

**WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION
RENO CITY COUNCIL
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

APRIL 16, 2002

JOINT MEETING

PRESENT:

Pete Sferrazza, Washoe County Commission, Chairman
Joanne Bond, Washoe County Commission, Vice Chairman

Jim Galloway, Washoe County Commission

Jim Shaw, Washoe County Commission

Ted Short, Washoe County Commission

Dave Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember

Toni Harsh, Reno City Councilmember

Pierre Hascheff, Reno City Councilmember

Dave Rigdon, Reno City Councilmember

Tony Armstrong, City of Sparks, Mayor

Mike Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember

John Mayer, Sparks City Councilmember

Geno Martini, Sparks City Councilmember

Phillip Salerno, Sparks City Councilmember

Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember

ABSENT:

Jeff Griffin, City of Reno, Mayor

Sherrie Doyle, Reno City Councilmember

Jessica Sferrazza-Hogan, Reno City Councilmember

The Board and Councils met in joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Also present were Washoe County Manager Katy Singlaub, Deputy District Attorney Paul Lipparelli, County Clerk Amy Harvey, Reno Chief of Staff Leann McElroy, Reno City Attorney Patricia Lynch, Reno City Clerk Don Cook, Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey, and Sparks Deputy City Clerk Lenda Azcarate. Reno Councilmembers Aiazzi and Harsh arrived after the start of the meeting, and the City of Reno did not have a quorum present until 9:25 a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the rolls for their respective entities, and the Board and Councils conducted the following business:

02-393 AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, for Washoe County, and by Councilmember Martini, seconded by Councilmember Carrigan, for the City of Sparks, which motions duly carried, the agenda for the April 16, 2002, joint meeting was approved. It was noted the City of Reno did not yet have a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, a Reno citizen, expressed his dissatisfaction with local governmental entities and the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for what he called "brown journalism."

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9:14 a.m. - Reno Councilmember Dave Aiazzi arrived.
9:17 a.m. Washoe County Commissioner Jim Galloway arrived.
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Jerry Newcomer, Lee Husted, and Melvin Gross, University Place residents, addressed the joint bodies concerning the University Ridge Park. They stated the park was supposed to be built as part of the PUD per an agreement with the City of Reno and the developer; each homeowner has paid his share for the park; Alturas mitigation funds were also earmarked for this park; Reno staff has done nothing but stonewall them; and they alleged that the City of Reno has misappropriated the funds set aside for this park.

Jimmy Martin, area resident, discussed the disintegration of his quality of life caused by the development of Winco, WalMart, etc. He cited problems of dust, trash, traffic, noise, delivery trucks, and lost views of the mountains, balloon races, fireworks, etc. He stated the greenbelt they were promised might mitigate some of these impacts, but, after 8 years, it has not been built.

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9:25 a.m. - Reno Councilmember Toni Harsh arrived, and a quorum
was present for the City of Reno.
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02-394 CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND SERVICES

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, advised that the County Commissioners have chosen law enforcement, animal control, road maintenance including snow removal, and park planning, reservations and maintenance as their priorities to be evaluated for possible consolidation; and the County has retained DMG Maximus to assist in the evaluation and fiscal analyses.

Reno Councilmember Rigdon noted the City of Sparks recently conducted a survey of its citizens regarding consolidation and asked what the results of that effort

were. Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey reported they did not find citizen support for consolidation of any of their services. He further stated the Council is interested in examining regional efficiencies.

Sparks Councilmember Schmitt discussed the one-sidedness of consolidating services and stated communications between the entities has to improve and be kept open. He further stated consolidation of any services has to benefit all the citizens and all the entities, not just one; and that one entity cannot direct the agenda for the other entities. In response to Chairman Sferrazza, Councilmember Schmitt stated he does not have a problem with the County and the City of Reno pursuing areas they wish to consolidate, but when all three entities meet as a joint group to define a joint direction for the region, they need to find a common denominator. He further suggested that it would be a good idea to start with the easiest to consolidate services, on which everyone agrees, and work up to the more complicated and difficult services, such as law enforcement.

Frank Partlow, an area citizen, read excerpts from his book concerning city-county consolidation pointing out the advantages and benefits of functional consolidation done by one agency contracting with another agency rather than total governmental consolidation.

Sam Dehne, a Reno citizen, commended Chairman Sferrazza and Councilmember Hascheff for their attempt to draft a consolidation plan.

Chairman Sferrazza asked that each entity list their priorities for services they feel should be consolidated to determine if there are any common interests.

Sparks Councilmember Salerno stated the citizens of Sparks have spoken concerning total consolidation, but he does believe there are some services that could be regionalized. He said animal control services is an area that jumps out at him; and he suggested consolidating one service at a time. Councilmember Salerno stated another area is work cards, which requires casino workers to get licenses from both Cities and from the County, rather than obtaining one work card for all three.

Sparks Councilmember Mayer agreed that animal control services and work cards would be good starting points. He suggested another area to consider is human resource services so that all the entities could hire from the same pool of applicants and so that applicants would not have to apply to all three entities. Sparks Councilmember Carrigan stated he recalls the Council discussing work cards, purchasing, and standardization of building codes as areas for consolidation. Sparks Councilmember Martini stated animal control would be a good service to regionalize.

Councilmember Schmitt stated the Boards should decide on one project that is common to all three entities, agree on a work plan, and develop a model for consolidation while working on the small items that can be used for the bigger, harder issues.

Commissioners Bond and Short agreed animal control and work cards would be good areas to consolidate and should save both the citizens and the governments time and money.

Councilmember Rigdon stated he understands Sparks' discomfort and frustration with Reno and Washoe County moving too fast on some areas. He said he likes the idea of proceeding a little slower and agreed animal control and work cards would be good starts.

Chairman Sferrazza stated he would agree with that, but there is also agreement between Reno and Washoe County with respect to parks. He suggested a 3-way consolidation of animal control services and work cards and a 2-way consolidation of park planning, central reservations and park maintenance between Reno and Washoe County. Commissioner Galloway agreed.

On motion by Councilmember Salerno, seconded by Councilmember Mayer, which motion duly carried, Mayor Armstrong ordered that the City of Sparks endorses analyzing and pursuing consolidation of animal control services and work cards with the City of Reno and Washoe County and staff be directed to begin the analyses.

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that Washoe County endorses analyzing and pursuing consolidation of animal control services and work cards with the City of Reno and City of Sparks and staff be directed to begin the analyses. Commissioner Bond noted that former Sparks Mayor Breslow had done considerable work on consolidation of the work cards and hopefully that information is still available for staff.

On motion by Councilmember Hascheff, seconded by Councilmember Aiazzi, which motion duly carried, Vice Mayor Rigdon ordered that the City of Reno endorses analyzing and pursuing consolidation of animal control services and work cards with the City of Sparks and Washoe County and staff be directed to begin the analyses. Councilmember Hascheff noted there is new State legislation going into effect in February, 2003, which will standardize and streamline the gaming work cards that staff should take into consideration.

Councilmember Harsh stated this is a good beginning, but she also believes moving ahead on a grander scale should be considered. Councilmember Aiazzi noted consolidation should not be limited to Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County, as the Regional Transportation Commission has been trying to do some consolidation of road maintenance; and he does not want other agencies precluded from consolidating services.

Chairman Sferrazza asked if there was any appetite to discuss the two-way consolidation of parks between Washoe County and Reno. On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that staff be directed to begin discussions with the City of Reno on consolidating some of the park functions.

Vice Mayor Rigdon requested that all the data be presented to the Boards because park services might be a split consolidation where Washoe County takes over the regional facilities and Reno would be in charge of neighborhood facilities. On motion by Councilmember Harsh, seconded by Councilmember Aiazzi, which motion duly carried, Vice Mayor Rigdon ordered that staff be directed to begin discussions with Washoe County on consolidating some of the park functions keeping the idea of split consolidation in mind.

Councilmember Schmitt stated there will always be problems with consolidating until the fiscal issues and distribution of funds are resolved, and it is his hope that the governing bodies could stay focused on getting the proper money going to the proper entity before working through the other issues.

02-395 BALLOT QUESTION - REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER

Adrienne Breland, area resident, discussed the current animal shelter and the need for a new facility. Sam Dehne, area resident, commented on the idea of letting the citizens vote on the issue. Dr. Helen Tyler, Chair, Board of Directors, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals, and Charles Jarvi, area resident, submitted written comments supporting a new animal shelter, which were read by Chairman Sferrazza.

Susan Asher, Executive Director, Nevada Humane Society, stated a regional animal shelter is one area where the entities could come together. She said a new shelter would be a win-win for everyone as redemptions, licensing and adoptions would go up, and euthanasia and disease incidence/transmission would go down.

Chairman Sferrazza stated there is no specific proposal or recommendation for the Boards to consider at this time, and County staff has indicated they need more time to work on this. He asked if there was any interest in a joint motion directing staff to come back with a plan for funding construction and operation of a new shelter in time for it to be put on the ballot.

Commissioner Galloway noted that staff needs to know whether the entities are willing to commit their current level of funding/spending to a new facility in order to determine how much more would be needed. Chairman Sferrazza stated he would prefer it be a County-wide issue and have a separate tax override for the whole County.

Councilmember Aiazzi stated the Animal Services Advisory Board's (ASAB) report is seriously flawed, but time is running out for submitting ballot questions. He stated he would recommend that there be a County-wide question in the \$12-million range with the knowledge that \$12-million may be low. He said the City of Reno is concerned with the additional operating costs of a larger facility, but this would truly be a regional facility. Councilmember Rigdon expressed concern about operating costs and the need to have a plan in place before construction begins. Councilmember Aiazzi stated that could also go on the ballot.

Commissioner Galloway noted the land where the current facility is located belongs to the City of Reno and asked if that land will remain available for a new facility.

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, stated staff has been working to refine the numbers. Tom Gadd, General Services Director, advised that Reno and Washoe County staff and the Nevada Humane Society have been meeting, and they have concluded the report done by the ASAB is seriously deficient because it does not address staffing levels or operation and maintenance costs. He further stated an animal shelter is a specialized construction, and they have an architect who indicated he could verify the numbers for construction of a new facility.

Councilmember Carrigan asked, if the voters approve this, whether there would be enough money from the override for operations so the entities could use the funds they presently pay for the animal shelter for other items. Commissioner Galloway stated that issue needs to be clarified as well as whether the current site will be available, and staff needs that information to do what they have been directed to do.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that staff be directed to complete the necessary work to put a question on the ballot concerning a new regional animal shelter and funding for operation of services, with and without a public-private partnership.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Hascheff, which motion duly carried, Vice Mayor Rigdon ordered that staff be directed to complete the necessary work to put a question on the ballot concerning a new regional animal shelter and funding for operation of services, with and without a public-private partnership. The City's motion included a notation that the availability of the land would be worked out.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Carrigan, seconded by Councilmember Schmitt, which motion duly carried, Mayor Armstrong ordered that staff be directed to complete the necessary work to put a question on the ballot concerning a new regional animal shelter and funding for operation of services, with and without a public-private partnership.

02-396 STATUS REPORTS - FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

John Bradbury, Spanish Springs resident, stated there are many little pockets of flood control interest, but a county-wide flood control system is needed; and every citizen is responsible for flood management.

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10:58 a.m. - Sparks Councilmember Salerno left the meeting.
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Mary Winston, Truckee Meadows Trails Association, stated the Evans Creek Dam project has been remanded back by both Washoe County and the City of Reno for analysis of other alternatives and asked why it is on the agenda. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, explained this was placed on the agenda at the request of one of the members at the last joint meeting.

Jeanne Ruefer, Water Resource Planning Manager, stated the City of Reno is going through a process to examine alternatives to the Evans Creek Dam. She advised the County is proceeding to examine regional needs regarding storm water management.

02-397 ITEMS FOR NEXT JOINT MEETING AGENDA - MAY 21, 2002

Following discussion, on motion by Councilmember Carrigan, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that agenda item No. 9, concerning homeland security priorities, be continued to the next joint meeting; and the bodies then return to the original list of topics for joint meetings, with No. 2, fiscal equity, and No. 3, distribution formula/SB253 Committee, being placed on the next joint meeting agenda. It was further ordered that the regional plan update be included on that agenda, if necessary, as well as a progress/status report on the animal control shelter ballot question.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

PETER J. SFERRAZZA, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by
Sharon Gotchy
Deputy County Clerk*