

**CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

January 4, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: 4:32 P.M.

ROLL CALL: **COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor Michael L. Montandon
Mayor Pro Tempore William E. Robinson
Councilwoman Stephanie S. Smith
Councilman Shari Buck
Councilman Robert L. Eliason

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Gregory Rose
Assistant City Manager Sam Chambers
Acting City Attorney Carie Torrence
City Clerk Karen L. Storms
Fire Chief Al Gillespie
Information Technology Director Steve Chapin
Parks & Recreation Director Mike Henley
Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning Kenny Young
Public Works Director Jim Bell
Utilities Director David Bereskin
Chief Deputy City Clerk Anita Sheldon

VERIFICATION: Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk

BUSINESS:

1. **PRESENTATION BY PUBLIC WORKS AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES REGARDING THE BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM; DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING HOW TO PROCEED.**

City Manager Rose explained Staff was directed by Council to create a multi-faceted plan that would address the deficiencies in City services, specifically in the area of graffiti and street maintenance. This plan would consider the City's priorities which were Economic Development; Safe and Livable Community; Community Spirit, Relationships and Pride; and Quality Municipal Services.

City Manager Rose stated the issues addressed in the plan covered two areas, public and private properties, particularly the vacant lot problem. He displayed several pictures in neighborhoods where the foliage was overgrown, trash was piled up, shopping carts had accumulated and vehicles had been abandoned. City Manager Rose also showed pictures of undeveloped public rights-of-way that the City was responsible for maintaining, as well as pictures of Regional Flood Control facilities which were maintained by the City and paid for by the Regional Flood Control District.

City Manager Rose advised the goal of the Neighborhood Beautification Program was to develop a multi-faceted program that advanced the City's vision of the community image. The objectives to be met by the program were to improve the condition of the City's public rights-of-way, improve the condition of private property in violation of City codes and to propose the strengthening of City codes when needed.

In order to meet the objectives set for the program, it was recommended that four entry-level maintenance workers and two crew leaders be added to the staffing pattern for scheduled cleanups of public rights-of-way, streets and channels. City Manager Rose explained these six employees would work in conjunction with the Community Service Program created by Judge VanLandschoot for incarcerated misdemeanor inmates. The cost for the employees and equipment would be \$117,000 in Fiscal Year 2005-06 and \$326,000 in Fiscal Year 2006-07.

City Manager Rose also recommended the Community Action Response Team (CART) program be re-positioned to the Office/Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services. The CART program was originally created to respond to complaints from citizens in neighborhoods that required cleanup. When the complaints were received, work orders were generated and the CART employees responded to address the problem. It was recommended two entry-level community improvement workers be added to the staffing pattern, along with the required equipment and supplies at a cost of \$155,226 in Fiscal Year 2005-06 and \$155,520 in Fiscal Year 2006-07.

In response to a question by Councilman Buck, City Manager Rose explained the Beautification Program was controlled by two separate departments. The Public Works Department would be responsible for the public arterials and the major streets; the Housing and Neighborhood Services would be responsible for the individual neighborhoods.

City Manager Rose recommended the current shopping cart retrieval contract be evaluated to provide more incentives and supplement the current program with two part-time staff members. The cost for this program would be \$38,859 in Fiscal Year 2005-06 and \$28,153 in Fiscal Year 2006-07; however, \$25,000 of the initial cost would be for equipment. In response to a question by Councilman Eliason, Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning Kenny Young stated 1100 shopping carts had been recovered within the last ten months.

When asked by Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson what role Code Enforcement would play in the Beautification Program, City Manager Rose responded they would be responsible for enforcing compliance with the City's codes on private property.

In an attempt to improve private property in violation of City codes, City Manager Rose recommended the implementation of a tool-lending program to assist low-income, elderly and disabled residents to correct code violations through federal funding and community service workers. This program would cost approximately \$5000 per year in Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Non-profit organizations could also be utilized for this program.

City Manager Rose also recommended the City streamline the Code Enforcement process and pursue legislative changes, if necessary. He also suggested the development of a volunteer program and the creation of a Citizen Advisory Committee for Beautification, as well as a Neighborhood Outreach program to work with homeowners and associations to assist with cleanups and graffiti abatement.

City Manager Rose presented several pictures of graffiti throughout the City and encouraged expanded efforts on addressing the graffiti problem. He stated there were more incidents of graffiti than the current program could handle. City Manager Rose recommended the addition of four entry-level community improvement assistants, along with the appropriate equipment and supplies, at a cost of \$162,865 in Fiscal Year 2005-06 and \$263,450 in Fiscal Year 2006-07.

The total cost of the proposed Neighborhood Beautification Program amounted to \$481,450 in Fiscal Year 2005-06 and \$790,123 in Fiscal Year 2006-07. City Manager Rose stated the intent was to use contingency funds for Fiscal Year 2005-06 and program the funding for Fiscal Year 2006-07 into the 2006-07 budget.

In summary, City Manager Rose stated, if accepted, the proposed program would enable the City to advance its vision by providing a higher level of service in street maintenance, eliminating neighborhood blight, providing more timely graffiti removal and encouraging greater resident compliance.

In response to a question by Councilman Buck, City Manager Rose stated the existing contract for shopping cart retrieval would be evaluated and a report would be prepared for Council review.

Councilman Eliason stated he received complaints from residents that their neighbors were not being cited for the same violations they were cited for. He stressed that Code Enforcement had to be consistent and treat all residents equally. City Manager Rose advised Assistant City Manager Maryann Ustick would be working closely with Code Enforcement on this matter.

ACTION: STAFF DIRECTED TO MOVE FORWARD

MOTION: Councilwoman Smith

SECOND: Councilman Buck

AYES: Mayor Montandon, Council Members Smith, Buck and Eliason

NAYS: Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public participation.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:12 P.M.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

SECOND: Councilman Eliason

AYES: Mayor Montandon, Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson, Council Members Smith, Buck and Eliason

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED: March 1, 2006

Mayor Michael L. Montandon

ATTEST:

Karen L. Storms, CMC
City Clerk