Superintendent’s Vision for the Washoe County School District. (Washoe County School District).”

Barbara Clark, Washoe County School District Board President, introduced Dr. Heath Morrison as the new Washoe County School District Superintendent.

Dr. Morrison conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk, highlighting the blueprint for student success, Plan of Entry with a focus on increased student achievement, Areas of Focus and outcomes and structure.

Dr. Morrison stated at the end of his initial 90 days, the School District would present a clear idea of where they were and where they needed to go. He said, in terms of giving critical feedback to the current strategic plan, there would be community forums to discuss strengths and opportunities.

City of Reno Mayor Cashell welcomed Dr. Morrison to the County. He stated all the entities looked forward to working with the new administration.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

Agenda Subject: “Update and possible direction on Shared Services Subcommittee, including but not limited to, staff updates on possible consolidation of purchasing, human resources and information technology, discussion and possible action by each entity as to whether to pursue shared service or not; discussion and possible direction regarding whether to hire an outside consultant to identify shared service opportunities and develop feasibility and cost/savings estimates; and potential uses of the study, including but not limited to, AB 494 reporting; and, update on previous consolidations. (Reno/Sparks/Washoe County)”

David Childs, Assistant County Manager, indicated direction was being sought for the Shared Services Subcommittee in proceeding with the exploration of the consolidation for Information Technology (IT), Human Resources (HR) and Purchasing for the Cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) and the Washoe County School District. He said also requested from the entities interested in proceeding with consolidation was direction on whether to hire a consultant to provide timelines, cost estimates, phasing and an implementation strategy for possible mergers.

Mr. Childs explained the Subcommittee had requested the entities poll their members to discuss the interest in proceeding with IT, HR and Purchasing integration. He said the consolidations being considered were feasible, but had some front-end costs that needed to be addressed. In regard to IT, he explained each of the entities had their own backbone system and had spent a significant amount of funds on those systems. Mr. Childs said at the present time it may not be prudent to merge those systems because of the cost involved, but if there was interest in the long-term, standards needed to be created. He said presently the front-end costs were not completely known; however, the costs could not be calibrated in detail and would be useful to have outside help provide staff with timelines, work plans and cost estimates for potential savings. Mr. Childs stated an outside consultant could assist staff in providing additional ideas for opportunities concerning shared services. He indicated scope-of-work and cost-estimates were being completed to return to the Subcommittee during their next scheduled meeting on September 10, 2009.

Mr. Childs explained the following consolidation recommendations were being proposed: the Purchasing Department would be considered for a full merger; a partial merger for HR concerning recruitment and training; and, due to the complexity involved, IT would be a phased implementation. Mr. Childs said it was believed there were successful models of governance for these internal services and stated examples already regionally implemented. He said each of these questions went before the individual entities and reported the City of Reno voted to review and direct staff to have those conversations, the City of Sparks moved not to proceed with consolidation of these functions and Washoe County, the School District and RSCVA voted to proceed and further review the possibilities.

Commissioner Breternitz said the recommendation for HR was reasonably easy to consolidate. However, was the actual recommendation to study and explore the training and recruitment functions and not any other element. Mr. Childs explained from a study standpoint all the components would be reviewed, but for immediate implementation, the areas of training and recruitment would be completed first and then ask the consultant if there were any additional ancillary functions to merge. Commissioner Breternitz asked in terms of concept why was the approach to HR different than the approach for IT. Mr. Childs explained there had been less background work completed in HR and felt the recruitment and training functions could be consolidated and then follow-up with implementation and strategies for other functions. Commissioner Breternitz clarified the end result would be a similar approach. Mr. Childs agreed.

In response to questions from Councilmember Aiazzi, Mr. Childs replied there was not a timeline, but when a consultant contract was in place there would be an implementation plan and a timeline for implementation. He clarified that due to staff shortages within the entities a consultant was being considered to help review the perspective from similar consolidations.

Trustee Kelley stated public input would be helpful. He asked how public input had been gathered from the entities and would it be appropriate to conduct town hall meetings. Mr. Childs remarked presently there had not been any outreach conducted, but that could be considered.

Commissioner Weber agreed that citizen input was important and the citizens needed to be polled. She remarked after speaking to constituents she did not know if citizens were interested in consolidation of services. Commissioner Weber remarked she was not in favor of consolidation. She believed in the best interest of the community shared services should move forward when financially feasible. She asked if other Board and Council members had heard any comments from their constituents.

Sparks Mayor Martini remarked he had not received any telephone calls concerning consolidation. He indicated a survey was conducted every year and in the survey 75 percent of the citizens stated they were not interested in consolidation. Mayor Martini explained the Council took that stance since their constituents stated they had no interest in consolidation. Sparks Councilmember Smith also indicated he had not received any correspondence on the matter. He clarified the City of Sparks was interested in shared services and exploring that venue to see if there would be cost savings, but was against government, fire and police consolidation.

Sparks Councilmember Carrigan stated he received two e-mails concerning the consolidation of IT, HR and Purchasing and both questioned why the City spent \$50,000 worth of staff time to review the option.

Sparks Councilmember Salerno stated he received phone calls and e-mails from constituents, concerning consolidation and said comments were based on the

approximately 60 items already shared for cost-savings with the other entities. He felt the word needed to be better provided to constituents on cost-saving measures. He said the City would continue working with the other entities to continue sharing various services.

Reno Councilmember Sferrazza asked if the issue of Home-Rule had been discussed with the Subcommittee. Mr. Childs replied that had not been discussed, but stated a local elected official's summit was being discussed. Councilmember Sferrazza said a local government summit should be considered and asked if that needed to be requested for an agenda item.

Katy Simon, County Manager, replied there had not been an official elected officials-wide blessing for a local government summit, but there had been some discussion of that occurring in Southern Nevada. She noted she had initiated a request to begin planning that summit and added there was a Mangers' conference call scheduled for August 21, 2009 to discuss the issue.

Reno Councilmember Sferrazza commented the two Mayors were conducting a panel discussion on the Home-Rule issue and asked if that could be coordinated with the Nevada League of Cities for the meeting scheduled in October 2009. She agreed with Commissioner Weber that this should be presented to the voters.

Reno Councilmember Dortch stated the consultant review needed to be considered for potential cost-savings since it was difficult to go out in the community and ask for an opinion on consolidation of services without the known benefits.

Sparks Councilmember Schmitt said cost-basics needed to be discussed and the numbers reviewed. He said he completed a report for full consolidation of the three departments and noted the return on the investment was not there.

Commissioner Weber commented if there would be a local elected official's summit, the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) and the Nevada League of Cities should be planning the summit. She said the local governments had been impacted by the Legislature and questioned if bigger government was better.

Reno Councilmember Gustin said Mr. Childs had commented that consolidation of these three functions was feasible. He asked how the nexus was being reviewed for higher costs, reduced bureaucracy and better services. Mr. Childs explained if an applicant could apply to one location for several positions within different entities that would be better for the applicant and less bureaucratic. Councilmember Gustin said there had been no comments made about parks, as discussed in other meetings, and asked what had been done in moving forward in that area for shared services. Mr. Childs replied there was an agreement in place that reviewed the Cities and the County's Parks. Councilmember Gustin asked how the agreements were working. Mr. Childs felt they were working seamlessly.

Ms. Simon clarified the parks consolidation review was previously brought back to the elected officials with direction given to staff to work toward coordination of facilities planning, maintenance and park planning, which was where savings of efficiency and improvement to customer service was found. She agreed that an update should be provided to the Boards and Councils and indicated that would occur.

School Board President Clark remarked over the years shared services had provided efficiency and had shown where tax dollars could be utilized to the best benefit. She said the School Board would like an expert review to provide guidance on the opportunities and efficiencies for future consolidation functions.

In response to the call for public comment, Chuck Walker said as a consumer of services in the Region he looked for a better product at a lower cost. He addressed not to look at what was, but to look at what needed to be and to think outside the box. Mr. Walker suggested speaking to citizens who had undergone change.

Reno Mayor Cashell suggested returning this information to the entities for workshops. He said the City of Sparks had taken a firm decision and noted he supported their decision.

Reno Councilmember Aiazzi felt it was a waste of staff time to be at joint meetings with no decisions being made. He commented since all the entities were present direction should be given. He suggested moving ahead with staff recommendations from the Subcommittee.

Reno Councilmember Zadra recommended that the northern part of the State work with counterparts in southern Nevada for a unified fashion.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Hascheff, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the City of Reno would work with any entity interested in shared services or consolidation of Purchasing, HR and IT as recommended by the Shared Services Subcommittee.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke and Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Washoe County would work with any entity interested in shared services or consolidation of Purchasing, HR and IT as recommended by the Shared Services Subcommittee.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Schmitt, seconded by Councilmember Salerno, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the City of Sparks reaffirmed their Resolution to continue to cooperate with any shared services brought forth by any entity in Washoe County.

School Board President Clark indicated there was no quorum present; however, the School Board did direct staff to continue to actively participate with shared services in consolidation meetings.

Reno Councilmember Sferrazza asked if there was a timeframe for this to return to this body. Mr. Childs said this would return to the Subcommittee on September 10th and indicated an outline would be distributed on the scope-of-work for the three areas as well as preliminary cost estimates.

09-896 AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible direction regarding whether to jointly or individually prepare the report mandated by AB 494 on consolidation of public safety, public works and general government. (Reno/Sparks/Washoe County)”

Dave Childs, Assistant County Manager, commented AB 494 passed in the Legislative session, which required entities in Clark and Washoe Counties to submit reports on possible consolidation of Public Safety, Public Works and General Government to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) by September 2010. He explained general government was not well defined and would need to be reviewed. He said all the entities needed to submit a report; however, should that report be submitted jointly or individually. Mr. Childs indicated this item went before the individual governments and stated the City of Sparks felt they had completed the necessary work and decided not to proceed with further joint work on preparing the response to the LCB. He said Washoe County and the City of Reno took action to jointly prepare the report.

Reno Councilmember Aiazzi said the report requested the six items as listed in the staff report, which had been completed. He suggested gathering all the reports that had been completed from the Law Enforcement Task Force, Parks and Recreation and the Subcommittee and place them in a binder.

Commissioner Larkin indicated the Board of County Commissioners voted on August 11, 2009 to take the lead and prepare the report. Sparks Mayor Martini indicated the City of Sparks would complete their own report.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Gustin, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the City of Reno request Washoe County to compose the report and that the report be worked on jointly.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Salerno, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the City of Sparks would prepare their own report and submit that report as recommended.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, with Chairman Humke and

Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Washoe County compose the report and that the report be worked on jointly with the City of Reno.

09-897 AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: “Reno City Council/Sparks City Council/Washoe County Commission/Washoe County School District Trustees announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas and statements relating to items not on the agenda. (No discussion among the Councils, Commission and Trustees will take place on this item.)”

Sparks Councilmember Carrigan requested a discussion on Home-Rule be placed on the next joint agenda.

Commissioner Breternitz requested an agenda item to review a broader list of services being considered for consolidation and a suggested approach to having the work completed.

Reno Councilmember Hascheff requested standing agenda items for the Shared Services Subcommittee and AB 494.

Commissioner Larkin announced that Reno Councilmember Gustin was recently inducted into the Nevada Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Weber requested an item to discuss the Thomas Creek/Galena Fire services.

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ADJOURNMENT

10:16 a.m. There being no further business to come before the Boards or the Councils, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke, Commissioner Jung, and School Board Trustees Gutierrez, Grein, Hollinger and Carne absent, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

BONNIE WEBER, Commissioner
Washoe County Commission

AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

ATTEST:

ROBERT A. CASHELL, Mayor
City of Reno

LYNNETTE R. JONES, City Clerk
City of Reno

ATTEST:

GENO MARTINI, Mayor
City of Sparks

LINDA K. PATTERSON, City Clerk
City of Sparks

ATTEST:

BARBARA CLARK, Board of Trustees
President, Washoe County School District

BARBARA McLAURY, Clerk
Washoe County School District

*Minutes Prepared by Stacy Gonzales,
Washoe County Deputy Clerk*