



MINUTES
Special Meeting
Reno City Council

Wednesday, May 01, 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 4 - Meghan Ebert
Ward 2 - Naomi Duerr Ward 5 - Kathleen Taylor
Ward 3 - Miguel Martinez 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 Member Ebert absent at roll call.

A.3 Public Comment

A.3.1 Public Comment

Live Public Comment:

Ryan Goldhammer

A.4 Approval of the Agenda (For Possible Action) – 01 May 2024

It was moved by Devon Reese, seconded by Kathleen Taylor, to approve.

RESULT: Pass [6 TO 0]

MOVER:	Devon Reese, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Kathleen Taylor, Councilmember
AYES:	Schieve, Reese, Duerr, Brekhus, Taylor, Martinez
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	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.

Vice Mayor Duerr made the following disclosure:

Item D involves review and comment on the fee schedule for the City of Reno for Fiscal Year 2024/25 including business license fees. In my private life I own two businesses licensed in the City of Reno, Desert Pacific Exploration and MinQuest Ltd. The proposed fee increases on both businesses are minimal, not significant, and will not financially impact my businesses in any material way. On this matter I have sought guidance from the City Attorney's office and pursuant to NRS 281a.420(4)(a), the law presumes that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the public officer's situation would not be materially affected by the public officer's commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to the other person is not greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, occupation, or group that is affected by the matter. While I have a significant pecuniary interest in my own business, the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to me will not be greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, or occupation. The fact that I am a business owner will not impact my ability to impartially review and render a decision on this particular agenda item.

Mayor Schieve made the following disclosure:

Item D involves review and comment on the fee schedule for the City of Reno for Fiscal Year 2024/25 including business license fees. In my private life I own businesses. The nature of my businesses require that I obtain a City of Reno privilege business license. The proposed fee increases on are minimal, not significant, and will not financially impact my businesses in any material way. On this matter I have sought guidance from the City Attorney's office and pursuant to NRS 281a.420(4)(a), the law presumes that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the public officer's situation would not be materially affected by the public officer's commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to the other person is not greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, occupation, or group that is affected by the matter. While I have a significant pecuniary interest in my business, the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to me will not be greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, or occupation within the city. The fact that I am a business owner will not impact my ability to impartially review and render a decision on this particular agenda item.

Council Member Reese made the following disclosure:

Item D.1 involves discussion and potential direction for staff regarding the Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget, fee schedule, and strategic priorities for the City of Reno including business license fees. In my private life I am a partner at the law firm of Reese Ring Velto. Any proposed fee increases are minimal, not significant, and will not financially impact me or Reese Ring Velto in any material way. In addition, Reese Ring Velto represents the Reno Police Protective Association (RPPA) on legal matters. On this matter I have sought guidance from the City Attorney's office with regard to the license and business fees pursuant to NRS 281a.420(4)(a), the law presumes that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the public officer's situation would not be materially affected by the public officer's commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to the other person is not greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, occupation, or group that is affected by the matter. While I have a significant pecuniary interest in my employment with Reese Ring Velto, the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to me will not be greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, or occupation within the city. The fact that I am a partner will not impact my ability to impartially review and render a decision on this particular agenda item. With regard to the RPPA pursuant to NRS 281a.065(4)(5), I have a commitment in a private capacity to a law firm as my employer and the

RPPA based on the law firm's continuing business relationship with the RPPA. I also have a pecuniary interest in the client fees the RPPA pays the law firm. Consequently, the independence of judgment of a reasonable person may in this situation be materially affected and in taking action and voting on those items related to the RPPA. In order to avoid conflicts of interest and any appearance of impropriety, and in complying with the ethics law, I would ask staff not to solicit my direction on budget matters involving the RPPA. Going forward please let me know when you will be discussing RPPA matters specifically and I will leave the room for the duration of that conversation.

Council Member Taylor made the following disclosure:

Item D.1 involves adoption of the fee schedule for the City of Reno for Fiscal Year 2024/25 including business license fees. In my private life I own Taylor Made Solutions. The proposed fee increases are minimal, not significant, and will not financially impact my business in any material way. On this matter I have sought guidance from the City Attorney's office and the law presumes that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the public officer's situation would not be materially affected by the public officer's commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to the other person is not greater than that accruing to any other member of a general business, profession, occupation, or group that is affected by the matter. While I have a significant pecuniary interest in my business, the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to me will not be greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, or occupation within the city. The fact that I am a business owner will not impact my ability to impartially review and render a decision on this particular agenda item.

Council Member Brekhus made the following disclosure:

Item D involves adoption of the fee schedule for the City of Reno for Fiscal Year 2024/25 including business license fees. In my private life I am a partner of LMAJ LLC which is a real estate partnership for 316 and 318 Vassar Street. The proposed fee increases are minimal, not significant, and will not financially impact my business in any material way. On this matter I have sought guidance from the City Attorney's office and pursuant to NRS 281a.420(4)(a), the law presumes that the independence of judgment of a reasonable person in the public officer's situation would not be materially affected by the public officer's commitment in a private capacity to the interest of another where the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to the other person is not greater

than that accruing to any other member of a general business, profession, occupation, or group that is affected by the matter. While I have a significant pecuniary interest in my business, the resulting benefit or detriment accruing to me will not be greater than that accruing to any other member of any general business, profession, or occupation within the city. The fact that I am a business owner will not impact my ability to impartially review and render a decision on this particular agenda item.

Vice Mayor Duerr reminded Council that they will not be taking action on this item today but will express opinions on the information presented.

Vicki Van Buren, City of Reno Director of Finance, gave the workshop presentation.

COUNCIL MEMBER EBERT PRESENT REMOTELY AT 10:25 AM
COUNCIL MEMBER EBERT ABSENT AT 10:50 AM
COUNCIL MEMBER EBERT PRESENT AT 11:52 AM
COUNCIL MEMBERS BREKHUS AND EBERT ABSENT AT 12:00 PM
COUNCIL MEMBER BREKHUS PRESENT AT 12:14 PM

Ms. Van Buren answered questions from Council.

Vice Mayor Duerr mentioned three things on the one time funding list including Reno Works, E-Waste, and Horse Fencing. These are time sensitive and involve smaller dollar amounts and she would love to be able to move forward with them, and possibly others, while waiting for the bigger picture on how much funding will be available.

Ms. Van Buren suggested Council could consider using contingency money that is available now for some of those. Staff would bring that back with the fourth quarter augmentation if that is Council's direction.

Council Member Reese discussed public comments on how are we going to pay for downtown beautification efforts like flags on light poles and lights during the holidays. He wants to make sure that if Council has prioritized those things, we don't put cost recovery dollar for dollar on the small business community. Council needs to support those revitalization efforts in the downtown area.

Reno Police Chief Nance answered questions from Council and confirmed that the dedicated walking teams for downtown came from the appointed positions they got last year and will be starting in the summer.

Ms. Van Buren answered questions from Council regarding RDA code enforcement and OPEB funding.

Kerrie Koski, City of Reno Director of Public Works, answered questions from Council regarding pedestrian safety.

Council Member Martinez provided feedback that he agrees the costs for street banners and poles should not be passed on to the merchant associations.

Council Member Brekhus asked staffing questions and stated she will not support a budget that does not build OPEB. She would put two million in that before new positions.

Mayor Schieve discussed the need for a part-time position or some allocation dedicated strictly to cold cases.

Chief Nance explained they have some retirees working on cold cases part-time but do not have a dedicated cold case investigator. That is partly because of the 13 vacant investigator positions in the department.

Vice Mayor Duerr agreed it is important to focus on cold cases and suggested that staff look into the possibility of using some contingency funds to get started on that. She also provided feedback on three sustainability items she would like to see move up on the list. Those include \$100,000 for tree maintenance, recovery of the lost tree inspector position, and work on EV charging.

Council Member Reese noted the OPEB is a complicated issue and proposed a stand-alone briefing on OPEB. He stated that he will not support a budget this year that funds OPEB and explained his position on that. He also stated he does not believe we are getting any benefit out of the Nevada League of Cities and would rather take that money and fund some of the priorities the Vice Mayor has talked about. He provided feedback in support of RISE and Karma Box and wants to make sure we have a long and sustainable path to support those two organizations. Other priorities are improving access to e-waste disposal, river walk improvements, and a consultant to help analyze consolidation of fire.

Nathan Ullyot, City of Reno Director of Parks and Recreation, answered questions from Council regarding River Rangers and confirmed that the addition would allow for seven day coverage of the river.

Alex Woodley, City of Reno Director of Code Enforcement, answered questions from Council and confirmed that with additional resources they would have the ability to shift duties and assignments accordingly, and they know downtown is an area where they need more code enforcement and they will be looking at that.

Elaine Wiseman, City of Reno Housing Manager, answered questions from Council and confirmed that the position for neighborhood and housing development would be specifically to organize, facilitate and run the cleanups.

Council Member Taylor stated she is not supportive of any one time funding for positions because they wouldn't be able to sustain those. Vice Mayor Duerr clarified that her request for a Tree Inspector would not come from one time funding but would be added to the budget.

Vice Mayor Duerr and Council Member Martinez expressed support for the e-waste priority.

Chris Pinegree, City of Reno Development Services Director, answered questions from Council regarding amendment fees.

Ms. Van Buren answered questions from Council regarding the contingency funds priority setting process.

Council Member Brekhus provided feedback and asked someone to fact check whether they can be a member of the National League of Cities without being a member of the Nevada League of Cities. She stated she looks at the contingency as roll-over money, not one time funding money.

Chief Nance answered questions from Council regarding plans to work toward a forensics lab and the status of recruiting efforts.

Council Member Brekhus requested a list of all budgeted but vacant positions and the status on those, as well as information on all contracts the Police Department has.

Mayor Schieve provided feedback advocating for more river rangers to be provided by the RTC and RSCVA in addition to the two coming from Flood Management Authority and those coming from Reno.

Live Public Comment:

Jenes Carter
Jaime Chapman
Britton Griffin (via Zoom)

For the record we received 2 comments which were directly associated with the agenda item prior to 4pm on April 30, 2024. These comments were voicemails and/or 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, 1 in opposition, 0 concerned from the following individual(s):

Tom Stewart on behalf of the Well Avenue Merchants Association
Eric Lerude

RECESS AT 12:15 PM

RECONVENE AT 12:49 PM

Mayor Schieve and Council Member Brekhus absent at reconvene.

MAYOR SCHIEVE PRESENT AT 12:54 PM

Mr. Ulyot answered questions from Council regarding pool operations budget

and pool hours of operation.

Vice Mayor Duerr provided feedback stating she wants to make sure the pool is accessible. She asked that this pilot year be analyzed and brought back to Council to make sure the rates are not discouraging people from using the pool.

Mr. Ullyot answered questions from Council and stated the pool revenue will cover the full-time salaries and the part-time positions will be flexible based on the use and revenue. He also confirmed that they have discussed hours of operation with different user groups.

City Manager Thornley answered questions from Council regarding what they can do to find financial sustainability. He discussed the need to understanding how revenue is created and distributed. Measuring results or setting expectations for investments is important. We need to be patient and targeted in the approach to redevelopment, and adopt and stick to strategies that require private side investment in advance of public investment.

Mr. Ullyot answered questions from Council regarding fees for reserving recreational facilities. He confirmed they are working on a plan this year for different fees for private business and non-profit groups.

Mayor Schieve provided feedback regarding the need to align fees, like appeal fees, with other jurisdictions.

Ms. Van Buren explained that is a broader topic than they will be able to address at this juncture and can look into that for next year.

Mr. Pinegree confirmed they did look into that last year and the fee went up from \$55 to \$100 for land entitlement appeals. That is still much lower than what Sparks and Washoe County charge.

Mayor Schieve expressed concern about staff time needed for appeals adding to the cost.

Council Member Ebert provided feedback on appeal fees and stated constituents have said they can't afford to file an appeal even with our current fees being lower than other jurisdictions. She suggested looking into a policy where fees can be waived for people in a certain income level.

Mayor Schieve provided feedback stated that five years is too long to wait for evaluating fee schedules.

Council Member Reese provided feedback on where to direct one time funding and stated the Greenhouse is an undervalued asset and could use some modernizing. It is a priority to find ways to grow that space.

Mr. Ullyot stated they have grant money coming that will be used to make some

improvements for the Greenhouse. Next year they will have an idea of what else is needed.

Ms. Wiseman answered questions from Council regarding the Reno Works funding and whether it can be used for deposit assistance. They do have other grant funding that is used for deposit assistance, utilities, and three months of rental assistance upon graduation.

Mayor Schieve provided feedback on the need for Council to focus on expanding that program and the long-term success of housing and be more engaged in the outcomes.

Vice Mayor Duerr provided feedback recommending that staff look at the contingency fund for the following projects: 1) \$100,000 for Cold Case; 2) \$100,000 to get started on Reno Works; 3) \$150,000 for e-waste; and 4) horse fencing. With regard to the other things on the one-time funding list, staff will bring back more information and cost estimates.

Council Member Taylor stated the one-time funding things are all good and Council will need more information on them.

Mayor Schieve provided feedback stating she wants to make sure the dedicated downtown walking team is in place and not a rotated team.

Vice Mayor Duerr stated there was a lot of talk about banners downtown and the sentiment from Council seems to be looking to fund that from either room tax or some other account. She asked staff to look for a way to incorporate that when they bring this back.

It was moved by Devon Reese, seconded by Miguel Martinez, to direct staff to move forward with the development of the FY 2024/25 budget and fee schedule based on feedback from Council.

RESULT:	Pass [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Devon Reese,
SECONDER:	Miguel Martinez,
AYES:	Schieve, Reese, Duerr, Taylor, Martinez, Ebert
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	Jenny Brekhus

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)

Council Member Ebert reported on Older American’s Month activities.

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

For the record we received 2 comments which were not associated with an agenda item or were received after 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. These comments were voicemails and/or 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.

0 in favor, 2 in opposition, 0 concerned from the following individual(s):

Rachel Gattuso

Tres Benzley

K Adjournment (For Possible Action)

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

RESULT:	Pass [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Devon Reese, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Miguel Martinez, Councilmember
AYES:	Schieve, Reese, Duerr, Taylor, Martinez, Ebert
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	Jenny Brekhus