The Commission, Board, and Councils convened at 8:33 a.m. in joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, with Sparks Mayor Geno Martini presiding. Also present were Washoe County Manager Katy Simon, Washoe County Special Assistant District Attorney Melanie Foster, Washoe County Clerk Amy Harvey, Reno Chief of Staff Donna
Dreska, Reno Chief Deputy City Attorney Tracy Chase, Reno City Clerk Lynnette Jones, Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey, Sparks City Attorney Chet Adams, Sparks City Clerk Linda Patterson, Washoe County School District Superintendent Paul Dugan, and Washoe County School District Lead General 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 following business was conducted:

08-845 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 18, 2008.”

On motion by Councilmember Gustin, seconded by Councilmember Zadra, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Aiazzì, Sferrazza, Carrigan, and Schmitt absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

The Washoe County Commission and the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees did not approve the Agenda Item 4 due to the lack of a quorum.

08-846 AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment (three-minute time limit per person) – (Additional Public Comment on specific agenda items will be limited to 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.”

Shirley Bertschinger stated Charter Communications was planning on moving the local government channels to the digital tier. She said that would mean they would no longer be available to basic cable subscribers, which would especially impact senior citizens. She pleaded with the elected officials to take the steps necessary to right this wrong being perpetrated on their constituents by Charter Communications.

*8:36 a.m.* Councilmembers Aiazzì and Schmitt arrived at the meeting.

08-847 AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the minutes for the Joint Meeting of February 11, 2008, between the Washoe County Commission, Reno City Council, Sparks City Council and Washoe County School District Board of Trustees.”

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Dortch, seconded by Councilmember Zadra, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Sferrazza absent, Mayor Cashell ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved.
For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Salerno, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Carrigan absent, Mayor Martini ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved.

The Washoe County Commission and the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees did not approve Agenda Item 6 due to the lack of a quorum.

08-848  AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Update and possible discussion on Washoe County School District Financing/Bond Issues. (Washoe County School District)”

Perry DiLoreto said the Legislature appointed a commission to study the Washoe County School District’s funding issues, which included four elected officials and eleven citizens, after deciding that the citizens of Washoe County should find their own solutions to those funding issues. He noted the citizens appointed represented teachers, parents, businesses, labor, development, the power company and the Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA).

Mr. DiLoreto stated he was skeptical in the beginning about the funding problems, because there never seemed to be enough money available for schools. He explained as a developer, he made sure schools were provided to handle the future demand due to an increasing population. He said it became clear early on in the process that the issue was not about new schools but about existing schools, which were not in good shape. He said the issue for the students was to be warm, dry, safe, and connected with respect to technology. He stated he was offended by the disparity that existed, and he discussed some of the problems that older schools were experiencing.

Mr. DiLoreto explained that private enterprise was required by law to set up reserves to take care of maintenance if a developer established a common area community. He noted the school system did not have such a requirement nor did they have the money to address it if they did. He said hard choices had to be made when there were not adequate funds to go around, which usually meant postponing maintenance.

Mr. DiLoreto felt the Commission did a very thorough job of examining the need and the cost. He said they also challenged the School District and its technical and construction people to validate their processes and to convince the Commission that they were up to the task of spending large sums of money on renovations, and he noted the Commission was satisfied with their response.

Mr. DiLoreto stated the Commission next addressed determining where the money would come from in this troubled economy. He felt waiting was not an option because children were suffering due to the disparity in conditions that existed among the schools. He advised it was determined a Question needed to be passed in November that would raise the sales tax by .25 percent and the government services tax by .50 percent to...
do something about the issue. He noted the Commission voted unanimously to move this forward on all three aspects: the need, the cost, and where the money should come from. He said this Question was well thought out and deserved the support of every leader present in this room.

**8:44 a.m.** Commissioner Weber arrived at the meeting.

Ken Buhrman, Washoe Education Association (WEA) President, said he was speaking on behalf of the over 3,000 members of the WEA and other non-member faculty. He noted out of the 92 schools in the County, over 20 were over 50 years old and over half of the remaining schools were over 40 years old. He read several examples provided by teachers regarding classrooms that were wearing out. He said students deserved to have a clean, safe, dry, and warm environment in which to learn. He stated the support of Washoe County School District Question 1 was very important to bring every student’s classroom up to par with every other student’s classroom. He said it was unfair some students had comfort and technology while others did not.

**8:47 a.m.** Commissioner Galloway arrived.

Mr. Buhrman noted every other county in Nevada, besides Washoe County, had the ability to tax to help bring their schools up to par.

Mr. Buhrman advised interested citizens to go to the Question’s web site at www.yesonwcsd1.com for additional information. He said there would be a campaign kickoff on August 25, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at Glen Duncan Elementary School and everyone was invited.

08-849 **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Agenda Subject:** “Presentation and discussion on the impact of State Budget Cuts on Washoe County School District Educational Programs and Operations. (Washoe County School District)”

Paul Dugan, Washoe County School District Superintendent, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the District’s budget reductions, which was placed on file with the County Clerk.

Mr. Dugan advised that the School District initially had to make a 4.5 percent reduction in its 2007-09 biennial budget and it was felt it was better to lose $63.5 million in State Program funding that was not yet awarded. He advised that amount would be deducted from the total amount statewide K-12 schools would have to return, which would lower how much each district would have take from their General Fund budget. He said by eliminating the $63.5 million in new funding, it would leave just over $29 million that the districts would have to cut statewide and $4 million that Washoe County would have to return to the State. He discussed the recommendations made to the Washoe County School District’s Board of Trustees on the proposed cuts. He stated the
districts were asked to make an additional 3.3 percent reduction in June. He said when that amount was added to the previous cut, it totaled a 7.8 percent cut to the General Fund budgets.

Mr. Dugan advised that State textbook funding was cut in half as a compromise to taking back the cost of living adjustment (COLA). He said because most of the districts, including Washoe County, had already negotiated the contracts, the districts would have been legally required to fund the COLA’s anyway. He advised that would have been a serious challenge.

Mr. Dugan said the continuing challenge was to prepare for the projected 14.5 percent budget reductions in the 2009-2011 biennium. He stated the Potential Budget Cuts slide showed what was being proposed to go before the Board of Trustees and the public with the goal of keeping an ending fund balance of between 2 and 4 percent. He felt wise planning by the Board and the hard work by the Business Department allowed the District to deal with this type of cut better than in years past. He acknowledged being fiscally prudent was paying off.

Mr. Dugan explained the 2009-2010 reductions were very tentative because the District did not know what its obligation was until the State determined what it would cut.

Mr. Dugan summarized that to date the District had returned the 4.5 percent and the half of the textbook funding as required by the State. He said the 3.3 percent cuts would be taken to the community for discussion in time for the District to take its recommendations to the Board prior to the State’s December deadline. He said it was hoped the economy would improve and there would be no need for the 14.5 percent budget reductions for 2009-2011. He said if the 14.5 percent cuts were required, it would have dire consequences for the District.

Commissioner Galloway asked what would be the baseline from which the 14.5 percent cut would be measured. Mr. Dugan replied he believed it was based on the 2007/08 original funding level, but he was finding it frustrating trying to get accurate and reliable responses to questions. He advised the 4.5 percent and 3.3 percent cuts would not count towards the 14.5 percent because they were in different bienniums.

Commissioner Galloway said he noted donations to the Administration Building Replacement Fund were deferred, and he asked if there was already some money in the fund. Mr. Dugan replied that approximately $3 million was set aside and that money would be taken out of the fund bringing the balance to zero.

In response to the call for public comment, Earl Ammerman suggested getting funding from items not tied to the market and which were not susceptible to changes in the economy. He offered several suggestions for alternate sources of funding.
Jonnie Pullman commented that the School District received funding from the State, which was being cut, to pay for the operation of the School District. She explained the money used to maintain the District’s buildings came from a different source. She said the assistance the public was being asked to provide would be directed towards the buildings, not to replenish the operating funds being cut by the State.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 AND AGENDA ITEM 6 – CONTINUED**

Commissioner Galloway said page 8 of the February 11, 2008 minutes did not state his question to which Chairman Larkin replied. He stated the question was, “was this motion for a unilateral contribution only from Washoe County without requirement of contributions from Reno and Sparks?” He noted the answer was correctly stated. He requested the question be added to the minutes because otherwise the response did not make any sense.

Due to having a quorum, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, Chairman Larkin ordered that Agenda Items 4 and 6 be approved with the clarification to page 8 of the minutes.

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**08-850 AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Agenda Subject:** “Presentation and report on progress and legislative matters by the Chairman and members of the Fairness in Reno Sparks Taxes (FIRST) Committee. (City of Sparks)”

Mike Sprinkle, Fairness in Reno-Sparks Taxes (FIRST) Blue Ribbon Task Force Chairman, discussed the composition of the Task Force that was created in December 2007 by the Reno and Sparks City Councils. He said the Task Force came up with three preliminary options after listening to the local governmental entities regarding their perspectives on the issues and to experts on the subject. He said the options were brought forward to meet the timeline for bill draft requests (BDR’s) for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Mr. Sprinkle read the FIRST Blue Ribbon Task Force’s preliminary recommendations for Legislative action that were attached to the staff report. He indicated it was anticipated there would be two more meetings prior to the Task Force having its formal proposals ready to present to the two City Councils. He said the proposals would include possible legislative actions and some things the Task Force believed might be outside of the Legislature’s scope.

Mr. Sprinkle noted the public could go to firstrenosparks.com for additional information.

Commissioner Galloway discussed the proposals and asked if the proposals would just take money from one entity and shift it to other entities in various
proportions. Mr. Sprinkle acknowledged there were certain aspects where that was true, but he did not believe that all of the proposals amounted to that.

Commissioner Galloway asked if Mr. Sprinkle agreed that there were only two significant services, street maintenance and the Sheriff’s patrol, that the unincorporated area received that it did not pay for separately. Mr. Sprinkle said he did not necessarily agree with that because there were other shared services. Commissioner Galloway asked why there would be a need to do anything else if they were somehow funded separately. Mr. Sprinkle said he did not believe the Task Force was suggesting to the County or the City Councils how to go about spending their money.

Commissioner Galloway felt the source collection of sales tax was a step backwards in time because it led to sales tax wars all over California where one redevelopment agency subsidized projects to steal sales tax from another local entity. He said it happened mostly between cities and, if this was done, it would create a sales tax war between the cities of Reno and Sparks.

08-851 AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: “Update on the status of staff efforts, discussion and possible direction on efforts to pursue Regional Shared Services by the Regional Shared Services Team. (Regional Shared Services Team)”

Steve Driscoll, City of Sparks Assistant City Manager, said the Regional Shared Services Team presented its initial report at the May 12, 2008 joint meeting. He stated there were six functions that were identified for an initial survey, and the charter on May 12th was to look at collaborating on the increased demand for services without having the funds. He explained the staff report included a list of all the things being done collaboratively between the County and the two Cities with some being consolidated from the standpoint of one entity working on behalf of the others. He stated based on the meeting of May 12th, the discussion was expanded to include the Washoe County School District and those discussions were just getting started. He noted there was no underpinning obligation that any entity would be forced to do anything they did not voluntarily want to deal with even though the four entities were working together.

Mr. Driscoll highlighted what was being worked on within Fleet Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, Parks and Recreation, Purchasing, and Risk Management as documented in Pages 2-9 of the staff report.

Chairman Larkin said the Sheriff’s Office suggested the Board of County Commissioners look at leasing vehicles, and he asked if the Managers had considered doing that and was it being factored into the Fleet Management portion. Mr. Driscoll replied the entities acquired their rolling stock in different ways. The City of Sparks had been leasing its fire apparatus for almost a decade. He said a recent newspaper report indicated it was more cost effective for the City of Reno to acquire the rolling stock rather than lease because of the current financial situation. He said Fleet staff continued
to work with Finance when making major or periodic purchases and leasing versus acquisition was being factored in based on what the financing market looked like at the time.

Chairman Larkin noted lease/purchase options were available particularly for large equipment. He asked if the group could come back with some generalized standards that would provide some guidance to the four entities on those options and what role a centralized general services administration could play.

Chairman Larkin advised the County had not yet filled the Human Resources position, so he did not know what the recommendation would be. He said he was very supportive of moving forward with consolidating the Human Resources Departments in some capacity. He stated he would appreciate the subcommittee taking that to either each entity individually or to bring it back to the next joint meeting.

Chairman Larkin thanked the Managers and Assistant Managers for all of the work they put into this effort.

Mayor Cashell noted the Parks study was not a complete study of the whole Parks Department structure. He felt there should be a greater focus on Interlocal Agreements for Purchasing, Parks, Information Technology, and so on to eliminate duplication because, for example, one Purchasing Department should be able to handle the whole system. Mr. Driscoll said it was found, using Human Resources as an example, that the managers were working managers and collaborative efforts were being done to maximize and extend the capacities available today, which was why centralizing the management function was being examined. He acknowledged the Parks study was not comprehensive and the Team would decide what still needed to be looked at.

Mayor Cashell said he was not criticizing anyone because a great job was being done, but he felt in this economy the entities should consider not replacing someone who left, and bring the Department under one organization. He stated it had already been done and he felt Interlocal Agreements, merging or consolidation, would save a lot of money if everyone started doing things together. Mayor Martini commented the term being used was shared services.

Commissioner Weber asked if the Parks Departments had considered working with the School District regarding operation of their sports fields because there were people in many communities who would like to utilize those fields. She noted the County had a maintenance yard at the North Valleys Regional Park, and she felt the County should work with the School District and the City of Reno on park maintenance. She also asked if it had been considered using the Roads Department to remove snow on all of the roads in the area.

Commissioner Weber agreed with Mayor Cashell that it was a matter of urgency that every tax dollar needed to be used efficiently during these economic times.
She indicated everyone was doing a great job, but some things needed to move forward quickly.

Mr. Driscoll said there was a current Interlocal Agreement regarding snow removal. He stated during the October-November timeframe, the equipment would be examined and the maps would be updated so everything would be ready to be deployed. He noted there was a predetermined set of routes that had been in place for several years and which worked during the last big snow event in 2004/2005. He said the plan had been revamped twice since then and would be revamped each time there was a snow situation.

Mr. Driscoll stated regarding Commissioner Weber’s question on parks, he said there was an agreement between the City of Sparks and the Washoe County School District for the City of Sparks to provide the majority of the maintenance for the playing fields at the schools. He noted the Sparks Youth Sports Foundation was responsible for the scheduling of all playable fields, regardless of whether they were in the City, State or County facilities. He noted the City of Reno had a similar situation with the City having a centralized source for scheduling.

Mr. Driscoll advised that having single maintenance yards in the outlying areas was something that was being studied. He said he would bring that issue to the Public Works staff for a formal response.

Councilmember Hascheff noted the tasks in the staff report contained information regarding the status and the next step, but no timelines. He asked if staff was looking for direction regarding an Interlocal Agreement so the timelines and the critical paths could be brought back regarding the shared services that could be done in 2008, those that could be done in 2009, and so on. Mr. Driscoll responded the next step for staff would be to develop the action plans and to attach smart goals. He confirmed some areas might require Interlocal Agreements, and as those came up they would be worked as quickly as possible. He acknowledged that because of budget constraints, solutions need to be found now as to what would be sustainable and doable. He said it had been suggested that some type of narrative could be brought to the Commission, Councils, and Board individually without having to bring it to the joint meeting so everyone would be aware of what was being done in a timelier manner.

After further discussion, Mr. Driscoll confirmed there would be a shared services update at the next joint meeting.

Mayor Cashell said he hoped any Interlocal Agreements that could be done for shared services would be done before the next Legislative session because he felt there would be a mandate out of the Legislature that the local entities share services immediately or the Legislature would do it for the entities.
Jodi Royal-Goodwin, City of Reno Community Reinvestment Manager, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Homeless Summit held on July 22, 2008. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the County Clerk.

Trustee Pullman said she assumed that no Interlocal Agreement was needed for the School District to provide educational services to the children located in the Community Assistance Center (CAC) or referred to the CAC because of the Children in Transition program. Ms. Royal-Goodwin said it would not be necessary and the focus of the proposed Interlocal Agreement was the funding and the management of the contracts for operating the facilities.

Mayor Martini asked if staff needed any further direction. Ms. Royal-Goodwin replied not at this time.

Mayor Cashell asked about the status of the Interlocal Agreements for the Health Access Washoe County (HAWC) Outreach Clinic, the Clothes Closet, and so on so they could be moved into the CAC. Ms. Royal-Goodwin replied the Interlocal Agreements were on schedule. She said the Interlocal that authorized executing the leases for the tenants would be brought before the Reno City Council the week of September 10th and the subsequent week for the City of Sparks and the County.

Mayor Cashell commented why it took so long to establish a nonprofit. He said the HAWC clinic, the Clothes Closet, and ReStart services would be moved in and available by the shelter’s opening. He said it was hoped the Women’s and Family Shelter would be open, even partially, by October. He explained Charles McNeely, City of Reno Manager, introduced him to a gentleman who contributed $200,000 to go along with the $100,000 already available, which came close to making up the shortfall.

In response to the call for public comment, Michael Ford, Catholic Community Services of Northern Nevada Executive Director, said Catholic Community Services supported the recommendations presented today, and he urged action be taken today to adopt them.

Patrick O’Brien said as a Reno Police Officer he worked the streets and his office was at 315 Record Street. He stated a few years ago he got his name in the New Yorker Magazine because he figured out when the homeless population was not dealt with it cost a great deal of money, which was happening right now. He felt if there was not strong leadership and someone taking point, then everyone would have to continue to adapt and law enforcement would continue to be put into situations it should not be. He said law enforcement personnel being social workers was not a good situation for them or
the community. He asked the recommendations presented by Ms. Royal-Goodwin be backed.

Pam Becker agreed management of the CAC could be provided by a nonprofit agency, but there should be continuous involvement by the County and by the Cities of Reno and Sparks. She said she saw the CAC as being similar to other groups, such as the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitor’s Authority (RSCVA) and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), which affect the whole community. She noted all of these groups had other entities that ran them on a day-to-day basis, but they also had elected officials sitting on their Boards to provide oversight. She stated it was recognized during the Homeless Summit there was a need for a non-profit to run the CAC because it would be difficult, if not impossible, for local governments to write grants and accept donations. She noted two funds were set up with the Community Foundation that were dedicated to accepting funds for the homeless population and the activities of the CAC and she felt a better job should be done of telling the public about those funds being available.

Mayor Martini asked if action needed to be taken on this item. Melanie Foster, Legal Council for Washoe County, said the three entities needed to vote to take action on the recommended action in the staff report.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Dortch, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Sferrazza absent, Mayor Cashell ordered that the areas of consensus be accepted and the City of Reno serve as the lead for the CAC operation and oversight through an Interlocal Agreement that would expire on June 30, 2009.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Salerno, seconded by Councilmember Mayer, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Carrigan absent, Mayor Martini ordered that the areas of consensus be accepted and the City of Reno serve as the lead for the CAC operation and oversight through an Interlocal Agreement that would expire on June 30, 2009.

For the Washoe County Commission, on motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, Chairman Larkin ordered that the areas of consensus be accepted and the City of Reno serve as the lead for the CAC operation and oversight through an Interlocal Agreement that would expire on June 30, 2009.

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**Agenda Subject:** “Consideration and possible approval by each agency of the Bi-Annual Legislative Cooperation Memorandum and update of each Agency’s Legislative Program (Washoe County)”
Patricia Rogers, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency Government Relations-Community Outreach Representative, said the staff report included the Memorandum of Legislative Cooperation that was approved by the Regional Planning Governing Board on July 24, 2008. She noted the Memorandum had been in place for several years, but there was one text change requested by the Washoe County Health District, which was to change its name from Washoe County Health Department to the Washoe County Health District.

Ms. Rogers said the intent of the Memorandum was to provide cooperation and unity where possible and disclosure of opposing platforms and differences as soon as possible. She advised that staff and contract lobbyists meet frequently in informal meetings to do this.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Hascheff, seconded by Councilmember Zadra, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Sferrazza absent, Mayor Cashell ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Schmitt, seconded by Councilmember Salerno, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Carrigan absent, Mayor Martini ordered that ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved.

For the Washoe County Commission, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, Chairman Larkin ordered that ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved.

Trustee Price advised this Memorandum would be brought forward at the Washoe County School District’s Board of Trustees meeting on August 26, 2008.

Commissioner Weber noted the May 12th joint meeting minutes were not part of today’s meeting packet and it would be helpful to have the most current minutes available. Amy Harvey, County Clerk, said her staff did get behind due to the Board of Equalization meetings and the 1,700 appeals. She apologized and said she would try to make them available in a timelier fashion.
10:15 a.m. On motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Gustin, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

ROBERT M. LARKIN, Chairman
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. PATTERTON, Deputy
City Clerk, City of Sparks

ATTEST:

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

JONNIE PULLMAN, Clerk
Washoe County School District

Minutes Prepared by Jan Frazzetta,
Washoe County Deputy Clerk