

**WASHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
CITY OF RENO CITY COUNCIL**

JOINT MEETING

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

PRESENT:

WASHOE COUNTY

Ted Short, Chairman
Jim Shaw, Vice-Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner
Joanne Bond, Commissioner

Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel
Amy Harvey, County Clerk

CITY OF RENO

Jeff Griffin, Mayor (arr @ 9:00 a.m.)
Dave Aiazzi, Councilmember (arr @ 8:40 a.m.)
Sherrie Doyle, Councilmember
Pierre Hascheff, Councilmember
Tom Herndon, Councilmember
Dave Rigdon, Councilmember

Charles McNeely, City Manager
Patricia Lynch, City Attorney
Don Cook, City Clerk

ABSENT:

Bill Newberg, Councilmember

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno City Council met in a joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the rolls for their respective entities and the Board and Council conducted the following business:

00-933 AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the September 25, 2000, joint meeting be approved.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Councilmember Doyle, seconded by Councilmember Herndon, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the agenda for the September 25, 2000, joint meeting be approved.

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Councilmember Aiazzi arrived at 8:40 a.m.
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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shirley Allen, area resident, expressed her concern regarding citizens being denied the right to legal counsel.

00-933A UPDATE ON REGIONAL JUSTICE CENTER MASTER PLAN

Dave Roundtree, Public Works Director, stated the court consultant reviewed various scenarios for the County to meet their justice facility requirements for the next 15 to 20 years, and a report was prepared by the consultant and distributed to the Commissioners on September 7th. The Commissioners endorsed the combined justice facility incorporating the Justice and District Courts on the Pioneer site. The Pioneer site has accommodations for the Reno Municipal Court should Reno decide to participate in the project, and the One South Sierra Building would be renovated for the District Attorney's Office, while the Public Defender's Office would be moved to 195 South Sierra. The County Clerk and the Law Library would remain in the Historic Courthouse with a parking facility to be constructed on either the 195 South Sierra Street property or the Pioneer site. Findings were submitted by the court consultant, indicating there are significant savings to be had by the collocation and consolidation of the Justice, Municipal and District Courts, and the amount varies from \$7.7 million to \$9.8 million, based upon the ultimate decision of Reno to collocate their Municipal Court with the Justice and District Courts. He addressed the courts master plan, which considers the needs of the region through the year 2015, when further expansion may be needed.

In response to Councilmember Doyle's inquiry, Mr. Roundtree advised that staff was directed to consider the integration of the Reno Police Department with their Municipal Court if there was room. The court consultant did determine that space is needed for future court expansion; therefore, the Pioneer site could not accommodate the addition of the Reno Police Department. Once the consultant informed the County of that determination, Reno was notified immediately. The Municipal Court is incorporated into the main part of the structure and will be the main access for the entire courts facility. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, advised that Reno staff requested the current location in the architectural drawing of the Municipal Court and staff as well as the Council were notified when the County learned that the master planning of the site did not allow space for the Reno Police Department.

Dan Wiley, Court Consultant, stated he evaluated the feasibility of placing the Reno Police Department on the Pioneer site with the courts and one of the priorities for this facility was to preserve space for long-term expansion for all of the courts. It was his opinion in conjunction with Tate & Snyder that the development of additional court increments precluded the placement of any other significant buildings on this site, with the exception of the required parking. The relationship of the Police Department and Municipal Court is clearly an important one to the City of Reno, but it is not common for these two departments to be collocated in the same building or to even be attached to one another.

Councilmember Herndon inquired about the location proximity between the Justice Court and the Municipal Court in the proposed Regional Justice Center. He envisions combining these two courts in the future as they are so similar in their functions. Mr. Wiley described the model as an initial concept with plenty of opportunity to make adjustments to better accommodate the courts' needs. The Municipal Court will have a total of 6 courtrooms, with 4 courtrooms on the second floor and the 2 busiest courtrooms on the first floor along with the clerks and administrative functions.

Councilmember Herndon indicated that potential savings to the taxpayers would be realized by combining the court and integrating the clerk functions. Mr. Wiley cited one of the principal savings, even without the integration of the clerk functions as the integration of a common prisoner delivery system and prisoner holding space in the Regional Justice Center.

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Mayor Griffin arrived at 9:00 a.m.
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In response to Councilmember Aiazzi's inquiry, Mr. Wiley advised the best overall option is one that integrates all of the courts in one facility. Police departments, in general, are not collocated with the courts.

Commissioner Sferrazza complimented Mr. Wiley on the design of the Regional Justice Center. Combining the Justice, Municipal and District Courts into one facility is a positive idea. Mr. Wiley passed the praise onto Tate & Snyder Architects who designed the facility.

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Commissioner Sferrazza left the meeting at 9:05 a.m.
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In response to Councilmember Doyle's statement, Walter Estay, Tate & Snyder Architects clarified he reviewed the footprint and parking spaces required for the Reno Police Department with Bob Galli, Reno Deputy Chief. Tate & Snyder then met with Mr. Wiley and reviewed the requirements and determined there was no room for the police department on the Pioneer site. The architectural drawings Councilmember Doyle referred to encompassed the entire property to Liberty Street and the County did not purchase the entire property.

Mr. Roundtree expressed his understanding that the court consultant was to review the Pioneer site and consider whether the Reno Police Department could be included onto that site and demonstrate how it could happen. He does not recall staff being instructed to force the police department onto the site regardless of the circumstances or impact it would have on the courts facility.

Mrs. Singlaub stated the bank property on the Pioneer site has a long-term lease, and the County did not require the purchase of the bank parcel for their space

requirements. The City of Reno could explore purchasing the bank parcel if they wish to pursue collocating their police department with their Municipal Court.

Commissioner Galloway commented that if law enforcement in Washoe County were to consolidate, the Pioneer site would not be large enough to accommodate them anyway. He questioned if Reno had the money to construct both the Municipal Court and Police Department at this time.

Councilmember Herndon said even if the bond issue does not pass, the City of Reno must and will build a court facility and asked if it would be possible for Reno to design and build their Municipal Court on the corner of the Pioneer site, in such a way, that it could be expanded overtime into the full facility when the County constructs their courts. Mr. Wiley stated Reno could build their Municipal Court on the Pioneer site and be linked to subsequent pieces of the justice system. Offering an opinion at this time on anything other than what they have designed so far is something he is unable to do.

Chairman Short asked if the projected savings were based upon occupying the facility in the year 2004. Mr. Wiley stated the savings were calculated between 2005 and 2015. Chairman Short asked what percentage of increase in the Justice and District Court was projected between now and 2015. Mr. Wiley's response was the projections were done about a year and a half ago, but there is some reason to believe there has been a short term acceleration in some of the case load and the increase could turn out to be a little more aggressive than projected.

Judge Janet Berry, Second Judicial District Court, stated that if the community continues to experience the explosive growth they have had over the last several years, they could shell and core an extra floor or two to meet their needs. If, however, the growth projections are more than what Mr. Wiley indicates, they need to have this type of vision to be able to expand appropriately.

Councilmember Aiazzi asked what the projected size of the Municipal Court is and whether the price of \$86 million included the build out of all of the courtrooms or would some be shelled for future expansion. In response, Mr. Wiley said the footprint for the Municipal Court is around 17,000 square feet, and at this stage of analysis, the \$86 million includes the build out of all of the courtrooms. There is opportunity in the final design to consider shelling some of the courtrooms, as suggested by Judge Berry.

Councilmember Hascheff asked if there would be any savings if Reno built their Municipal Court on the Pioneer site now, and the County later built the District and Justice Courts. Mr. Wiley advised they reviewed placing the Municipal Court on the site even without the County, and determined the City could construct a building that meets their needs and would allow the County subsequently to integrate into the site. Initially there would be no savings but over the long-term there could be.

Councilmember Doyle said she has attended Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) and Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) meetings, where presentation has been made that the Municipal Court is part of the County's bond, and eventually a police department will be added to the Pioneer site. Clarification needs to be made that the Reno Municipal Court and Police Department are not a part of the \$86 million bond issue. Judge Berry said that she has attended a number of meetings concerning the bond issue and the literature presented to the public does not indicate that the bond includes funding for Reno's Municipal Court or Police Department, although they stress the importance of collocating the courts.

Commissioner Shaw inquired if anyone from the public has ever brought the construction of the police department up at the meetings. Judge Berry stated that in all of the meetings that judiciary has attended there has never been any question brought up about the police department.

Chairman Short stated there was an article in the paper that said the County was donating \$500,000 to the City of Reno, but clarified this has nothing to do with the bond issue; it only relates to the Pioneer purchase and is a gift of property.

Charles McNeely, City of Reno, City Manager, stated that Reno staff has conducted an analysis based upon discussions with the court consultant as well as Municipal and District Court personnel, which reviews the proposal with and without the bond passage.

**00-933B STAFF REPORT – RENO MUNICIPAL COURT PROJECT –
WASHOE COUNTY PROPOSAL**

Steve Varela, City of Reno, Director of Public Works/City Engineer, reviewed his staff report with the Boards. He stated if the bond issue passes, the City of Reno should go forward with the construction of their Municipal Court on the Pioneer site.

Councilmember Aiazzi asked if cost savings would only occur on the Ng site if the City of Reno built both their Municipal Court and City Hall on that site. Mr. Varela responded that was correct.

Councilmember Rigdon asked at what point Reno needs to make the decision regarding a specific site for their court facility. Mr. Varela responded that once the bond issue is voted on, Reno needs to make the determination as soon as possible.

Commissioner Galloway stated if they do not start putting the building blocks in the right places now, how will they ever get them working together in the future.

Councilmember Hascheff asked if Reno staff had considered building the Municipal Court on the Pioneer site, as a facility that could be linked later with the

County courts, and whether the County had indicated if they would cost share for the common facilities that Reno would build now, and the County could hook up to later. Mr. Varela stated there are two types of savings, operational and construction, and construction of those shared facilities would require the County to have some money to help pay for them now even if the bond issue does not pass, and the County indicated that they cannot commit to paying for anything without the bond issue passing.

Mrs. Singlaub advised the County does not have funding to construct the court facility if the bond issue does not pass. There are proposals for leasing space to accommodate some of the County's office space requirements, which the County would have to pay as they go to convert, remodel and reconstruct court facilities, but they definitely do not have funding to build a court facility and other phased in projects if the bond issue does not pass. She further stated regardless of whether the bond issue passes, the County's offer of land to the City of Reno for the construction of their Municipal Court still stands.

Councilmember Doyle asked how soon the City of Reno would be able to break ground for their Municipal Court if the County bond issue does not pass. Mr. Varela stated that if they constructed the Municipal Court without the joint court facility, it would be around 2002 upon completion.

Councilmember Doyle asked whether the judges from the Municipal Court had worked with the court consultant concerning input into the design of the structure on the Pioneer site. Judge Paul Hickman, Reno Municipal Court, stated that the judges agree the best thing for the public is a joint courts facility. Mr. Wiley advised that the overall Municipal Court program includes some functions that are related to prisoner holding, secured parking, etc. and the footprint includes the total square footage of 46,000, which accommodates the design space for the Municipal Court.

Chairman Short read a statement submitted by Wes Lyman, area resident, who adamantly opposes the court bond and believes a reasonable plan should be put together first and then proposed to the voters.

Patrick Flanagan, area resident, stated that he is a member of the Board of Governor's for the State Bar of Nevada as well as past president of the Washoe County Bar Association, and he speaks in favor of this project because the courts are seeing an increasing number of pro per litigants who need access to the courts; and if the courts are in a central location, it would be better for the public.

Chairman Short stated if the bond issue passes, everyone in Washoe County will pay for and will benefit from the joint facility.

Commissioner Galloway stated he hopes that the City of Reno decides to construct their Municipal Court on the Pioneer site, regardless of whether the bond issue passes, because the savings to the public by having the courts in the same area more than compensates any potential savings by the entities.

Councilmember Aiazzi asked if the County had money for clearing the site they offered to the City. Mrs. Singlaub advised that the County does have money to clear the site offered to the City, but they do not have the money to construct a court facility if the bond issue fails.

Councilmember Herndon said the Board working together today is just another step in continuing cooperation and he is personally committed to collocation if they can work out the finances.

On motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Doyle, which motion carried unanimously, Mayor Griffin ordered the following:

1. The City proceed with development of the Municipal Courts jointly with the County Courts. The County would provide land for customer parking at no cost to the City, cap the land costs at \$125.00 per square foot and discount an additional \$500,000 off the cost for land for the building (17,000 square foot site). This assumes passage of the County Regional Justice Center bond issue in November.
2. If the November bond issue fails, the City proceed with the Municipal Court development.
3. The County works in partnership with the Municipal Court judges and City staff on design of a 46,000 gross square foot Municipal Court facility.
4. Council direct staff to begin negotiations of a joint agreement for the joint operations (prisoner transport, vehicular sally port and joint security), maintenance and ownership of court facilities.

Chairman Short commented that the land the County has offered to Reno at the Pioneer site is worth \$3.4 million and would be a contribution by the County towards the City of Reno for fiscal equity.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the County proceed working jointly with the City of Reno regarding the development of the Municipal Court on the Pioneer site. Commissioner Bond noted an evaluation will be done after the November election.

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

TED SHORT, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

JEFF GRIFFIN, Mayor
City of Reno

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk

ATTEST: DON COOK, City Clerk

*Minutes Prepared By:
Jeraldine Magee, Deputy County Clerk*