



MINUTES

Special Meeting

Reno City Council

Monday, March 18, 2024 • 10:00 AM

Reno City Council Chamber, 1 East First Street, Reno, NV 89501

Hillary Schieve, Mayor

Council Members:

Ward 1 - Jenny Brekhus

Ward 2 - Naomi Duerr

Ward 3 - Miguel Martinez

Ward 4 - Meghan Ebert

Ward 5 - Kathleen Taylor

At Large - Devon Reese

A Introductory Items

A.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Kerrie Koski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A.2 Roll Call

Members	Present
Mayor Hillary Schieve, Councilmember Devon Reese, Councilmember Naomi Duerr, Councilmember Jenny Brekhus, Councilmember Kathleen Taylor, Councilmember Miguel Martinez, Councilmember Meghan Ebert	

Council Members Brekhus, Ebert, and Reese absent at roll call.

Mayor Schieve is present remotely.

A.3 Public Comment

A.3.1 Public Comment

Live
Ian
Jerry

Public

Comment:
Anderson
Wager

A.4 Approval of the Agenda (For Possible Action) – 18 March 2024

It was moved by Kathleen Taylor, seconded by Miguel Martinez, to approve.

RESULT:	Pass [4 TO 0]
MOVER:	Kathleen Taylor, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Miguel Martinez, Councilmember
AYES:	Schieve, Duerr, Taylor, Martinez
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	Devon Reese, Jenny Brekhuis, Meghan Ebert

A.5 Approval of the Minutes

B Consent Agenda (All consent items may be approved together with a single motion, be taken out of order, and/or be heard and discussed individually.)

C Public Hearings - 10:00 AM (Items scheduled to be heard at a specific time will be heard no earlier than the stated time, but may be heard later.)

D Department Items

Finance

D.1 ***SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS*** - Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential direction to staff regarding the fiscal year (FY) 2024/25 budget, fee schedule, and strategic priorities.

For the record we received 1 comment which was directly associated with the agenda item prior to 4:00 p.m. on March 17, 2024. The comment was voicemails and/or written correspondence received via our Reno.gov online public comment form or by email to our office. Copies of the comment have been distributed to the Reno City Council and are available to the public on the Reno.gov meeting portal.

0 in favor, 0 in opposition, 1 concerned from the following individual(s):
Michelle Hamilton

Vicki Van Buren, City of Reno Director of Finance, gave the presentation stopping to answer questions as needed.

COUNCIL	MEMBER	REESE	PRESENT	AT	10:35	AM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	EBERT	PRESENT	AT	10:45	AM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	TAYLOR	ABSENT	AT	11:46	AM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	TAYLOR	PRESENT	AT	11:48	AM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	REESE	ABSENT	AT	11:51	AM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	REESE	PRESENT	AT	11:55	AM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	MARTINEZ	ABSENT	AT	12:04	PM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	MARTINEZ	PRESENT	AT	12:07	PM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	REESE	ABSENT	AT	12:25	PM
COUNCIL	MEMBER	REESE	PRESENT	AT	12:32	PM

Ms. Van Buren answered general questions from Council throughout the presentation. Questions included the following topics: possible uses for the million dollar contingency; what the additional funding request for 56 million dollars would cover; opportunities to shift things around if revenues come in higher; explanation of over-hires; Moana pool revenue and expenses; CTAX projections; priorities used to prepare the budget; public safety center; PERS; fiscal analysis currently being done on revenue and resource allocations with partner agencies; expected property tax increase; funding for Parks Department maintenance; OPEB Trust funding; and the Building Enterprise Fund.

Chris Pingree, City of Reno Director of Development Services, answered questions related to the fee schedule, permit application and extension fees, and tracking expired permits.

Trina Magoon, City of Reno Director of Utility Services, answered questions related to hiring a consultant for the FEMA elevation certification review.

Alex Woodley, City of Reno Director of Parking and Code Enforcement, answered questions related to parking fines and the goal to be self-sustaining, penalties for empty properties, the process for property violations and plans for incentive programs, and the process for dealing with abandoned vehicles.

Lance Ferrato, City of Reno Director of Business License, answered questions related to special event fees and in-kind sponsorship.

Nathan Ullyot, City of Reno Director of Parks and Recreation, answered

questions related to the proposed sliding fee scale.

Kerrie Koski, City of Reno Director of Public Works, answered questions related to the individual residential parking signage fee.

Direction and/or Priorities:

Vice Mayor Duerr stated we need a clear idea of what positions are being added into the base budget. She discussed how she has seen that done at a state level previously and explained that personnel in the base budget is what we have today; then maintenance would include what it would take to keep doing what we're doing and new positions needed to maintain new things; and then enhancements would be what is needed for new projects and ideas. She asked that they be broken out as what we need to continue the projects that we have started so it is very transparent to people.

Council Member Reese stated the strategic plan identifies the things he is concerned about. He discussed his top three priorities being public safety, parks and pools, and a mix of other priorities shown in the strategic plan including things like affordable housing, homelessness, and economic opportunity. The first priority in this budget is to figure out how to add police officers into a community that has growing needs for greater police resources.

Vice Mayor Duerr stated she would like to understand better how much more income is coming in, even if it is matched to maintenance costs, to do what we're doing without adding any new programs or new things.

Council Member Taylor stated one of her priorities is how we support affordable housing. She wants to make sure it makes sense financially with regard to sewer credits.

Council Member Martinez requested a graphic with more detail on the the breakdown of Enterprise Funds similar to what is shown for the special revenue funds in the presentation.

Mayor Schieve requested analysis from staff of their fees so Council can review it and see if they are comparable to other jurisdictions.

Vice Mayor Duerr stated she is not okay with an automatic CPI increase of 3.6 percent on all the fees and fines and thinks Council should take a look at them annually.

Mayor Schieve requested staff bring a list of properties being fined for severe code violations so Council will know which ones are problematic and creating hazards.

Council Member Taylor discussed special event fees and stated she does not think it would be good to implement the fees and then waive them with a sponsorship.

Council Member Ebert requested another column be added to the Parks and Recreation proposed sliding fee scale to show what the costs would be in addition to the income levels that are shown.

RECESS AT 12:45 PM

RECONVENE AT 12:58 PM WITH MAYOR SCHIEVE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS MARTINEZ AND BREKHUS ABSENT

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ PRESENT AT 12:59 PM

Council Member Taylor discussed her priorities in the categories of now, near future, and far term. For the now category, the number one thing she hears is Code Enforcement and Parking. She is looking for the team to help Council figure out what or who is the best person or finance strategy to get there. Abandoned vehicles is the number one complaint. The second thing in the now category that she hears is regarding nuisance crimes related to the homeless and unsheltered. The RNCs are not being adhered to in our parks and on our streets and it is causing a great deal of concern for the community. When people call in they have to go to the non-emergency number and there is not enforcement in that space. She would love to see if we can allocate some resources to getting that taken care of. The third thing in the now category is the need for something to deal with the noise and loitering going on downtown at night on the streets. In the near future category, she has heard from constituents about the need to get the Reno Arch lit in a sustainable way. In the far term category, the City Center is a huge blight downtown. She does not know what the city can do as far as helping that project move along but if we can do screening or something to deter from the shape that is in until it gets rebuilt that would be a win. Another thing in the far term category is looking toward the goal of fiscal sustainability. She would like to see CTAX and property tax, just something to make sure that the City of Reno is getting paid for the services that they provide. And then the sewer fund. She loves the affordability we have in the sewer fund for sewer tax credits. She does not know if that is something we will be able to sustain in the future but is very interested in learning about that because that is the number three thing she hears from constituents is affordability and that is something we can help with at our level.

Council Member Martinez agreed with the priorities discussed by Council Member Taylor related to fiscal sustainability and investing in code enforcement. He also agreed with Council Member Reese's comments regarding

the need for investments into our parks and open space for our community. He expressed support to staff for the forward thinking investments being proposed to be able to benefit from paying off some of our debt. Economic opportunities for our community is something he wants to prioritize during this budget season.

Council Member Reese reiterated his priorities stating that one is public safety. He is interested in looking at the ways in which we can bring public safety into each of the wards in the city. The second thing is our parks and recreation services, parks and pools. We have been doing the best job we can with the budget we have and long term we need to find a more sustainable path because the number one concern he hears is about making sure we have access to great parks and recreational facilities. The last thing is the grab bag of all the priorities for things like the Lear Theater and things that happen to engage downtown revitalization efforts. A lot of the budget is our people and he wants to make sure we are prioritizing our employees and meeting their needs and continue to grow appropriately as we can.

Council Member Ebert agreed that public safety is a very important priority but she realizes this is one-time funds so it might not be enough to add another unit to the police force and there is no guarantee we would have these funds in the future. We have a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan we adopted that we could use some of these funds for. It would be a great use of the funds to help with our Parks and Recreation Department. She also thinks it might be wise and a great benefit to the city to use some of the funds to fund the OPEB Trust account to speed up fully funding that account. Funding the fire station would also be a great idea and a wise use of funds.

Vice Mayor Duerr asked staff to set up a meeting with Mayor Schieve to get her input on budget priorities as well.

Vice Mayor Duerr stated she is also focused on public safety. Things she is thinking about are not necessarily more police but tools that will help them do better policing. She discussed examples of situations where the issue was not a lack of staff but a lack of data management that would help in deploying resources. Police Chief Nance is already on this path but she wants to support her in this. Number two in the public safety arena is a public safety project in south Reno to fence horses from people so we have fewer car crashes. She wants to make sure that if we don't have enough ARPA money for the fencing that we consider putting that in the capital program to complete the project. She is also very focused on parks and wants to make sure we have a capital program to patch the paths. She discussed the need for a parks planner. The PROS plan laid out a lot of issues related to maintenance and we need to make sure we figure out how we will continue to keep our parks up. As part of the parks, she would like to bring the trees in for a landing this year. Whether that is the tree ordinance, tree fines, or proper tree appraisals we need to take a

next step. And finally, code enforcement. This is the year to make a step with parking enforcement, revising our towing process, and making our fines stick. She discussed the need to look at our hearing officer and code enforcement processes.

Council Member Reese stated OPEB is a very complex, difficult concept and suggested that we bring in some expertise from outside to help us understand the way in which actuarial data comes to bear and how we pay down that liability. It would be worth having a discussion at a higher level to help everyone understand what that liability is and if we are on the right track.

Council Member Martinez stated when it comes to the individual residential parking signage fee, he understands the need to cover our costs but if there is a way to do a step up to the \$350.00 fee, that would help him to better support that.

Vice Mayor Duerr discussed the need to make some investment in moving our fire headquarters forward. She also discussed the need to put the sustainability plan into action.

Council Member Ebert discussed the need for infrastructure in Ward 4 that would support increasing the tree canopy that is needed there.

Vice Mayor Duerr confirmed for Ms. Van Buren that there is general Council support for removing the RMC fees and putting them on the fee schedule.

E Ordinances - Introduction (Other Ordinance, Introduction items may be found under the following agenda sections: Public Hearings, and/or Standard Department Items.)

F Ordinances - Adoption

G City Clerk

H Mayor and Council

H.1 City Council Comments, including announcements regarding City boards and commissions, activities of local charitable organizations and upcoming local community events. (Non-Action Item)

None

I Public Hearings - 6:00 PM (Items scheduled to be heard at a specific time will be heard no earlier than the stated time, but may be heard later.)

J Public Comment (This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.)

J.1 Public Comment

None

K Adjournment (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Devon Reese, seconded by Miguel Martinez, to adjourn at 1:26 p.m.

RESULT:	Pass [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Devon Reese, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Miguel Martinez, Councilmember
AYES:	Reese, Duerr, Taylor, Martinez, Ebert
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	Hillary Schieve, Jenny Brekhus