

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION  
RENO CITY COUNCIL  
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL

JOINT MEETING

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

MAY 21, 2002

PRESENT:

Pete Sferrazza, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman  
Joanne Bond, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chairman  
Jim Galloway, Washoe County Commissioner\*  
Ted Short, Washoe County Commissioner

Jeff Griffin, City of Reno, Mayor\*  
Dave Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember  
Sherrie Doyle, Reno City Councilmember  
Pierre Hascheff, Reno City Councilmember  
Toni Harsh, Reno City Councilmember\*  
Jessica Sferrazza-Hogan, Reno City Councilmember  
Dave Rigdon, Reno City Councilmember

Tony Armstrong, City of Sparks, Mayor  
Geno Martini, Sparks City Councilmember  
Michael Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember  
Phil Salerno, Sparks City Councilmember  
Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember

ABSENT:

Jim Shaw, Washoe County Commissioner  
John Mayer, Sparks City Councilmember

The Board and Councils met in joint session in the Council Chambers of Reno City Hall, 490 South Center Street, Reno, Nevada with Vice Mayor Rigdon presiding as Mayor Griffin had not yet arrived at the meeting. Also present were Washoe County Manager Katy Singlaub, Deputy District Attorney Paul Lipparelli, County Clerk Amy Harvey, Reno City Manager representative, Reno City Attorney Patricia Lynch, Reno City Clerk Don Cook, Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey, and Sparks City Clerk representative. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the roll for their respective entities, and the Commission and Councils 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, it was ordered that the agenda for the May 21, 2002, joint meeting be approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, discussed issues concerning the seat belt program, and noise concerns in the community.

### **02-495A      MINUTES - CONSOLIDATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND TAXATION**

Members of the Consolidation Subcommittee on Finance and Taxation that were present to vote on this item were Councilmembers Aiazzi, Martini, Schmitt, and Commissioner Sferrazza. On motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Martini, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the minutes of February 27, 2002 be approved.

### **02-495B      HOMELAND SECURITY PRIORITIES**

Steve Driscoll, Assistant City Manager, City of Sparks, advised this item was originally requested by Councilmember Schmitt to discuss how local agencies are coordinating the various efforts and funding requests that might be available for Homeland Security. He said their main concern is how the Washoe Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) works together and what they do.

#### **\*9:15 a.m.      Commissioner Galloway arrived at the meeting.**

Jim Lopey, Assistant Washoe County Sheriff, advised that since September 11, 2001 fire, law enforcement, health department, public and private emergency management personnel have emphasized the LEPC, and this has led to over \$500,000 in LEPC funding in the last couple of years. He said a great deal of planning has been done locally, which originated with Y2K, to plan for possible terrorist activity prior to, during, and after the millennium, and that effort has continued since 9/11/01. He reviewed recent equipment acquisitions made through LEPC and said he believes they have done a good job of monitoring the available funds.

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, said he thinks the airports have received a lot of resources but the water and power systems should be watched. He stated he believes the Homeland Security concept is good.

**\*9:20 a.m. Mayor Griffin arrived and assumed the gavel.**

Mr. Lopey responded to questions and advised that the FBI is technically the lead agency, although local agencies have been involved in the planning of anti-terrorist activities since Y2K. Issues concerning funding resources were discussed and Mr. Lopey advised that the Sheriff's Office does not currently have a budget for Homeland Security, and most of the resources have been acquired through grant funding.

Councilmember Schmitt said he requested this item to discuss what the local agencies have been doing and how this joint body could support their efforts.

Mr. Driscoll commented that \$37.7 billion has been designated through the Homeland Security Office and \$8.8 billion will be distributed to first responders and local agencies. He said the federal office has stated this will go through state emergency management offices; and the Washoe LEPC, which has grant processes and procedures already in place, would administer the funding for local agencies.

**\*9:30 a.m. Councilmember Harsh arrived at the meeting.**

Gabrielle Enfield, Washoe County Grants Administrator, advised that the funding is still in committee in Congress and not yet available. She described the steps that have been taken concerning the submission of funding requests and said she thinks the focus on the funding is going to be a multi-jurisdictional approach.

Councilmember Hascheff noted that the City of Reno has budgeted \$750,000 and asked if money could be reimbursed to local agencies that are contributing funding before the federal funds are available. Ms. Enfield said it depends on the agency and sometimes grants allow that previously expended funds may be used as a match.

Mayor Armstrong commented that government is typically very open, but Homeland Security is a new situation in this country. He questioned whether too much information is being distributed. He suggested that consideration be given to implementing some guidelines regarding the amount of security information being given out at public meetings. He asked that this matter be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

Roy Slate, Chairman, Washoe LEPC, said the security issue has been discussed by LEPC. He advised the LEPC was established under a Title III Congressional Act concerning the public right to know about hazardous materials facilities and transportation. Congress is now looking at that law regarding the potential of providing specific information about hazardous materials facilities that could be a target. Mr. Slate advised that members of the LEPC committee are volunteer and have a finite amount of time to give to the committee; and they are struggling with the influx of

information coming from the state and federal levels, as well as processing the new grant funding opportunities. He said the LEPC has talked about having the three jurisdictions fund a staff person to assist them; and they need increased participation and have recommended that elected officials participate on the committee.

Commissioner Galloway requested information relative to the local, state and federal laws that are on the books concerning the chain of command if there is a terrorist event. Mayor Griffin explained the chain of command as the following: (1) The Mayors declare a State of Emergency, 2) The Governor declares a State of Emergency, and 3) The Governor then petitions the Federal Government to declare the same. He said the process is rather elaborate and he is not sure it is responsive to the kinds of situations that can occur given post September 11, 2001.

Following further discussion, it was determined that this matter would come back to the Joint Board in a couple of months and staff of the three entities would provide information relative to the ordinances that have been adopted and the chain of command.

**02-496            REGIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL/ANIMAL SERVICES**

Tom Gadd, Director, General Services Department, Washoe County, reviewed the proposal for a ballot question to fund a new regional animal shelter. He discussed the process that resulted in staff's conclusions that a 35,300 square-foot municipal facility at a cost of \$9.5 million is required to meet existing and future growth needs of the community; and a 48,500 square-foot facility at a cost of \$12.5 million would be required for a public/private partnership. He advised that the costs include everything except the land, and the cost estimate for building construction is \$160 per square foot.

Charles Jarvi, area resident, spoke in support of a regional animal shelter.

Susan Asher, Executive Director, Nevada Humane Society, said they have actively participated in the process to develop the concept of a public/private partnership for the new animal services center and are willing to contribute \$2 million in capital construction costs toward this effort. They would also be willing to contribute an additional \$.5 million for capital construction costs if necessary.

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, expressed support for the consolidation of an animal control center, noting that it should be a priority over projects such as an expanded recreation center, arts and cultural operation and more parks.

Jean Stoess, area resident, spoke in support of placing the animal shelter question on the ballot.

Chairman Sferrazza referred to a proposal made by Councilmember Aiuzzi that would allow Sparks to go to the voters with the 6.5 cents they need and also

provide the opportunity for a regional animal control shelter under the cap. He requested further clarification of the cost figures presented by staff, which John Sherman, Washoe County Finance Director, provided. Chairman Sferrazza said he thinks Councilmember Aiazzi's proposal provides a win/win solution as nothing would be left off the ballot, and people would be able to choose what they want. He noted that the land is not included in the figures presented.

Councilmember Sferrazza-Hogan said she would support donating the land just off Longley Lane where the Reno Animal Services Shelter is currently located, noting this would need to go before the City Council.

Councilmember Hascheff said he would not have a problem with contributing the land and noted that a constituent has indicated he would make ten acres available, which would potentially allow the City to sell the land and apply some of the funds from that sale towards capital improvements.

Mayor Armstrong said he totally supports the regional animal shelter, but believes the cost estimates are too high. He asked if staff looked at the possibility of retrofitting an existing building. Mr. Gadd advised that an animal shelter requires very expensive special construction. He said staff determined that trying to conform an existing building would be more expensive than constructing a new building of this type.

**10:45 a.m. Mayor Griffin temporarily left the meeting and Commission Chairman Sferrazza assumed the gavel**

Councilmember Schmitt noted that in the last 30 days a lot of progress has been made on this issue.

Councilmember Doyle said this issue needs to go the Debt Management Commission as soon as possible. She suggested that the staffs of the three entities do some number crunching concerning field operations.

**11:00 a.m. Mayor Griffin returned to the meeting and resumed the gavel.**

Commissioner Bond stated that the facility is needed and the designated location is appropriate. Councilmember Carrigan said it would be difficult for him to support an animal shelter if Sparks does not have the opportunity to put their public safety tax override for more firefighters on the ballot. Commissioner Galloway noted that under Councilmember Aiazzi's proposal, Sparks would not have to reduce their public safety override. He said there might be a legal question as to whether future boards could be bound by this action and, if the proposal goes forward, he would request that legal staff include this as a condition of the bond issue.

Councilmember Harsh thanked the Humane Society for their contribution offer to the project. She expressed support for a regional animal shelter and the

donation of the land. She said it is important to look at public safety first and would want Sparks to be able to accomplish what they need.

Mr. Sherman commented that, if the animal shelter passes on the ballot, the three entities would reduce their tax rates by the amount they spend on animal control, which includes operations and field services; and the adjusted rates would be future oriented because operations would actually be taken over two to three years down the road.

Councilmember Rigdon stated that using the entire cap would leave nothing for unfunded strategic plans. He said everyone is looking at their individual issues and not looking at what that would cost over the next 20 years in basic services, such as fire, police and street maintenance that would need to be cut because there is no other funding source. Mayor Griffin noted there would be additional cap rate over the next 20 years as bonds retire.

Councilmember Aiazzi said he would want to get something to the DMC by Friday and, if they approve the proposal, the jurisdictions could start working on their bond issues. He said his proposal would make four cents available for an animal shelter, but it may not require four cents; and he supports donating the land.

On motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Doyle, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Rigdon voting "no," Mayor Griffin ordered that a report be forwarded to the Debt Management Commission that the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and Washoe County agree to make up to four cents available in the cap for a regional animal control facility in the following manner: one cent would come from the existing penny in the cap; two cents would come from the City of Reno and the City of Sparks each lowering their tax rates by two cents, which results in a two-cent reduction of their overlapping rates with Washoe County; and the County would lower its debt rate by one cent.

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, requested that the County's motion indicate that the penny would come from lowering the County's combined rate.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that a report be forwarded to the Debt Management Commission that the City of Reno, the City of Sparks and Washoe County agree to make up to four cents available in the cap for a regional animal control facility in the following manner: one cent would come from the existing penny in the cap; two cents would come from the City of Reno and the City of Sparks each lowering their tax rates by two cents, which results in a two-cent reduction of their overlapping rates with Washoe County; and the County would lower its combined rate by one cent.

On motion by Councilmember Martini, seconded by Councilmember Carrigan, which motion duly carried, Mayor Armstrong ordered that a report be forwarded to the Debt Management Commission that the City of Reno, the City of Sparks

and Washoe County agree to make up to four cents available in the cap for a regional animal control facility in the following manner: one cent would come from the existing penny in the cap; two cents would come from the City of Reno and the City of Sparks each lowering their tax rates by two cents, which results in a two-cent reduction of their overlapping rates with Washoe County; and the County would lower its debt rate by one cent.

Councilmember Sferrazza-Hogan thanked Councilmember Aiazzi for coming up with this proposal.

**11:20 a.m. The Sparks Councilmembers left the meeting. Commissioner Bond left the meeting.**

### **DISCUSSION – REGIONAL PLAN**

Commissioner Galloway commented that areas of contention in the Regional Plan update were divided into categories, one being those where there seems to be agreement between all staff and another having to do with the sphere of influence. He said he thinks there are some issues that the staffs have agreed on that could be moved into the first category, such as the status of St. James Village and the Truckee River Corridor. He asked that Reno staff be requested to look at some of the issues that might be appropriate to move into the first category.

Commissioner Short asked for clarification of the status on the Ballardini Ranch. Mayor Griffin stated that the property owners have not requested voluntary annexation at this point, and the City Council cannot prejudge its position on a land issue that may or may not come before them.

**11:25 a.m. Councilmember Aiazzi left the meeting.**

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, said he opposes the recently approved Regional Plan. He advised there was high attendance at the meeting when the Plan was approved and said every citizen that spoke was against the Plan.

### **DISCUSSION CONCERNING FISCAL EQUITY – DISCUSSION CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION FORMULA/SB 253 COMMITTEE**

On motion by Councilmember Rigdon, seconded by Councilmember Sferrazza-Hogan, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that these items be continued to June 18, 2002.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Chairman Sferrazza, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Short voting "no," it was ordered that these items be continued to June 18, 2002.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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**PETER J. SFERRAZZA**, Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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

*Minutes Prepared By  
Barbara Trow  
Deputy County Clerk*