



# MINUTES

## Special Meeting

### Reno City Council

**Wednesday, March 05, 2025 • 10:00 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**

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

Council Member Martinez 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 Members Duerr and Ebert absent at roll call. Mayor Schieve present remotely.

##### **A.3      Public Comment**

###### **A.3.1      Public Comment**

**COUNCIL MEMBER EBERT PRESENT REMOTELY AT 10:02 AM**

Live Public Comment:

Terry Brooks

Steven White

Dee Ann Radcliffe

For the record we received 6 comments which were general in nature or not directly associated with an agenda item prior to 4:00 p.m. on March 4, 2025. These comments were written correspondence received

via our Reno.gov online public comment form or by email to our office. Copies of these comments have been distributed to the Reno City Council and are available to the public on the Reno.gov meeting portal.

1 in favor, 0 in opposition, 5 concerned from the following individual(s):

Kurt Thigpen  
Dave Palmer  
Cindi Chandler  
Laurel Lindstrom  
Brian Erbis M.A. CFE  
Suzanne Sprague

#### **A.4 Approval of the Agenda (For Possible Action) – 05 March 2025**

It was moved by Devon Reese, seconded by Miguel Martinez, to approve.

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

THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AFTER THIS ITEM.

### **B Department Items**

#### **Finance**

- B.1 ***SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS*** - Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the FY 2025/26 budget; the fee schedule; and strategic priorities.

THIS ITEM WAS HEARD AFTER THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM A.4.

Vicki Van Buren, City of Reno Director of Finance, gave a presentation on the FY26 budget.

Ms. Van Buren confirmed for Council Member Reese that they have provided monthly budget updates to Council Members since December because they recognized that this is not a typical year due to changes in revenues in the region.

Ms. Van Buren confirmed for Council Member Ebert that expenditures are under budget because of the cost saving measures that have been undertaken for this current year. She also answered questions related to having a budget

deficit while expenditures are under budget.

Ms. Van Buren explained for Council Member Ebert how the compounding effect of revenue loss contributes to the inability to bring police and fire staffing back up to where it was in 2008.

Ms. Van Buren confirmed for Council Member Anderson that franchise fees normally go up two to three percent and we are now seeing it decline. She explained that the climate and changes in usage contribute to that.

Ms. Van Buren confirmed for Vice Mayor Taylor that we have not seen what is going on now with the economy before. While it is not falling into a recess, there is also no revenue growth and we don't know how long that will last.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUERR PRESENT REMOTELY AT 10:45 AM

Mayor Schieve suggested having an outside, independent audit done if we are having to make adjustments in the largest areas where we are spending.

Ms. Van Buren answered questions from Council Member Ebert regarding franchise fees and explained there is a statutory limit on them of five percent.

Ashley Turney, City of Reno Assistant City Attorney, explained for Council Member Reese that they cannot supplant the general fund by using RDA funds.

COUNCIL MEMBER REESE ABSENT AT 11:10 AM

City Manager Bryant explained for Council Member Martinez that they are not sure how or why other jurisdictions are able to have higher ratios of employees per 1,000 residents than Reno does. They are having some of the same challenges and we will see if those ratios change next year.

Ms. Van Buren confirmed for Council Member Martinez that they have gone through a whole process this year of reviewing current positions to see if any can be moved to different fund sources.

Vice Mayor Taylor discussed how Reno does prioritize safety and noted that it is coming from a fund that isn't growing.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ ABSENT AT 11:15 AM

Ms. Van Buren confirmed for Council Member Ebert that they are meeting with other jurisdictions on a lot of different levels. They have always done that but even more now because they are all trying to find solutions to the economy issues.

COUNCIL MEMBER REESE PRESENT AT 11:17 AM

Jonathan Shipman, City of Reno Assistant City Attorney, explained for Council Member Ebert that they are maxed out on all potential revenues from franchise fees.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ PRESENT AND COUNCIL MEMBER EBERT PRESENT IN CHAMBERS AT 11:23 AM

Ms. Van Buren answered questions from Council Member Ebert regarding what falls into the category for eliminating annual capital funds. She explained in that category they all have sufficient funds carried over to cover next year and that elimination of funds is not a long-term solution.

Ms. Van Buren answered questions from Council Member Ebert regarding OPEB.

COUNCIL MEMBER ANDERSON ABSENT AT 11:58 AM

COUNCIL MEMBER ANDERSON PRESENT AT 12:01 PM

City Manager Bryant discussed how this recommended budget was built and why certain reductions were included. The goal from the beginning has been to keep people employed.

Council Member Duerr suggested if positions need to be frozen, that they be kept in the inventory unfunded so that they can be brought back later without having to re-justify them. She wants to give the City Manager flexibility when looking at options. She supports reducing City Council discretionary funds as well as memberships. She discussed the need to look at programs that are being cut at the federal level. She also suggested accelerating the parking study noting that parking enforcement could be a revenue source.

Council Member Reese agreed the City Manager should have a high degree of discretion when looking at options. He is reluctant to say that everything can be done on the backs of salaries and benefits and expressed support for reducing memberships and City Council discretionary funds.

Vice Mayor Taylor stated that public safety is her number one priority and she expressed support for reducing Council discretionary funds. She suggested looking into where they can become more efficient with boards and commissions.

Council Member Duerr expressed support for prioritizing public safety. She discussed the importance of maintaining dialogue with the public through the NABs. That feedback is important to staff and the Planning Commission in evaluating projects.

Council Member Ebert discussed the importance of keeping IT funded. She asked if they can get a comparison of the average City of Reno salary versus

that of surrounding regions and stated it will be helpful in the eyes of the public to show where we stand and help with the perception that we are spending too much on salaries.

Ms. Van Buren explained for Council Member Ebert that we currently get marijuana revenue at three percent of gross and they are looking at some avenues to do auditing of those fees.

Council Member Reese agreed in principal that the boards and commissions are important but if it is a choice between laying off police officers or holding all of the various boards and commissions, he would support keeping public safety officers employed.

Council Member Duerr clarified that she is open to taking a hard look at the boards and commissions. The concern is that a lot of projects will go right to the Planning Commission without any input from the NAB if those meetings are cut back.

COUNCIL MEMBER REESE ABSENT AT 12:33 PM

Mayor Schieve agreed it is important to get that feedback from the NABs and it does build community. She suggested looking into technology tools available that could reduce staff time needed for those meetings.

Mayor Schieve discussed a few properties that are very challenging like the Ballroom, Event Center, and Bowling Stadium and suggested exploring whether there is any appetite for selling them.

Council Member Duerr expressed support for Mayor Schieve's comments and suggested it may be time to lean on those public/private partnerships.

MAYOR SCHIEVE ABSENT AT 12:49 PM

COUNCIL MEMBER ANDERSON ABSENT AT 12:53 PM

COUNCIL MEMBER REESE PRESENT AT 12:53 PM

VICE MAYOR TAYLOR ABSENT AT 12:53 PM

VICE MAYOR TAYLOR PRESENT AT 12:57 PM

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ ABSENT AT 12:58 PM

COUNCIL MEMBER ANDERSON PRESENT AT 1:05 PM

Lynsey Hatfield, City of Reno Finance Department Budget Manager, gave a presentation on the fee schedule overview and answered questions from Council.

Council Member Reese stated he is hesitant about the proposed fee increase for

sealing records and will need to think about it a little more.

Khalil Wilson, City of Reno Public Works Assistant Director, gave a presentation on the purpose of the National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System fee and answered questions from Council.

IT WAS MOVED BY VICE MAYOR TAYLOR, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER REESE, TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER REESE AS INTERIM PRESIDING OFFICER WHEN VICE MAYOR TAYLOR STEPS OUT. MOTION CARRIED.

VICE MAYOR TAYLOR ABSENT AT 1:24 PM

Nathan Ulliot, City of Reno Parks and Recreation Director, gave a presentation on the Parks fee proposed changes and answered questions from Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ PRESENT AT 1:33 PM

VICE MAYOR TAYLOR PRESENT AT 1:34 PM

Chris Pingree, City of Reno Development Services Director, gave a presentation on Building Enterprise Fund Permit fee proposed changes and answered questions from Council.

Council Member Ebert expressed concern regarding raising the fee for filing appeals and discussed the need to keep it attainable and as affordable as possible for everyone in the community.

Council Member Reese asked about outreach and discussed the need to be open and transparent about fee increases.

Mr. Pingree explained for Council Member Reese that after they receive feedback from Council on this fee schedule proposal they will take it out to the Builders Association group and those folks.

COUNCIL MEMBER EBERT ABSENT AT 1:46 PM

Council Member Duerr stated last year they agreed to double the appeal fee from \$50 to \$100 and they discussed leaving it there for about five years. She discussed the importance of maintaining access to our government at a low price and stated she would not support increasing it after it was doubled last year. She also suggested evaluating whether they should add a fee for short term right-of-way permits.

Vice Mayor Taylor expressed support for the appeal fee increase and stated it is about recouping the cost of doing business, especially with a budget deficit and knowing other jurisdictions are charging more than Reno.

COUNCIL MEMBER EBERT PRESENT AT 1:53 PM

Council Member Anderson expressed support for recouping the cost of doing business.

Council Member Ebert stated they are not a business, they are a municipality and they offer services to people that everyone should have equal access to. Paying for permits is the cost of doing business and that is different than due process.

Mr. Pingree discussed the work that has done over the past three years to build the best planning team in Northern Nevada. The process that is in place gives everyone an avenue to submit public comments and staff works for months to make sure issues and concerns are mitigated during that process before an application goes to a NAB or the Planning Commission.

Council Member Ebert clarified that she knows staff does a great job and that this is just about accessibility.

Mr. Pingree reiterated the process that is in place that allows opportunity for public input.

Council Member Duerr agreed the concern is not about staff not doing a great job and she shared an example of a project where an appellant is working with a developer to address concerns and that happened because there was an appeal.

Council Member Martinez discussed the need to collect as much public input as possible. He expressed support for the fee increase, noting that even with the increase the full cost for processing an appeal would not be recouped.

Ms. Van Buren concluded the presentation and reviewed next steps.

AGENDA ITEM B.1 OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING WAS HEARD AFTER THIS ITEM.

It was moved by Devon Reese, seconded by Brandi Anderson, to direct staff to move forward with the development of the FY26 budget and fee schedule based on feedback from Council.

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

**C Mayor and Council**

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

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

**D.1 Public Comment**

THIS ITEM WAS HEARD AFTER THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

For the record we received 1 comment which was general in nature or not directly associated with an agenda item after 4:00 p.m. on March 4, 2025. These comment(s) were written correspondence received via our Reno.gov online public comment form or by email to our office. Copies of these comment(s) 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):  
Beth Dory

**E Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

It was moved by Miguel Martinez, seconded by Brandi Anderson, to adjourn at 2:43 p.m.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Pass [5 TO 0]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Duerr, Taylor, Martinez, Ebert, Anderson
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Hillary Schieve, Devon Reese
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
<b>RECUSED:</b>	