

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
NEEDLES PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY - HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES  
CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA - **TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**  
COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION – **5:30 P.M.** - CITY COUNCIL MEETING – **6:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1111 BAILEY AVENUE, NEEDLES

THE 5:00 P.M. PORTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS RECESSED  
BY THE CITY CLERK TO 5:30 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jernigan called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jan Jernigan, Council Members Ellen Campbell, Jamie McCorkle, Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt (arrived at 5:37 p.m.), Council Members JoAnne Pogue, Tona Belt, and Henry Longbrake. Also present; City Manager Rick Daniels, Assistant City Manager Patrick Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Lena Wade and City Clerk Dale Jones.

**RECESSED THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND CONVENED A JOINT COUNCIL / NPUA MEETING**  
at 5:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS - None

**RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 5:33 p.m.

Council Member McCorkle recused herself from Executive Session because she works for News West Publishing.

- a) COUNCIL: Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8. Property: 950 Front Street Suite A-25, Needles CA. Agency Negotiator: City Manager Rick Daniels or his designee. Negotiating Parties: City of Needles as potential lessor and the News West Publishing as potential lessee. Under Negotiation: Price and terms

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Report by City Attorney – Deputy City Attorney Wade reported that council agreed to amend the agreement with News West Publishing for another 3-year term, all other terms remained the same.

ROLL CALL (Previously Taken)

INVOCATION – led by Council Member Campbell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Mayor Jernigan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Campbell moved, second by Council Member Belt to approve agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, and Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – Council Member McCorkle announced she recused herself from Executive Session because she works for News West Publishing.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**INTRODUCTIONS** – Captain Ross Tarangle

**CITY ATTORNEY** Parliamentary procedures - None

**RECESS THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND CONVENE A JOINT CITY COUNCIL / NPUA / HOUSING AUTHORITY (HACN) MEETING at 6:03 p.m.**

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE – None**

**INTERVIEWS**

- 1) Interviews held to appoint members to the Needles Housing Commission  
Vice Mayor Merritt moved, second by Council Member Campbell to appoint Frances Clark for the over sixty-two (62) years Tenant with a term to expire December 31, 2026 and appoint Tamera Kissell as the Tenant with a term to expire December 31, 2027.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, and Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

**PRESENTATION**

- 2) NPUA: Presentation to accept and file the NPUA audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 completed by Burger & Comer, P.C.

Council Member Campbell moved, second by Vice Mayor Merritt to continue to June 13 meeting.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, and Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

- 3) NPUA / COUNCIL / HACN WORKSHOP: Direction to proceed with the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024 budget process and schedule the matter for a public hearing and action on June 13, 2023

City Manager Daniels and Senior Accountant DiLeo reported, and discussion ensued regarding a request for an additional sheriff officer, marketing specialist and adding a restroom at the animal shelter.

Council Member Campbell moved, second by Council Member Pogue to proceed with the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024 budget process and schedule the matter for a public hearing and action on June 13, 2023. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, and Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

**HACN / COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

Council Member Pogue moved, second by Council Member McCorkle to approve the following consent items. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, Longbrake and Jernigan

Noes: None

Absent: Nonet

- 4) HACN / COUNCIL: Waived the reading and adopted Resolution 2023-1-HACN and approved the Schedule of Allowances for Tenant Purchased Utilities for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) for Single Family and Apartment/Duplex & Row-House Dwellings effective August 1, 2023

- 5) HACN / COUNCIL: Waived the reading and adopted Resolution 2023-2-HACN and approved the Schedule of Utility Allowances for the Public Housing Program effective August 1, 2023
- 6) HACN / COUNCIL: Accepted and Filed the Housing Authority of the City of Needles Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for the Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2021 prepared by Smith Marion & Co.

**ADJOURN THE JOINT COUNCIL / NPUA / HACN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 6:33 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER (Roll Call previously taken)

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE COUNCIL ITEMS - None

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Council Member Pogue moved, second by Council Member Campbell to approve the consent calendar items as submitted. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue, Belt, and Longbrake

Noes: None

Absent: None

- 7) Approved the warrants register through May 23, 2023
- 8) Approved the minutes of May 9, 2023
- 9) Accepted the Notice of Completion for work completed by Pacific Tide Construction for the Purchase and Installation of Shade Structures Over Spectator Seating at Nikki Bunch and Duke Watkins Park projects and authorized to record the Notice of Completion with the San Bernardino County Recorder's Office
- 10) Waived the reading and adopted Ordinance No. 661-AC amending Section 13-33(d) of the Needles Municipal Code to erect stop signs at the southwest and northeast corners of Vine and "R" Streets
- 11) Waived the reading and adopted Resolution No 2023-32 approving an amendment to Resolution No. 2022-62 amending the use permit between the City of Needles and County of San Bernardino for the City-owned property located at 1111 Bailey Avenue

**End of Consent**

**Regular Items**

- 12) Provide direction on Resolution No. 2023-31 Approving the Application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund for JoJo Garcia Complex for shade structures at Franz Flowers Field OR Duke Watkins Park for two Pickleball Courts  
City Manager Daniels reported, informing council that the deadline to apply for the funding is June 1 and discussion ensued.

Council Member Campbell moved, second by Council Member Pogue to postpone discussion to next year's budget. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle, Merritt, Pogue and Longbrake

Noes: Council Member Belt

Absent: None

13) Provide staff direction regarding the City Charter established Council Compensation

Considerable council discussion ensued regarding council compensation and should this topic be placed on the November 2024 ballot for the voters to decide.

Council Member Longbrake moved, second by Council Member McCorkle to leave the decision to the voters regarding council compensation. Motion **failed** by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, McCorkle and Longbrake

Noes: Council Members Belt, Pogue, Merritt and Mayor Jernigan

Absent: None

CITY ATTORNEYS REPORT - None

CITY CLERK REPORT - None

CITY MANAGERS REPORT – City Manager Daniels reported.

#### COUNCIL REQUESTS

Councilmember Campbell informed council that the San Bernardino County Coroners Office has agreed to send the remains of Zach Lopez to Needles to be buried, Run for the Wall event was fabulous, reported on the City/County Conference in Lake Arrowhead she attended and she made a lot of connections at the ICSC conference.

Councilmember McCorkle informed council that the ICSC conference was great.

Vice Mayor Merritt also attended the ICSC conference and was impressed, look into a stop sign at the bottom of High School Hill (Broadway and L Street), condolences for the recent passing of Kippy Poulson and announced that Bullhead City Vice Mayor passed away.

Councilmember Pogue inquired if the animal shelter could look into anti venom for rattlesnake bites and she was watching a TV show called Young Sheldon who mentioned Needles, CA.

Councilmember Belt informed council that the Run for the Wall event was very nice.

Councilmember Longbrake voiced his opinion that the anti-venom is a great idea, the Run was fantastic and the ICSC conference was quite an experience.


Mayor Jernigan congratulated the NHS Girls Softball Team for winning the State Championship and also the golf team and the Boys Baseball teams for their participation, informed staff that there should be lights between River City Pizza and Needles Point Liquor, requested the brush be taken care of at Jack Smith Park and informed staff of the vandalism at the High School Hill underpass suggesting that we paint it gray.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jernigan adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm

ATTEST:

  
Mayor Janet Jernigan

  
City Clerk Dale Jones, CMC