

**WASHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**AND**

**CITY OF RENO CITY COUNCIL**

**JOINT MEETING**

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

APRIL 18, 2000

PRESENT:

**WASHOE COUNTY**

Ted Short, Chairman

Jim Shaw, Vice-Chairman

Jim Galloway, Commissioner

Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Joanne Bond, Commissioner

Katy Singlaub, County Manager

Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel

Amy Harvey, County Clerk

**CITY OF RENO**

Jeff Griffin, Mayor

Dave Aiazzi, Councilmember

Sherrie Doyle, Councilmember

Pierre Hascheff, Councilmember

Tom Herndon, Councilmember

Dave Rigdon, Councilmember

Charles McNeely, City Manager

Patricia Lynch, Reno City Attorney

Don Cook, Reno City Clerk

ABSENT:

Bill Newberg, Councilmember

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno City Council met in a joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administrative Complex, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the rolls for their respective entities and the Board and Council conducted the following business:

## **AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Councilmember Aiazzi, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the April 18, 2000, joint meeting be approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Al Hesson, Reno citizen, expressed his dissatisfaction with local government leaders.

Richard Wroblecki, on behalf of Nevada Spectrum, expressed an interest in receiving further information regarding the County Courts Complex and the Washoe County Detention Facility and stated that he would like the Boards to consider other potential sites for those facilities.

Sherri Doyle, Reno City Councilmember, commented that she would like to request that the County Commission and Reno City Council consider holding a retreat at Sky Tavern, to encourage cooperation and better relations between the Boards.

### **PRESENTATION - MUNICIPAL COURT - CIVIC CENTER PROJECT PHASE I**

Steve Varela, Director, Reno Public Works, gave a brief presentation on the three potential sites for the Municipal Court/Civic Center with an estimated cost for each project and requested direction from the Council as to how they wanted to proceed on this matter.

Commissioner Galloway inquired if there was room for expansion to include Reno City Hall on the Pioneer Inn site. Mr. Varela responded that it would be very cramped.

Mayor Griffin read a letter, dated April 17, 2000, from Lance Van Lydegraf, into the record, which discussed consolidation of the Municipal and Justice Courts by placing them together in one building and sharing the same staff, which would reduce costs. A copy of the letter was placed on file with the Clerk.

Dave Roundtree, Public Works Director, stated that he agreed with Mr. Varela that the co-located project at the Pioneer site would be the least expensive, but disagreed with the numbers that Mr. Varela used.

### **00-296 MUNICIPAL COURT - WASHOE COUNTY COURTS COMPLEX**

Dave Roundtree, Director, Washoe County Public Works, stated that he just received the appraisal for the Pioneer Inn site last night and has submitted to the Boards an informational sheet for their review. He further stated that the appraised value includes land, building and business; that the next step is to speak with the Pioneer Inn property owners regarding the appraisal; and that their cost estimate includes asbestos

abatement if the Conklin building is remodeled. He advised that they need to move the offices of the Public Defender and District Attorney from the Court buildings, so that the Courts can utilize the space currently occupied by those departments.

Commissioner Galloway inquired if the property value would go down if an environmental contamination was found on the Pioneer Inn property. Mr. Roundtree stated if any environmental contamination is found on the property the owner could be made to participate in clean-up of the contamination.

Councilmember Rigdon inquired if the City of Reno would be allowed to purchase some of the property from the County at a reduced cost if the County acquired the Pioneer site. Mr. Roundtree responded that the Board would ultimately make that decision, but that is a possibility.

In response to Councilmember Aiazzi's inquiry regarding cost savings of prisoner transports, Mrs. Singlaub responded that Sheriff Kirkland has provided a memo explaining prisoner transportation, which has been made available to both Boards for their review; that Washoe County currently transports Reno prisoners on a voluntary basis, at an estimated cost savings of \$200,000 per year to the City of Reno; and that they believe if the new Municipal Court is built in close proximity to the Justice and District Courts, the cost savings for prisoner transports would commence immediately.

In response to Commissioner Galloway's inquiry, Mr. Roundtree stated that they will be requesting \$30 million for the Court project on the bond issue; that parking, demolition, renovation and other costs are factored into this dollar amount; and that would include relocating the Public Defender and District Attorney's Offices.

After further discussion, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that staff respond to the questions raised today, regarding the Pioneer Inn site to the extent that they can, and then come back to the Board with a staff report on April 25, 2000, at 10:00 a.m.

On motion by Councilmember Herndon, seconded by Councilmember Doyle, which motion duly carried, with Councilmember Rigdon voting "no," Mayor Griffin ordered that staff respond to the questions raised today to the extent that they can, and then come back to the Board with a staff report on April 25, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. It was further ordered that answers to these specific questions be included with the response: 1) the price the Pioneer Inn property owners will accept; 2) prisoner transportation costs savings and when that would commence; and 3) the County's commitment to place this bond issue on November's ballot.

On motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Rigdon, which motion duly carried, Mayor Griffin ordered that staff be authorized to obtain appraisals for Sites 1 and 2 in the event that the City of Reno and Washoe County do not co-locate.

**PRESENTATION - WASHOE COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE - BOND ISSUE**

Karen Mullen, Parks & Recreation Director, gave a brief presentation on the proposed Regional Parks, Open Space and Trails that staff recommended be placed on the \$26 million bond issue.

## 00-297 DISCUSSION - RENO CITY PARK PROJECTS - WASHOE COUNTY BOND ISSUE

Karen Mullen, Washoe County Parks & Recreation Director, and Nancy McCartney, Reno Parks Director, were present and answered questions for the Boards.

Councilmember Aiazzi inquired if there was other property, besides the Ballardini Ranch, that they could purchase for open space. Ms. Mullen responded that there were other willing sellers and they could check into that.

Commissioner Shaw inquired if anyone had informed the Sparks Parks Department that their community center was rejected. Ms. Mullen responded that she had explained to Sparks that they were not putting any community centers or large recreation centers on the ballot issue; that after discussing this with Sparks one of their requests was expansion of their Spanish Springs Sports Complex. Mrs. Singlaub stated that she had spoken with Mayor Armstrong and Stan Sherer, Sparks Parks and Recreation Director, who had expressed their concern about making the entire package equitable. She advised that Sparks had requested that projects not be eliminated and new ones added without an appropriate hearing of that issue.

Councilmember Doyle stated that she has constituents who live in Panther Valley where there are no parks or sports areas; and that she would like to provide the children in that area with a park or some place for the community residents to go for recreation activity.

Councilmember Rigdon asked why all of the projects being built are in the suburban areas and not in any of the urban areas. He advised that he feels very dissatisfied with the division on the map provided to the Boards; that over half of the bond is being spent on active open space recreation activities and none on active recreation opportunities in highly urban areas of the County. Ms. Mullen responded that when they met with staff from Reno, earlier in the year, they had not completed their needs assessment within the City; that they went with the Washoe County Park Commission to develop regionally significant areas; that they are trying to purchase open space to develop facilities; and that the whole Parks, Open Space and Trails issue is a balancing act throughout the County.

Commissioner Galloway stated that the Board's roll is to give the voters the most meaningful choice; that projects removed from this list does not eliminate them from the wish list; and that overwhelming response was for acquisition of more open space at the last meeting of the West Truckee Meadows Citizen's Advisory Board.

After inquiry by Chairman Short, Ms. Mullen stated that the Park Commission and the citizens requested that money designated for a certain area stay in that area, should acquisition and/or development not go through; that they are working on getting land and water conservation funds reinstated for the state and local levels; that those funds are 50/50 matches; and that this money would go that much further if the different entities coordinate and work together on their projects.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that the list has totally excluded the urban areas and requested that Panther Valley be included in the bond issue; and that he would like to see more of the low-income communities receiving their share of park projects.

Commissioner Shaw inquired if they included Panther Valley in the bond issue, would they need to request \$26,500,000, or would they need to

reduce projects elsewhere to stay within the \$26 million as recommended by management. Ms. Mullen responded that the direction she received was to stay within \$26 million; that they would look to reduce other projects, in order to include the Panther Valley project; that Panther Valley needs \$1,425,000 in order to complete a project in their area; and that they have received some monies from Alturas funds and RTC, but still need additional funding.

Ms. McCartney stated that \$500,000 would allow them to acquire land and complete development of Phase I for the Panther Valley project.

Mayor Griffin encouraged the two Boards to work together on these park projects so that everyone can benefit.

On motion by Councilmember Herndon, seconded by Councilmember Doyle, which motion duly carried, with Councilmember Rigdon voting "no," Mayor Griffin ordered that Washoe County consider this a formal request from the City of Reno to include their projects in Washoe County's bond issue.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that staff and the Park Commission be directed to consider the items already placed on the list by the City of Reno, and the additional items raised today, as part of a balanced bond issue proposal and come back to the Board with a report.

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There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

**TED F. SHORT**, Chairman

**JEFF GRIFFIN**, Mayor

Washoe County Commission

City of Reno

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk

ATTEST: DON COOK, City Clerk