



# MINUTES

## Special Concurrent Meeting

### Reno City Council

**Thursday, February 06, 2025 • 8:00 AM**

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

**Hillary Schieve, Mayor**

**Council Members:**

**Ward 1 - Kathleen Taylor      Ward 4 - Meghan Ebert**

**Ward 2 - Naomi Duerr      Ward 5 - Devon Reese**

**Ward 3 - Miguel Martinez      Ward 6 - Brandi Anderson**

#### **A      Introductory Items**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM.

##### **A.1      Pledge of Allegiance**

Senator Daly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### **A.2      Roll Call**

###### **Members Present**

Mayor Hillary Schieve, Councilmember Devon Reese, Councilmember Naomi Duerr, Councilmember Kathleen Taylor, Councilmember Miguel Martinez, Councilmember Meghan Ebert, Councilmember Brandi Anderson

Council Member Reese absent.

##### **A.3      Public Comment**

###### **A.3.1      Public Comment (This item is for public comment on any action item)**

Mark Neumann  
Hannah Hoobyar  
Olivia Tanager  
Cathy Fulkerson  
William Steward

Senator Daly discussed the bill draft request process. He put in a bill draft request to start the

regionalization process and will add details to that from today's discussion.

#### **A.4 Approval of the Agenda (For Possible Action) – 06 February 2025**

It was moved by Naomi Duerr, seconded by Kathleen Taylor, to approve.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Pass [6 TO 0]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Schieve, Duerr, Taylor, Martinez, Ebert, Anderson
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Devon Reese
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
<b>RECUSED:</b>	

#### **B Business Items**

##### **County/City Manager & Fire Chief's Offices**

- B.1 ***SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS*** - Presentation and discussion on the collaborative regional emergency management process, including strategic goals, community lifelines, and updates on ongoing efforts related to emergency preparedness and response plans. (For Discussion Only)

Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Management Administrator, gave a presentation on regional emergency management.

Andy Ancho, City of Reno Fire Department Emergency Operations Division Chief, answered questions from Council Member Duerr regarding evacuation planning.

Ms. Echeverria answered questions from Council Member Duerr regarding evacuation planning and noted the need for connectivity related to ingress and egress. She also answered questions about the alert system.

Ms. Echeverria confirmed for Council Member Ebert the areas that will be included in the evacuation study.

Ms. Echeverria confirmed for Mayor Schieve that they do have an evacuation plan but it needs to be updated and the study is needed to be able to do that at the best level possible.

Mayor Schieve stated she would like to see after action report.

Ms. Echeverria confirmed for Council Member Taylor that they do work with their partners in areas that have been affected by fires to hear about specific challenges and tailor mitigation activities for our community.

Mr. Ancho added that their training efforts include scenarios from significant

events in other areas across the nation.

Council Member Anderson asked how they can help to be more prepared for the coming fire season.

Ms. Echeverria discussed the importance and value of the resources they ask for.

Mr. Ancho discussed the need for more training and participation of elected officials in training that includes information on the role of emergency management during a major disaster.

- B.2 ***SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS*** - Discussion and potential direction to staff regarding current and future regional fire efforts. Potential direction includes but is not limited to pursuit of interlocal agreements or other consolidation plans among the cities and county and other participating entities, support of pertinent consolidation legislation during the 2025 legislative session, review of funding sources and impacts to levels of service, and development of a consolidation study to fully assess needs and costs. (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Hillary Schieve, seconded by Naomi Duerr, to include emergency management in the City Council agendas moving forward, implement unrestricted automatic aid when the shared system is available, and direct the City Managers, County Manager, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection Chief, Reno Fire Chief, and Spark Fire Chief to work together to gather additional information to assess needs, costs, and impacts to help guide the process of determining options for enhanced regional fire options.

<b>RESULT:</b>	Pass [6 TO 0]
<b>AYES:</b>	Schieve, Duerr, Taylor, Martinez, Ebert, Anderson
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Devon Reese
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
<b>RECUSED:</b>	

Dale Way, Truckee Meadows Interim Fire Chief, gave a presentation on regional fire efforts. He recommended that we explore and implement all cooperative efforts available to us, starting with full unrestricted automatic aid and changing the operational policies of the organizations that have previously prevented this cooperation.

Walter White, City of Sparks Fire Chief, gave a presentation on regional successes. He advocated for exploring every opportunity, whether it is public/public partnerships or public/private partnerships, to provide the highest level of service possible in our region.

Dave Cochran, City of Reno Fire Chief, gave a presentation on future regional

opportunities. He discussed the need for shared dispatch, policies, agreement and resources to deliver the most effective service to everybody in the region.

Public Comment:

Barry Duplantis

Monty Turner

Council Member Duerr expressed concern regarding recommendations and policy-level direction that have been given based on past studies that have not been implemented. She asked for clarification on the difference between unrestricted automatic aid and automatic aid.

Chief Way explained that the current automatic aid agreement with the City of Reno is for very specific areas. Unrestricted automatic aid would be across all boundaries.

Council Member Duerr stated she thought that when they asked for automatic aid that it would be wide ranging. She expressed support for whatever they can do to fix these issues, and to get it done expeditiously.

Council Member Ebert agreed that the automatic aid should be unrestricted.

Chief Cochran answered questions from Council Member Ebert regarding the 2019 study that was done.

Council Member Taylor stated she read the 2014 Blue Ribbon Committee report that says the biggest obstacle to this challenge was turf, power and politics. She stated that the political barriers have been eliminated by everyone being here today and we can move on to what is next. What she heard from the Fire Chiefs today is the need for unrestricted mutual aid, regionalization is responsible and the right thing to do, and we are always looking to what we can do better. She also stated that from her perspective we can work together, gather additional information for enhanced regional fire options, and in that will come the unrestricted mutual aid and regionalization.

Council Member Martinez stated he is looking forward to working together as a region to make sure we are improving our response times and to make sure we are prepared to protect urban wildlife interface sections of our region.

Council Member Anderson discussed how the fire family takes care of each other regardless of political issues. She expressed confidence in the ability to resolve the issues that need to be addressed.

Council Member Duerr discussed the opportunity to look at using the new Public Safety Center for a dispatch center.

Council Member Ebert expressed support for having one dispatch and unrestricted mutual aid. She discussed the importance of coming up with

something that will be successful and not rushing it because of the limited time left in the legislative session. She expressed concern regarding comments made about the need for more funding and stated if the plan will increase efficiency it should save money and not require additional fees or taxes to fund it.

Council Member Duerr discussed some of the details that should be included in an agreement and the need to think about appropriate representation.

Council Member Taylor stated there were two major natural disasters that got us here today and that shouldn't have to happen. While we are here and have the resources, go explore what the regional model looks like and bring it back for us to take a look at it.

Mayor Schieve discussed the need for TMWA and NV Energy to be part of this conversation as critical partners.

Mayor Schieve suggested additions to the proposed motion provided in the presentation. She wants to include that emergency management be embedded in the City Council agendas moving forward. She also wants to implement unrestricted automatic aid from the City of Reno.

Council Member Anderson stated she wants to know what implementing unrestricted automatic aid looks like and what the impacts would be to the City of Reno before voting on the motion.

Mayor Schieve stated she wants to follow exactly what the City of Sparks and Truckee Meadows currently do.

Chief White stated in order to have unrestricted automatic aid you have to be on the same system.

Mayor Schieve stated we feel strongly about providing the best possible service and she asked Chief Cochran to comment.

Chief Cochran explained that there is not currently unrestricted automatic aid in Sparks and Truckee Meadows because of the need for a shared system, which is the same challenge we have.

Council Member Duerr clarified the intent was to move to the shared system when it is available.

## **C Commissioner, Council Member, and Manager/Chief**

- C.1 Commissioner, Council Member, and Manager/Chief announcements, reports, and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas. (For Discussion Only)

Council Members Duerr and Ebert discussed the need to reconvene to hear the information that will be compiled and work through any issues in getting on a shared system.

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

**D.1    Public Comment**

Mark Neumann  
Shirley Folkins-Roberts

**E      Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.